



Frank Buddy Wilson, Jr.

August 26, 2012 - August 26, 2012

Frank S. "Buddy" Wilson, Jr., 88, devoted husband, father and grandfather passed away on Aug. 25, 2012. He was a native of Radford, VA and the son of the late Mary Margaret and Frank S. Wilson, Sr. Buddy is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mildred Louise Wilson; 4 children, Gregory S. Wilson of Jasper, FL, Carol W. Shelton of Suffolk, Roger Wilson of Miami, FL and Lyn Wilson of VA Beach. Also surviving are twin granddaughters, Michelle Masion and Diane Norris; 2 great-grandchildren, Nicholas Masion and Essiemae Norris and 4 nephews, John, Frank, Edward and Stephen Sharrett. He was predeceased by his sister, Margaret Sharrett.

Buddy learned to play the saxophone and soon joined the Woodrow Wilson High School Band. He began playing with a dance band until he was drafted into the 17th Airborne Division of the Army after graduation. He played in the Army Band and was sent to England, France, Belgium and Germany. They acted as special equipment guards in combat areas in Germany. With less than 3 years of service in the military, he and others were sent to the 82nd Airborne Division in Berlin to await their return home to the US. He participated in the New York Parade honoring the 82nd A/B Division.

He continued to play the saxophone and upon returning from the service attending the Norfolk Division of William & Mary College ODU. During this time he formed a college band who were professionally qualified to play

musical arrangements provided mostly by Tommy Newsom who was attending the school at that time.

Buddy earned his BA degree at the University of Miami in 1951, where he started a campus band. He was also a member of the of the newly formed University band that entertained diners several nights a week. After graduation from college he obtained a job in Broadcasting and marketing in Richmond, VA with Richmond Broadcasting WTVR, WMBG, WCOD-FM. He was executive program director until he was asked to become the Director of member relations with the Richmond Merchants Association in 1968. His primary responsibility was development of membership and preparation of information dealing with the use of credit and collections.

While living in Richmond he played with a number of local dance bands and on special occasions was hired when there was a need to accompany out-of-town performers. Some famous entertainers he played behind were Ethel Merman, Benny Goodman, Bob Crosby, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Johnny Mathis, Dorothy Lamoure, The Temptations and the Four Tops. He played mostly with Big Band Groups that used musical arrangements that included the Richmond Continentals from 1953 until joining the Pat Curtis Group in 1980 for over 10 years.

In 1972 he moved his family back to Portsmouth to become the manager of the merchants Association. In 1974, the Norfolk and Portsmouth offices merged forming the Merchants Association RMA in Norfolk. In 1991, Buddy retired from RMA. He and Louise spent the next 8 years traveling across country visiting many scenic wonders of the nation. In 2001, physical and health problems kept them close to home.

He brought so much love and joy to his family and everyone he met. His humor will be greatly missed.

The family would like to express their gratitude for the professional care and support provided by the staff at Golden Living Center of Portsmouth and Hospice of VA.

A gathering to celebrate Buddy's life will be held at 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday in Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel

Tribute Wall



“ We first met Frank and his wife on a bus trip to PA. Then, later he joined the Senior Fun and Friendship Bowling League. He will be sorely missed. Such a nice man.##imported-begin##Bill & Dot Stublen##imported-end##

August 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I met Frank as a member of the Ecumenical Prayer Group. He was as kind and personable a guy as anyone there. Having mentioned my love of live music, Frank filled me in on his similar interest and also shared in his modest way stories of his own musical background. Only through his expansive obituary did I learn just how steeped in music as a player he was. Since a stay the Bon Secours facility in Suffolk, I'd only communicated with Frank when we bumped into each other at the market and, of course, now I especially regret that I didn't see him again. Frank was such a fine man, so proud of his kids and concerned for his wife. I know he will be missed by many lite friends eg. myself and am just as sure his passing will leave a huge void among his family. All can rest assured that he's probably already assembling a crackerjack band in Heaven.##imported-begin##Robbie Steen##imported-end##

August 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Wilson family. What a wonderful, loving family. The time I spent with them was filled with laughter, hugs and lots of love. Frank has probably started his heavenly band as we speak. My condolences to all.##imported-begin##Gayle Stocks Feineis##imported-end##

August 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM