



## Donald Gene Wilcox Sr.

September 30, 1931 - May 18, 2018

Donald Gene Wilcox Sr., 86 of Sterling Heights, Michigan, passed away at home on May 19, 2018. Donald was born September 30, 1931, in Detroit, Michigan. He was the only child of Stanley and Genevieve (Sobczak) Wilcox. He married Bernadette Elizabeth Hirzel in 1954 and they shared their lives together until 2010 when she passed away. Donald graduated from Pershing High School and earned a Bachelor and Master's Degree from the University of Detroit in the field of Education. He worked for over 30 years in the Center Line Public School District where he taught for 9 years and then became an elementary school principal. During his lifetime, Donald enjoyed fishing, bowling, golfing, reading, and playing cards; especially with his grandchildren. Donald is survived by his six children: Diane, David (Susan), Donald Jr. (Sally), Denise Hahn, Daniel (Janice), and Douglas (Sandie). He is also survived by his 9 grandchildren: Stephen and Alice, Michael and Kevin, Daniel, Eric and David, and Mathew and Joseph. Please share memories at [legacy.com](http://legacy.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Gene Wilcox Sr.*

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October 23, 2023 at 04:00 AM



“ *Donald Gene Wilcox Sr.*

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January 06, 2023 at 05:24 AM

“Grandpa always knew how to make us smile. His sense of humor is one of his many qualities I will remember most about him. I wanted to talk today about three different memories that I will never forget.

The first one I wanted to share is when I got my first job at Krogers. And I'm sure all of the cousins have heard this at some point, but he sat me down when he heard I had a job and said, "Mathew, now that you are making all of this money, how about you help me out with my water bill?"

I told him I'm not making that kind of money but maybe one day I could be of help.

My second memory I wanted to share was during the "sacred" game of Polish Poker. Grandpa would gather us around the dinner table and we would all sit there and play cards, enjoying the company, until we would look to our right or left to see Grandpa at the end of the table pulling a joker from his sleeve or shirt pocket.

Lastly, years ago when my dad, mom, and brother would have dinner with Grandpa and it was getting late, Grandpa would look at my dad and say, "David, is it time for some i-c-e c-r-e-a-m?", spelling out ice cream like Joe and I didn't know what he was talking about. We would just look at each other and laugh.

These are only a few of the countless memories and laughs I personally have experienced with Grandpa over the years. Grandpa has started many traditions and had infinite precious moments with us all - sometimes teaching us something and sometimes just making us laugh.

As a family, I hope we can continue some of these traditions.

Grandpa, we will miss you.

Love, Mathew

**Mathew Wilcox** - May 31, 2018 at 01:39 PM

SO

*I believe that Donald owned this house on Navy 7294. I am a neighbor. I am trying to find out who may be able to let me know what is going on with the house. The city is trying to sue for it being empty. I would like to maybe work a deal on the house.*

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**Southwestmarc** - December 02, 2018 at 10:10 AM

DW

“ 5/25/2018 Farewell Donald G. Wilcox

*Duty, decency, reliability, honorable, and dedicated – these are qualities that our father practiced in his life.*

*He was a serious and disciplined man with a dry sense of humor, but good natured.*

*Donald Wilcox saw a lot of changes in the world in his 86 years of life and was always interested and paying attention to news, mostly politics. Being a parent of 6 kids in a fast-changing world surely was challenging. He stood firm in what he believed was important in raising his kids.*

*Other families were experimenting with different life styles – things like permissiveness, rule breaking, and the idea that if anything feels good, do it. Not Dad, he believed kids should work hard, get good grades, follow the rules, and honor their parents. He believed that a good education was expensive and he meant it in more ways than one.*

*I was always proud of my dad for being so smart. His being a school principal gave me a lot of pride. Seeing him do his homework in the boys' bedroom at night to get his master's degree comforted me. He led by example.*

*His kiss each night at bedtime to all 6 kids (until they got older) was reassuring of his love.*

*He helped all the kids with their homework however long it would take to give us confidence in what we were doing.*

*His asking us what we did in school each evening at dinner made us feel part of something.*

*All the extra hygiene routines he spent time teaching us helped us develop good habits.*

*The gifts, presents, and money that was given to us at birthdays and holidays were never missed.*

*The long rides in the station wagon to the lake front were both exciting and relaxing.*

*So all these things and 100 more tell the story of a man that was dedicated to his family.*

*He sacrificed his time and money for his family. Later in life, he*

*would extend this to his grandkids by being generous to them as well.*

*This was his way of showing us love and showing us comfort. Dad believed in and practiced a quiet faith in God. We know that God is comforting him now.*

*Love, David*

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**David Wilcox** - May 31, 2018 at 01:36 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Gene Wilcox Sr..*



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May 24, 2018 at 10:16 PM



“ *Denise, Eric, and David,  
Our deepest condolences to your family during this difficult time. May God provide you comfort and peace in the days to come. You are in our prayers.*

*Love,  
Craig and Michelle Baumann  
Fort Mill, SC*

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**Michelle Baumann** - May 24, 2018 at 08:12 PM

DI

“ Dear Dad,

*It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this message. Recently you and I had a conversation about how everyone has different strengths and weaknesses and, of course, that included you and me. You were a complicated man who was misunderstood by many. Your stubborn quiriness and unusual sense of humor made it difficult for some people to recognize your many strengths. You were an honorable man who cared deeply for his family. You had absolutely no interest in material things. You accepted people for who they were and never judged anyone. Thank you for the positive contributions you made in my life. Your influence helped me become a strong, confident woman. I will miss our frequent telephone calls that always ended with "well, if we are running out of new gossip". I wish I could have spent more time with you as your health was deteriorating. I would have liked to help shoulder the burden of your pain and suffering. I am terribly sad that you are no longer with us, but I am also grateful that you are finally at peace. I love you very much, Dad. You will always hold a special place in my heart.*

*Love,  
Diane*

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**Diane** - May 23, 2018 at 08:39 PM