

## Joseph Benjamin Wilson

October 11, 1928 - July 21, 2018

Joseph Benjamin Wilson of Winchester, Texas, died July 21, 2018 at the age of 89 years old. He was born on October 11, 1928 in Houston to Ben K. Wilson and Edith Joy Kissel Wilson. After graduating with honors from Jeff Davis High School in 1945, he attended Rice University, where he studied German, Swedish, and Old Germanic languages and literature. He continued these studies in Stockholm, Sweden, after being awarded a scholarship. He earned his Ph.D at Stanford University in California. He taught languages at Rice University from 1954 to 1998. He received Humboldt Fellowships, which enabled long study periods in both Kiel, Germany and Marburg, Germany. He also made research visits to East Germany, Denmark and Iceland. He published many works on the German language, Old Germanic languages, and the German languages of Texas.

He met his best friend and beloved wife, Adele Herbrich, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Houston, having visited there to hear German services. They were married there in 1947, and were married for over 70 years. He was baptized and confirmed at that same church. They lived in Houston until 1998 when he retired and they moved to the farm in Winchester, Texas, where Adele was born and raised. He continued his research in languages after retiring, spending many years translating the German and Wendish church records at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Serbin, Texas. He enjoyed helping his son on the farm as long as he was physically able. Another of his interests

was archeology, and he discovered many arrowheads at his dig-sites at the farm. He was especially proud of the Clovis point he found, which caused some excitement in local archeological circles. As brilliant as he was, he was also fun-loving and jovial and enjoyed family as much as anything. He loved good movies, especially the classics; he could come up with jokes on all subjects, and he appreciated good food and wine.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his only sister and her husband, Joy and John Ganther.

Joe is survived by his loving wife, Adele, who cared for him until he died; his children, Lucy Cundiff of Centerville, Massachusetts; Carolyn and husband Wayne Kellam of Bryan, Texas; Janet and husband James Kaiser of Belton, Texas; and Mark Wilson and wife Alice of Winchester, Texas. He is also survived by grandchildren Roy Elliot Cundiff and wife, Ashley Ball of Seattle, Washington; Travis Cundiff and wife, Amy Wrightson of Osterville, Massachusetts; Jeremiah Kellam of Ft. Worth, Texas; Erin Kellam Noll and husband Stephen of Mansfield, Texas; Christopher Kaiser of Austin, Texas; Michael Kaiser of San Antonio, Texas; Brian Wilson of Winchester, Texas; Markus Wilson of Winchester, Texas; and step-granddaughter Rebecca Mitschke and husband Brian of Giddings, Texas. He also had eight great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, August 3, 2018 at 11:00 am at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 700 Frio St., Winchester, Texas, with Reverend Nate Hill officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Winchester, Texas, the American Red Cross, or a charity of your choice.



# Cemetery Details

## St. Michael's Lutheran Cemetery

700 Frio Street  
Winchester, TX 78945

# Previous Events

## Church Service

AUG 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Michael's Lutheran Church  
700 Frio Street  
Winchester, TX 78945

# Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph Benjamin Wilson*



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**Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home** - July 24, 2018 at 06:33 PM

GJ

*Nice photos. G & J*

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**G & J** - July 25, 2018 at 02:44 PM

CK

*Thank you! It was nice to remember him with these.*

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**Carolyn Kellam** - July 31, 2018 at 10:57 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joseph Benjamin Wilson.*



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July 30, 2018 at 11:34 AM



“ *That was a beautiful video of a wonderful family with memories to cherish forever. It really grabbed my heart and emotions. Love to all. Maureen*

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**Maureen Wells** - July 29, 2018 at 05:00 PM

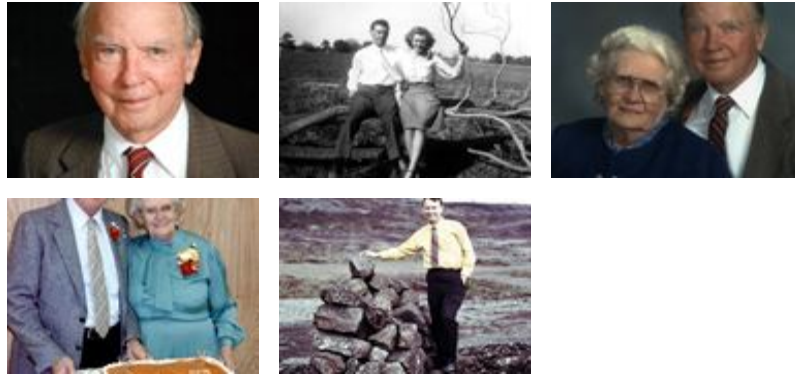
CK

*Thanks, Maureen, for your sweet words! It was so nice to go through all of the old photos together. And it was fun seeing those photos of your parents, as well!*

Carolyn Kellam - July 31, 2018 at 10:56 AM



“ 61 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - July 24, 2018 at 05:25 PM

TO

“ So very sorry to read of Joe Wilson's passing. Although I never had the privilege of meeting him, his contributions to Wendish research were phenomenal and treasured by many. Prayers for comfort for his family and many friends.

Tonya - July 23, 2018 at 08:15 AM

CK

*Thanks, Tonya, for your kind words. My father enjoyed his research on the Wendish settlers so much!*

Carolyn Kellam - July 31, 2018 at 10:54 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Joseph Benjamin Wilson.*



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July 23, 2018 at 08:14 AM