



Dr. Benjamin C. Wilson Jr.

March 30, 1947 - November 27, 2024

ATTENTION FAMILY & FRIENDS: IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, THE FAMILY REQUESTS SENDING A DONATION IN MEMORY OF DR. BENJAMIN C. WILSON, JR. TO:

THE WILSON FAMILY REUNION FUND

c/o Marilyn Wilson

Mailing Address:

8 Water Oak Place, Palm Coast, FL 32137

or by Zelle: 386-569-1265

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR DR. BENJAMIN C. WILSON, JR. WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024 AT THE GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH. PLEASE SEE VISITATION & SERVICE TIMES LISTED BELOW.

MASKS ARE WORN OPTIONAL AT THE CHURCH. HAND SANITIZER WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE CHURCH.

ATTENTION TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO VIEW SERVICES ONLINE YOU HAVE (4) OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

1. Go to Galilee Baptist Church's website at: gbckazoo.org

-Or

2. Go to YouTube and type in The Galilee Baptist Church Lives Stream

-Or

3. Go to Facebook, if you have a Facebook account. after logging in, type in Galilee Baptist Church

-Or-

4. Use the GBC App, Instagram or Twitter

***NOTE: The Obituary and DVD Tribute will be available soon

Previous Events

Visitation For Family & Friends

DEC 14. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

A Celebration of Life

DEC 14. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Benjamin C. Wilson Jr.



Harper Funeral Home - January 07, 2025 at 08:29 PM



I'm crying... This is beautiful tribute to your dad.
♥ I love and miss you Benny the spades game at family reunion won't be the same ..
REST EASY 😊

Kari Wilson - January 12, 2025 at 10:01 AM

RM

This is very beautiful and touching tribute. Love and well wishes to the family from a former and very grateful student.

Ranslah Martin-Hurst - April 23 at 04:29 PM

CO

“ Cheryl Owens-Nebedum lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Cheryl Owens-Nebedum - February 09, 2025 at 12:16 PM

LG

“ *Larry Gray and Karen Gray sent a virtual gift in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Larry Gray and Karen Gray - January 09, 2025 at 01:14 PM

DM

“ *Dr. Wilson's research and book on Idlewild, Michigan will be forever remembered as a reference source for African American History in Michigan.*

Dee Marshall - December 18, 2024 at 03:22 PM

DM

“ *Dee Marshall lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Dee Marshall - December 18, 2024 at 03:17 PM

DW

“ *David & Laverne Walker lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



David & Laverne Walker - December 17, 2024 at 08:52 PM

PF

“ *PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



PATTERSON FAMILY - December 16, 2024 at 03:10 PM

DD

“ *Diana Davis lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Diana Davis - December 14, 2024 at 01:52 PM

BR

“ *Barry Z Roberts lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Barry Z Roberts - December 14, 2024 at 01:10 PM

D'

“ Dr. Wilson was one of the most impactful professors from my time at WMU which was evident by the packed classrooms he garnered. You were on time or you would not be late again and you had to be prepared because you never knew when your name would be called. He had a magnetic personality that attracted followers that hung on to his every word of wisdom. May his memories continue to be in the hearts of those who respected and loved him. Rest on Dr. Wilson -May your work and research live in infamy.

Debra and Fred McConnell - WMU '81/80 - December 14, 2024 at 12:56 PM

GS

I met Dr Wilson back in the late '70s. We were close to the same age and I always got to know him as Ben. We became very close friends for over 40 years. I traveled with him to his class reunion in Kansas a couple of times. We did many other activities together through the years. He would call me almost every day and talk about me. That's who he was. I also designed his deck because he had this great big beautiful tree in his backyard and I said this would be great to have over your deck. As years went by the tree grew and he had to end up cutting back a part of the deck to accommodate the tree. He blamed me for that. But that was okay because we shared so many other activities and memories. He knew my family and shared many activities and moments with them. Including my mother who is 96 now and still remembers him and was very fond of him. He had the best memory of anyone I've ever known when it came to history. Sometimes he would call me when he just needed to vent. And those calls lasted more than 2 minutes. He'd always saying it's just between us. And that's how I kept it. I enjoyed playing golf with him even in a tournament where he told me that I had to give him the money when I won closest to the pen. I trusted him with my utmost secrets as he trusted me. He will always be in my heart forever. You were like my big brother.

Gersteen Sherrod - December 16, 2024 at 04:16 PM

BR

“ *Barry Z Roberts lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Barry Z Roberts - December 14, 2024 at 12:42 PM

BE

“ *Bobby Edwards sent a virtual gift in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Bobby Edwards - December 14, 2024 at 12:13 PM

S1

“ *Shenita Edwards@ Post 134 lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Shenita Edwards@ Post 134 - December 14, 2024 at 11:34 AM

HC

“ *My condolence to Ben Wilson's family & friends*



Herberta Carver - December 13, 2024 at 08:40 PM

ED

“ *Dr. Ben Wilson will always be remembered as a dynamic educator who motivated students to own and embrace the study of African American history. He will be truly missed. Condolences to the family, we share your loss.*

The Dawson Family - Emily, Adrienne and Erica



Emily Dawson - December 13, 2024 at 08:32 PM

PH

“ *Pastor Bobette Hampton lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Pastor Bobette Hampton - December 13, 2024 at 04:40 PM

HB

“ *Our greatest remembrance of Dr. Ben Wilson. Interviewing our mother, Anna Mills. For Black History Month. About our father, William Mills. Putting it in the Kalamazoo Gazette. Our deepest condolences to his family. Mills, Barbee, Coleman, Dixon, Gardner and McKinley Families.*



Helen Mills Brooks - December 13, 2024 at 01:10 PM

HB

“ Our greatest remembrance of Dr. Ben Wilson. Interviewing our Mother Anna Mills. For Black History Month. About our Father William Mills. Putting it in the Kalamazoo Gazette. Our Deepest Sympathies to his family. Mills, Barbee, Coleman, Dixon and McKinley family



Helen Mills Brooks - December 13, 2024 at 09:34 AM

TW

I remember Dr. Wilson and Dr. Leander Jones as professors in the Black Americana studies program at Western Michigan University. It was a must that every student enroll in their classes. They made a significant footprint at Western Michigan University and helped many African-American students, and I am one of them. Their legacy and their contribution to our educational journey opened up many opportunities for me. I appreciate Dr. Wilson for having a passion that students, particularly African-American students, know their history. This program was a testament to Dr. Wilson's spirit. My condolences to the family, you lost the great one.

Tasha L. Williams, 1994 graduate of WMU - December 14, 2024 at 11:11 AM

LR

“ I have not seen Ben in many years, but I used to see him every day down at the Gary Center locker room. We had a very diverse locker room and Ben's locker was only a few lockers away from mine. We got to know each other quite well. I smiled as I read of his mix of intelligence and humor....it was on display daily. One day in conversation he referred to me as CC without skipping beat. Puzzled, I asked him what that was about....he said, you're the Cool Caucasian. When I asked how many of us were there....he replied with a wry grin, you're the only one. I laughed because I knew that he had many white friends whom he held in high regard. I was saddened to hear of his passing...he blazed a trail at WMU and throughout the community that has been a lifeline to many. Rest in peace, my friend, my prayers are with your family -- Lowell Rinker

Lowell Rinker - December 13, 2024 at 08:37 AM

SW

“ Sonia Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Sonia Wilkerson - December 13, 2024 at 07:25 AM

LB

“ LB lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



LB - December 12, 2024 at 10:10 PM

TM

“ Taylor Gerber Mills lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Taylor Gerber Mills - December 11, 2024 at 06:44 PM

CB

“ Claudia Barbee lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Claudia Barbee - December 11, 2024 at 05:57 PM

PG

“ Pauline Gardner sent a virtual gift in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Pauline Gardner - December 10, 2024 at 02:21 PM

AS

“ Alma M Snell lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Alma M Snell - December 10, 2024 at 01:55 PM

YR

“ Yvonne Heltzel Reese lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Yvonne Heltzel Reese - December 10, 2024 at 08:56 AM

JM

“ Joyce McDowell lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Joyce McDowell - December 09, 2024 at 08:02 PM

SW

“ Sharon Wilson lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Sharon Wilson - December 08, 2024 at 09:37 PM

JN

“ Janet Nichols lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Janet Nichols - December 07, 2024 at 07:58 PM

BF

“ Betty Ford lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Betty Ford - December 07, 2024 at 04:32 PM

BF

“ Betty Ford lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Betty Ford - December 07, 2024 at 04:29 PM

BF

“ Betty Ford lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Betty Ford - December 07, 2024 at 10:50 AM

C?

“ Cheryl Owens-Nebelum lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Cheryl Owens-Nebelum - December 07, 2024 at 09:13 AM

AR

“ *ArleneBuchanan lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



ArleneBuchanan - December 05, 2024 at 02:28 PM

LC

“ *Lillie Cotton lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Lillie Cotton - December 05, 2024 at 11:37 AM

GD

“ *Rest in peace Brother Wilson. You will be truly missed*



Green Darryl - December 04, 2024 at 09:01 AM

SS

“ *Ben Wilson was my colleague at WMU for many years. We were both housed in Sprau Tower and saw each other almost daily. He had a big brain, enormous energy, a wide range of interests, a sense of humor, and a keen recognition of irony. I learned from his scholarly projects, and I rejoiced in the Black Gospel Festival he mounted on campus. He was a force and a friend.*

Shirley Scott - December 03, 2024 at 09:28 PM

LC

“ *Linwood Cousins lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Linwood Cousins - December 03, 2024 at 07:51 PM

JG

“ *JoAnne & Renaford Owens Jr- Atlanta GA lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



JoAnne & Renaford Owens Jr- Atlanta GA - December 03, 2024 at 07:02 PM

RC

“ *Raonlasheen Coleman lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Raonlasheen Coleman - December 03, 2024 at 06:47 AM

DF

“ *Dallas Boards and family sent a virtual gift in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Dallas Boards and family - December 02, 2024 at 12:25 PM

DF

“ *Dallas Boards and family lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Dallas Boards and family - December 02, 2024 at 12:24 PM

BG

“ *Condolences to the family*



beverly woodson green - December 01, 2024 at 08:42 AM

EF

“ *Earline Fields lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson*



Earline Fields - November 30, 2024 at 08:12 PM

EF

“ *My Condolences to the Family of Mr Wilson my prayers are with you all God bless*



Earline Fields - November 30, 2024 at 08:12 PM

CC

“ Christopher G Caldwell lit a candle in memory of Benjamin Wilson



Christopher G Caldwell - November 30, 2024 at 06:15 PM

GM

“ In sympathy



Georgia Ann Moss - November 30, 2024 at 05:32 PM

PM

Condolences to the family❤️Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Camelot

Phyllis Martin - December 13, 2024 at 09:43 PM