



Jeffrey Alan Wilson

April 19, 1969 - June 5, 2023

It is with great sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Jeffrey Alan Wilson, 54, on June 5, 2023. Jeff, fondly referred to as “Coach,” was born on April 19, 1969, in Bradenton, Florida. He was a beloved husband, father, son, teacher, mentor, coach, and friend. He is survived by his wife, Ariane Wilson, daughters, Danielle & Emily Wilson, mother, Ellie Wilson, and many more loving family members and friends. Jeff was predeceased by his grandparents, Melvin & Betty Wilson.

Jeff graduated from Cardinal Mooney High school and attended the University of South Florida where he earned his bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and master’s degree in Educational Leadership. Jeff began his 28-year career in Manatee County at Prine Elementary as a classroom teacher and Technology Specialist. For the past 20 years, Jeff has been an original member of the staff at Freedom Elementary where he served as a 5th grade teacher, PE coach and after-school program director. His love of soccer led him to coach for the Braden River Soccer Club and Manatee High School. Jeff’s passion for education, history, patriotism and service are woven into the fabric of Freedom Elementary where he was beloved by colleagues, students & parents alike. His love of country and those who serve sparked the vision and creation of the “Let Freedom Ring” courtyard that honors all branches of service and first responders. It will be a permanent testament and memorial to his legacy and contributions to our community. Mornings will never be the

same without the “Good Morning, Freedom Elementary” announcement he made at the start of each school day. Coach Wilson has touched and altered the lives of thousands of children throughout the years. He has given knowledge, comfort, guidance, support and encouragement that will remain in the hearts and minds of each one. He will forever be a cherished member of the Freedom Family and this community.

Jeff was a true family man and the epitome of a husband and father. He loved all his girls beyond measure and his world revolved around them. You would always find them together on some kind of adventure. Whether they were attending a sporting event, a trip to Disney, running a marathon or kayaking, they were and will continue to be a close-knit family. Jeff and Ariane began life’s journey together as teenagers and he doted on his beautiful wife. They were always a team and complemented one another perfectly. Their time together was a love story that included their share of peaks and valleys, but it was the way they loved, lived, and worked together that made it so special. Jeff was an incredible father and the kind of dad that dropped everything and came running if one of his girls needed anything-they were his life and his pride and joy. His love for them was palpable and their love for him is endless. Danielle and Emily will continue his tradition of acts of kindness, love and service as set by his example. They are the best part of his legacy and of all his contributions to the world, he would say they are his greatest. He was a loving and dutiful son to his mother, Ellie, and always made sure she was loved and cared for. As an only child, he was his mama’s boy, and they had a special bond. To call Jeff “friend” was an honor and the relationships he built with family and friends were strong and lasting. His kindness, loyalty, honesty and wonderful sense of humor will be deeply missed and remembered.

Coach Wilson was an avid runner and cyclist participating in many marathons including the Dopey Challenge at Disney. If you knew Coach Wilson, you would often see the “Good Morning, Freedom” posts from his runs to the

Freedom Courtyard at the crack of dawn or from his cycling adventures. Sports were an integral part of his life.

Jeff's final act of service was to donate his organs to save the lives of others. One in one thousand people will be a viable organ donor and Jeff was that ONE. This is yet another attestation to the grace and selflessness of the entire Wilson family, that they would welcome this process at their darkest hour to help others in need. He will live on with the recipients and their families as they now have a second chance at life.

Jeffrey Alan Wilson has made a lasting impact on the people of Manatee County, both big and small. All who knew him are better for it. The majestic tree that was Jeff, with deep roots, strong trunk, sturdy, wide-reaching branches with thousands of leaves that depend on that strength, will continue to grow in the hearts of so many. He has left a void that cannot be filled but he will be lovingly remembered by all those he touched in his lifetime.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Bayside Church Lakewood Ranch, 15800 State Road 64 East, Bradenton, FL, on Thursday, July 13, 2023, at 11:00am with a reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to support the family at <https://gofund.me/9fb0de07>.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bayside Community Church
15800 East State Road 64
Bradenton , FL 34212

Tribute Wall

TM

“ You were a true light for a Freedom Elementary and your light will continue to shine.

Terri Tamera T Milbert - July 13, 2023 at 09:30 AM

TM

“ You for a true light of Freedom Elementary and your light will continue to shine.

Terri Tamera T Milbert - July 13, 2023 at 09:28 AM

TT

“ Terri T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeffrey Alan Wilson.

Terri T. - July 13, 2023 at 09:26 AM

KA

“ Coach Wilson will be so deeply missed. As a parent of Freedom, our future years will never be the same without him greeting us every morning and afternoon. He made such a lasting impression on our children, they mourned his loss tremendously with tears and sadness. To the Wilson family, we have prayed countless prayers for your comfort during this difficult time.

Krista Aloy - June 27, 2023 at 08:39 PM

JC

“ As the Guardian at Freedom E.S. I had daily contact and conversations with Jeff. We talked about sports, movies, books, history and family. He was very well read and very patriotic. I would observe him at PE talking to the kids and stressing values such as: honesty, hard work, being kind and helping others. I will miss you buddy.

Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

Mr, John

John Collins - June 21, 2023 at 09:16 AM

JS

“ When I started teaching at Tara, I was blown away by the 2 guys who ran our morning news. Jeff and Todd were so funny to the extent of wigs and great humor to engage our learners and teachers to start the day! This is a fond memory. He also was my son's PE coach, Jake is 24 now, he still talks about Mr. Wilson. prayers to all touched by Jeff.

Jennifer Scheid

Jennifer Scheid - June 19, 2023 at 06:36 AM

AT

“ I started working with Jeff October of last year. He was instantaneously one of my favorite people. Cracking sarcastic jokes and talking baseball were highlights of my day. My last conversation with him was about my oldest son being accepted to Cardinal Mooney. As usual, his perspective was as thoughtful as it was practical. As someone who hasn't known you long, I can truly say your influence and wisdom was very impactful. Rest in peace my friend, you will be missed.

A.J.

AJ Tovell - June 16, 2023 at 11:09 PM