



Wilbur R. Pershing

May 3, 1926 - May 22, 2019

Wilbur R. Pershing died on May 22, 2019 at University Place, West Lafayette, IN. Wilbur was born May 3, 1926 to John Carl and Mabel Pershing in Washington, IN. He is a 1944 graduate of Washington High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany. When he returned home Wilbur farmed with his dad. He attended Purdue University Winter Short Course. He was a pioneer in using the double crop method of planting soybeans in wheat stubble, a method still in use today. Wilbur also enjoyed working with the Soil and Water Conservation.

In 1970 Wilbur was elected Clerk of the Daviess Circuit Court. He was also elected Daviess County Recorder, serving two terms for each office. Wilbur enjoyed camping and traveling in his RV making it to all 50 states. He also enjoyed wood working making many beautiful pieces of furniture for his family.

Wilbur retired from farming in 2002.

In 2004 he moved to West Lafayette to be near family.

Wilbur is survived by his wife of 70 1/2 years, Evelyn. He is survived by two sons, Elwood J. Pershing (Debbie) of Indian Shores, FL; Bruce L. Pershing (Dana) of West Lafayette, IN; Brenda Sue Detzner (Tim) of Lafayette, IN; and daughter-in-law Brenda Pershing Gilbert (Allen) of Prospect, Ky. He is survived by 8 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Wilbur was preceded in death by one son, Gary Ray Pershing and one great grandson, Brennan Luke Frey.

Wilbur is survived by three sisters, Dorothy Allison, Washington, IN; June Harshberger, Kingwood, WV and Helen Wiesler, Bloomington, IN. He has three brothers, Donald J. Pershing (Eleanor), Frankfort, IN; Dr. Roscoe L. Pershing (Ann), Champaign, IL and Stephen W. Pershing (Carla) Washington, IN. He has lots of nieces and nephews that he adored. He was preceded in death by one brother and two sisters.

Wilbur was a life long member of Christ United Methodist Church in Washington, IN. After

moving to West Lafayette, he attended St. Andrew United Methodist Church in West Lafayette.

Visitation will be held from 12pm – 2pm Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at Hippensteel Funeral Home. Funeral service will begin at 2pm with Pastor Chris Danielson officiating. Interment to follow at Tippecanoe Memory Gardens. Memorial gifts in honor of Wilbur can be made to Christ Church in Washington or St. Andrew Church in West Lafayette or the charity of choice.

The family would like to thank the staff and caregivers at University Place for the excellent care and love they gave to Wilbur and their hospitality to Evelyn. Share Memories and condolences online at www.hippensteelfuneralservice.com
<http://videos.lifetributes.com/1002310>

Comments



“ How fitting that we ended with the Lord's Prayer in unison. Uncle Wib always had us pray the Lord's Prayer together before the food portion of our family fellowship at the post PMO gatherings they hosted for several years. As Brenda and Woody shared various characteristics they will cherish about their dad, at several points I thought to myself, I grew up with a father like that. But after all, the brothers were alike in many ways. We love our fathers for many of the same reasons. Understandably we will miss Wilbur in countless ways.

I'll remember Uncle Wib most for his cheery people skills and humor. Though a softer side of Wib that I recall came when I was somewhere around 12-13 years old and Jeff was maybe 4-5. I was outside in charge of watching Jeff at Grandma's farm house, and got permission to take him on a walk. We walked down the road toward Wib and Evelyn's gray house, and got to the bridge. We stopped and made "boats" out of trash, or anything we found that would float, then as we headed up to the road, here came Uncle Wilbur in the black and white pickup on his way toward Grandma's. He thought we had gone far enough and let us ride in the truck back to Grandma's. I didn't think there was anything wrong with what we had done at the time, but now I understand why he took us back. Maybe I never got in trouble because I succeeded in a task that no one else had accomplished... I was able to keep Jeff busy, out of trouble, content, and Wore Him OUT! (and that was no easy task!) Nevertheless, it was Uncle Wilbur's fatherly wisdom to the rescue that kept me out of trouble! Maybe it sticks out in my memory because it was one of the first one on one moments Wib and I had without others around. And he never made me felt like I had done anything wrong. It was like you said, he made me feel like I had accomplished some great mission. He made people feel good when they were around him. Oh how we will miss him, but how thankful to have had him in our lives!

Carol (Pershing) Taylor

Carol Taylor - May 29 at 04:39 PM



“ It was great seeing you Carol. Thanks for a wonderful story!

Brenda - May 30 at 06:30 PM



“ My thoughts are with you Bruce and Dana.

Viki Taylor

Viki Taylor - May 26 at 11:11 AM



“ Nephews aren't supposed to have favorite uncles, but I admit that I did. Uncle Wilbur always found time for me when my mom and family would travel from rural West Virginia back to visit our relatives in southwestern Indiana. He was eager to share a Coca Cola (from one the many glass bottles he kept in multiple wooden crates in his kitchen or pantry area) and snacks from his vast collection. His large smile and sharp wit drew me to him and he always found time when I was in town to let me work the fields with him in his John Deere tractor or combine. It's remarkable that there was always some tractor work waiting for me in any season my family arrived! Looking back, even though I didn't have many direct interactions with him over my life (we only saw him one week a year while growing up), he had a strong influence on me in many ways. It was in Uncle Wilbur's air conditioned John Deere tractor that I learned that Elvis died. I don't remember specific conversations we had in the tractor, but I do remember that he was always happy, always let me steer, and always had time for me. It's remarkable how much someone can impact a person, even without repeated direct contact. I feel like I share some DNA with Uncle Wilbur (based on certain personality traits and likes) and I'm proud to be his nephew, and my Mom's son. Uncle Wilbur will be missed, but not forgotten, as a part of him lives on in me, and other relatives and friends.

Kevin Harshberger - May 26 at 10:05 AM



“ Thanks, Kevin! Glad you shared your wonderful memories.

Brenda - May 30 at 06:31 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Many memories. Lois O'Bryan and Mary Ann (O'Bryan) Crist

Mary Ann Crist - May 23 at 09:27 PM



“ Thank you, Mary Ann. Greetings to your mother

Brenda - May 30 at 06:29 PM



“ There will always be a special place in my heart for Wilbur. His love for you, Evelyn, and his family was witnessed by many and am sure it will bring you all much comfort now. Wish we could be with you at this time, but please know we will be lifting you up in our prayers from AZ.

Love you all,
Linda Faye

Linda and Denny McCallian - May 22 at 11:13 PM



“ I’m so sorry to hear of Wilbur’s death. I have so many memories of Wilbur (Wib), Evelyn, and Gary, Woody, Brenda, and Bruce from my growing up years. I can still see the farm in my mind’s eye. As kids we always loved visiting with our cousins and playing with them on the farms. It was totally out of our everyday life and always fascinating, if a little scary at times. I really loved the Morris/Pershing/Greene family reunions where we celebrated Great-grandma Lively’s birthday in June. After she passed the reunions moved to July 4th and I didn’t get to as many of them as I was married and later moved far away. At those reunions it seemed that Gary, Woodie, Mary Lou, Phyllis, Steve, Connie, and I were together a lot. Then there was the younger group of kids who played together. Our frequent visits to Washington to see Grandma and Grandpa Morris often included visits with these cousins and their parents who were also our cousins. Such fun memories.

I’m sorry I can’t attend the funeral but you will all be in my prayers for some time to come.

Donna Morris Tomlinson

Donna Tomlinson - May 22 at 11:01 PM