



Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite

September 30, 1939 - March 21, 2024

*****A VISITATION & MEMORIAL SERVICE IN LOVING MEMORY FOR MR. LINDSEY KNOX WILHITE WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024, AT OUR FUNERAL HOME.

*****NOTE: PLEASE SEE THE SERVICE TIMES LISTED BELOW

*****MASKS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. WE WILL PROVIDE HAND SANITIZER WHEN ENTERING OUR BUILDING.

***If you have any questions, please contact us at: (269) 342-1000

*****THE DVD TRIBUTE WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON

Scroll Of Life

Our beloved Lindsey Knox Wilhite, 84, of Kalamazoo, MI, passed away peacefully at home on March 21, 2024.

Lindsey was born on September 30, 1939, the son to parents William Franklin and Willie Mae Wilhite in Lexington, Kentucky. He graduated with honors from Benton Harbor High School, Benton Harbor, Michigan in 1957. Following his great love and aptitude for foreign language, he went on to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in French from Western Michigan University in 1961. He then enjoyed teaching French and Spanish at Muskegon Central High School.

In 1965 Lindsey became an M.A. candidate and instructor in French at Western Michigan University receiving his degree in 1967. By virtue of his excellent performance in his graduate work as well as his teaching, he became an Assistant Professor of French in the then Department of Language and Linguistics at Western Michigan University. With a great thirst for language, literature, music, and travel, he began the pursuit of his doctorate in French while studying at the University of West Virginia, Howard University, Michigan State University, and Université de Grenoble Alps in France. This brilliant man went on to study and learn seven languages, acquiring fluency in French, Spanish, German, Dutch, Italian, Latin, and English.

Lindsey distinguished himself through his love of teaching, becoming one of the French Language Department's most beloved and influential professors. He became known for his rapid delivery of the French language in beginning, intermediate, conversation, and advanced literature courses, along with his ability to draw out students through his vibrant and engaging teaching style.

Lindsey especially enjoyed teaching French literature, including analyzing literary language, and discussing the philosophical and psychological questions raised by the works in his courses. He was the department's main professor of French literature in translation, introducing many students from across the University to the excitement of reading French novels, drama, and poetry, and exploring their cultural context.

Lindsey's main research area was Creole French in Louisiana, which informed his teaching in the foreign languages department and, later on, was the subject of classes that he gave through continuing education and Elderhostel. He also taught courses on opera, his passion.

Lindsey served as head of the French Section of the Foreign Languages

Department and was a member of Western Michigan University Black Caucus. Lindsey led several WMU study abroad programs. He worked tirelessly to impart his love and knowledge of the French language and culture by taking many students to study abroad to his favorite city—Paris, France with his wife, Jonnie Crawford Wilhite, whom he married in 1968, a French Professor at KVCC. They had two children Lisa Nicole and Marc Lindsey who took many family summer trips when the kids were young to France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Mexico, Canada, Louisiana and all throughout the United States. Lindsey shared his love of language, music, food, culture, and travel with his children who continue to travel the globe thanks to parents who gave them the precious gift of travel.

Fondly known as “Le Professor Wilhite,” he was greatly loved by many students, friends, and colleagues while teaching for over 42 years at Western Michigan University before retiring.

Lindsey enjoyed his retirement years traveling, reading, attending concerts, theater, and opera performances. A great dog lover, he adored his dogs, a Scottie Heather and boxers Brutus and Rebel. He especially loved spending holidays and summer vacations with the lights of his life his precious grandchildren Mason and Madison. Lindsey enjoyed spoiling his grandkids watching movies, going to amusement parks, the zoo, kids’ museums, fun dinners, and telling funny stories with them.

Lindsey was preceded in heaven by his mother, father, aunts, uncles, his brother William “Billie” Wilhite and his sister Marcia Harmon.

He is survived by his ex-wife Jonnie Crawford Wilhite, of Portage, MI and their children daughter, Lisa Nicole Wilhite of Alexandria, VA and son Marc Lindsey Wilhite and his wife Lasagne of Alexandria, VA, and two grandchildren Mason

and Madison. As well as many cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Lindsey was a deeply beloved Father, Grandpère, Uncle, Cousin, and friend. His passing was peaceful and at home, just as he always hoped it would be.

While we have lost our most beloved dad, many have lost a friend and loved one in him. He was kind, giving, loving, intelligent, funny, insightful, creative, generous and thoughtful.

We invite you all to share stories and memories. It was his wish that we laugh, smile, and reminisce together during this time.

Cemetery Details

Mount Ever-Rest Memorial Park

3941 S. Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Previous Events

Visitation For Family & Friends

APR 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

In Loving Memory Of

APR 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home - Chapel
521 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite



Harper Funeral Home - April 04, 2024 at 09:58 PM

BS

“ Sorry for your loss

Brosie Somerville - December 10, 2024 at 08:04 PM

RF

“ Robert F. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.

Robert F. - April 10, 2024 at 10:51 AM

RS

“ Dear Jonnie,
Your family and mine were next door neighbors on Amberly Street, right across from the school. My son Shane Hardy was a student of French at Western and, of course, Lindsey was one of his professors. When Shane graduated from Western his first job was in France, where he settled down and -- now retired -- still lives. He happens to be here in Portage with his wife at the moment (they arrived from Aix les Bains last night). Shane and I hope to be able to extend our condolences and appreciation to you and the children in person at the visitation tomorrow.
... Sincerely,
Rita Stevens Moomaw

Rita Stevens - April 05, 2024 at 03:17 PM



“ Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.



April 03, 2024 at 03:49 PM

DU

“ DC Police Union planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.

DC Police Union - April 03, 2024 at 03:49 PM

MC

“ *Mr. Larry and Marla Cliatt purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.*



Mr. Larry and Marla Cliatt - April 03, 2024 at 12:37 PM

MC

“ *Mr. Larry and Marla Cliatt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.*

Mr. Larry and Marla Cliatt - April 03, 2024 at 12:37 PM

DP

“ *Dennis & Delores Peace purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.*



Dennis & Delores Peace - April 03, 2024 at 11:53 AM

CA

“ *Casundra, Mark and Jonah Amundson purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.*



Casundra, Mark and Jonah Amundson - April 02, 2024 at 11:36 PM

CA

“ Casundra, Mark and Jonah Amundson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.

Casundra, Mark and Jonah Amundson - April 02, 2024 at 11:36 PM

EH

“ Elizabeth H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.

Elizabeth H. - April 02, 2024 at 02:43 PM

NB

“ Nicholas, Lasheka, & Lauren Bassey purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.



Nicholas, Lasheka, & Lauren Bassey - April 01, 2024 at 10:59 PM

EA

“ Ekaterina A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.

Ekaterina A. - April 01, 2024 at 11:25 AM

EV

“ I had the beautiful pleasure and opportunity to travel with Lindsey and Jonnie on my first trip to France in 1975 while studying French at WMU. Along with the couple and the students, "little ones" Lisa and Marc along with their grandmother joined us on our journey to Grenoble for a summer of study. Am sure we were all a handful for Lindsey and Jonnie along with their young family!!! A VERY comical memory I have is this: upon just arriving in Paris and all terribly tired from the plane ride, we still had to connect with trains to Grenoble which was in the southeastern part of France. Panic ensued when our "fearless leaders", the Wilhites, thought we were late and would miss our connecting train to our destination. So, here's we students, two babies, grandma and two adults racing with luggage in tow (speaking... GADS... English!), banging and clanging our stuff all over the place getting on to the train. What a sight we must have been! We all sit down in great relief and a conductor comes up to Lindsey and is spouting in very fast french we must get off this train. Turns out THIS train was a beautiful antique train for exhibit only and we had "royally" violated their rules. Not sure... but by the looks we got, I think we may have innocently added to the image of "the Ugly Americans"!! We did make the real connecting train and the rest of my summer is also a delicious and beautiful memory. I am truly grateful to both Lindsey and Jonnie for such a grand time...and as you can see...one I will never forget. In love and respect...Mary Beth Hart now Elizabeth VanDenBerg

Elizabeth H VanDenBerg - April 01, 2024 at 10:17 AM



Oh, Elizabeth! How beautifully you described that hilarious episode in the Paris train station. How wonderful that you remember us so well. I remember you as being one of the students that greatly benefited from her summer study in France. I hope you are well and happy!

Jonnie Wilhite - April 02, 2024 at 03:51 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.*



March 31, 2024 at 05:18 PM



“ *Beverly & Chuck Anderson, Washington, DC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Lindsey Knox Wilhite.*

Beverly & Chuck Anderson, Washington, DC - March 31, 2024 at 05:18 PM



“ *Lindsey will always be remembered by his ready smile and the intense look of his eyes that showed he was indeed listening to you. He appreciated that he had discovered his purpose in life and felt privileged to be able to fulfill his purpose with his profession. He therefore poured his heart into teaching for 47 years.*

Lindsey loved his family and was a loyal friend. He enjoyed an impassioned love of opera throughout his life.

You've earned your rest, Lindsey. Rest in peace.

Jonnie - March 31, 2024 at 12:52 PM

KP

“ *karen palmer lit a candle in memory of
Lindsey Wilhite*



karen palmer - March 28, 2024 at 05:55 PM



Thank you so much, Karen. A very fitting tribute to Lindsey.

Jonnie Wilhite - April 02, 2024 at 03:53 PM

BS

Sorry for your loss

Brosie Somerville - December 10, 2024 at 03:31 PM