



Richard Dean Wilson

May 4, 1953 - July 5, 2025

Richard Dean Wilson, a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully on July 5th, 2025, at the age of 72, with his devoted wife Beth at his side. At 6'8", his physical stature was matched by the immense size of his heart and the kindness he showed to all who knew him.

He was born on May 4th, 1953, in Janesville, WI to parents Jack and Ann Wilson and spent his childhood in Rockton, IL where at 13 years old he met the love of his life, Beth Wilson (née Wells). Married on August 19th, 1972, Beth was his constant companion through a remarkable 58 years of unwavering love and partnership, a bond that was the bedrock of their family. Together they relocated to Lewisburg, PA where Rich received a degree in Civil Engineering from Bucknell University in 1975. After college, Rich accepted a position with US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, where he cultivated his love for the outdoors and curiosity in the natural world. Though he remained a Midwesterner at heart, Rich and Beth would eventually relocate their growing family to Florida, where his passion for his work eventually led him to establish Wilson Structural Consultants in 1997. What began as a one-person firm quickly grew, fueled by his dedication to his craft and the increasing demand in Florida. Relocating to Sarasota in late 1998, Wilson Structural Consultants became and remains a leading firm in the region, a testament to his vision and leadership. He left an indelible mark on the state's skyline through his work, but his greatest impact was on the lives of

those with whom he worked. He fostered a supportive environment where many employees thrived, and he was cherished as both a mentor and a friend.

Rich's zest for life extended to the outdoors and athletic pursuits. At Hononegah High School, he was a multi-sport star, earning IL All-State honors in football, and a full scholarship to play basketball at Bucknell. Throughout his life he remained an avid Green Bay Packers fan and found great joy (and occasional sorrow) in cheering on his team on Sunday afternoons. He found peace and adventure in nature and travel, with a particular fondness for the cross-country road trips which created countless treasured family memories, and numerous international trips made later in life with his beloved Beth.

Above all, Rich was a proud family man. His legacy lives on in his five devoted children: Tony Wilson (Angela Wilson), Tim Wilson, Emily Jirout (Jan Jirout), Sarah Wilson, and Andrew Wilson (Dunja Wilson), who proudly carry with them Rich's strong set of values, his work ethic, and his love. His three adoring granddaughters: Mila Wilson, Evie Jirout, and Juniper Jirout; and four grandsons: Luke Wilson, Jack Wilson, Banks Wilson, and Niko Wilson also survive him— each one of them a source of immense pride and happiness in his life. He is also survived by his three brothers: James Wilson, Charles Wilson, and John Wilson; and best friend Fred Smith.

A Life Remembrance will be held Sunday, July 13 at 2 PM at Toale Brothers Funeral Home (40 N. Orange Ave. in Sarasota).

A scholarship in Rich's name has been established for graduates of Hononegah High School in pursuit of Engineering degrees. In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be made to The H.O.P.E. Foundation in Rockton, IL at www.hononegahhope.org/donate.

Previous Events

A Life Remembrance

JUL 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel

40 N. Orange Avenue

Sarasota, FL 34236

(941) 955-4171

info@toalebrothers.com

<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Tribute Wall

HA

“ For more than 20 years, we’ve had the pleasure of working with Rich on a variety of projects, including our very first as we were just starting out. Alongside his clear professional ethics, Rich always brought a sense of humanity, intelligence, and humor to every interaction. He will be greatly missed. - Michael Halfflants and John Pichette

Halfflants + Pichette Architecture - July 16, 2025 at 03:49 PM

RH

“ As an architect who worked with Rich for nearly 30 years we shared many close working memories. He was a great friend, mentor to many, and was respected by all who knew him. I will always remember Rich for his immensely warm and kind way! I will miss you Rich!

Robert Hall - July 13, 2025 at 11:04 AM

DK

“ Rich was my first boss in Sarasota 30 years ago. He was a formative mentor to me and many of the engineers in our area. I strive to live up to his example, both professionally and personally. Sending love from my family to yours.
David Karins

David Karins - July 13, 2025 at 06:52 AM

RM

“ I was deeply saddened to hear about Richard’s passing. Please accept my heartfelt condolences.

To me, Richard Wilson was a true legend. I use that word with care—because legends are people who achieve things that are rare, difficult, and deeply admirable. Richard was that kind of person. He built not just a career, but a family grounded in strong values, kindness, and character. I’ve always admired how he raised such well-educated, polite, and humane children—he gave structure, dignity, and love in a way that left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

I feel fortunate that Richard hired me over 20 years ago and continued to treat me—and my family—with respect long after I retired. I learned a great deal from him, and I carry his example with me in my life. He will remain a guiding figure for me, someone I will always admire and strive to emulate.

*With a broken heart
Ricardo Marques and family.*

My prayers are that the protection of God be with you and your family thru this moments.

Ricardo Marques - July 12, 2025 at 03:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Dean Wilson.

July 12, 2025 at 12:23 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard Dean Wilson.*



July 12, 2025 at 12:23 PM



“ *We are saddened to hear of Rich's passing. Praying for the Wilson family that Jesus would comfort you during these times. Rich was a tremendous person and I have many fond memories. We will be thinking and praying for all of you in the days ahead.*
Clark and Susan Tabbert

CLARK TABBERT - July 12, 2025 at 12:17 PM



“ *Beth and family: it was with sadness that I read about Rich on Facebook. I have wonderful memories of you and Rich and HHS. I now reside in Ocala. May he rest in peace.*

Barbara Fiorillo - July 11, 2025 at 09:46 PM



“ *Thomas H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Dean Wilson.*

Thomas H. - July 11, 2025 at 02:01 PM

CA

“ My heart goes out to this beautiful family.
I admired Rich like no other professional and will always owe him for taking me in when I needed the most. The firm felt like home for the years I worked there. I'm proud to have been a small part of Wilson Structural and to feel part of the family.
Tony, his legacy lives thru you. Know that you have my upmost respect and admiration.
Beth, please accept my deepest condolences for your loss and please extend my feelings to the entire Wilson's family.
Carlyson Delgado

carlyson - July 11, 2025 at 01:32 PM

DL

“ Rich was one of the finest men and talented engineers I have ever known.

It was a pleasure to have worked with him for over 30 years. He was an extraordinary person and professional.

He will be dearly missed.

Don Lawson

Don Lawson - July 11, 2025 at 01:15 PM

LI

“ Lawson Group Architects, Inc purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard Dean Wilson.



Lawson Group Architects, Inc - July 11, 2025 at 01:05 PM

LI

“ Lawson Group Architects, Inc planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Dean Wilson.

Lawson Group Architects, Inc - July 11, 2025 at 01:05 PM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of Richard Dean Wilson.



July 11, 2025 at 10:37 AM

RB

“ Ralph B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Dean Wilson.

Ralph B. - July 10, 2025 at 08:26 PM

RB

“ Ralph B. purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Richard Dean Wilson.



Ralph B. - July 10, 2025 at 08:26 PM