



## Ronald Griffith Wilkins

October 8, 1940 - April 21, 2025

Ronald Griffith Wilkins, a man of profound faith and boundless love, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 21st, 2025, at his home in Madison, AL. He was 84 years old. He left behind a legacy of kindness and devotion. Born on October 8, 1940, in Cuba, Kentucky, to Marion and Clara Wilkins, Ron's journey began alongside his older brother, Larry, in the heart of Michigan.

Even in his youth, delivering newspapers with Larry, Ron discovered a passion for horses, sparked by a customer's gentle steeds. This early connection to nature mirrored the deeper bonds he would forge throughout his life. In the 7th grade, a pivotal moment arrived when friend, Jim Smelser led him and his family to Christ, setting the foundation for a lifetime of unwavering faith.

Ron's path led him to Florida College, where he met his beloved wife, Patrica Welsh, and discovered a love for singing that would fill their lives with harmony. Their marriage in 1963 marked the beginning of a beautiful partnership that would endure for decades. A proud graduate of the University of Florida in 1965 (Go Gators!), Ron embarked on a career as an administrator for Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, Florida.

In August 1965, Ron's heart swelled with the arrival of his son, Ronald Dean, followed by his daughter, Dawn Renee, in December 1968. Family became

the cornerstone of his world, inspiring his every endeavor. During the 1970s, Ron played a vital role in establishing the North Fort Myers Church of Christ, laying the groundwork for a community of faith and fellowship. In the 1980s, he served at Community Hospital and as the executive director at Edison Regional Blood Center, demonstrating his commitment to serving others.

Ronald's dedication to his faith led him to help start the Southside church of Christ, where he served as an elder for many years, guiding and nurturing the congregation with wisdom and compassion. His family grew to include a daughter-in-law, Rosanne Caruso, in 1989, and a son-in-law, Jeff Carr, in 1990, enriching his life with even more love and joy.

From 1995 to 2002, Ronald began to embrace his cherished role as "Papa" to his four grandchildren: Tyler, Angelica, Erick, and Ashley. Inspired by their boundless energy and love, he made the decision to retire from the blood center, dedicating his time to creating lasting memories with them. Not one to remain idle, Ronald established a Juvenile Detention Center for Lee County shortly after retirement, driven by his desire to make a difference in the lives of young people.

While visiting his daughter in Alabama in 2000, Ron and Pat met their lifelong friends, affectionately known as "The Blue Hairs." Drawn to the warmth and camaraderie of these new close bonds, they decided to move to Alabama to be closer to their daughter's family and "The Blue Hairs." Ron found a special place in his heart for Athens Square, where "he met no stranger," and developed a deep appreciation for The Fiddler's Convention.

In 2006, Ron and Pat realized their dream of building a home in Elkmont, Alabama, complete with horses and a barn, a testament to their shared love of God's creation. They became devoted members of Pepper Road church of Christ, where they remained strong faithful Christians, encouraging many

along the way.

On April 20, 2025, Ron and Pat celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary.

Ron is preceded in death by his parents, Marion and Clara Wilkins; brother Larry Wilkins; and daughter-in-law Rosanne Caruso Wilkins. He is survived by his wife Patricia Welsh Wilkins; son Dean Wilkins; daughter Dawn Renee Carr (Jeff); and grandchildren Tyler Carr (Tayler), Angelica Wilkins, Erick Wilkins, Ashley Carr

Ron was a man who exemplified selflessness and generosity, always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need without hesitation. His love for his wife, children, grandchildren, animals, and every person he encountered knew no bounds. His memory will forever be cherished by those whose lives he touched, and his legacy of faith, love, and service will continue to inspire generations to come.

Funeral services for Mr. Wilkins are Thursday, April 24th, 2025, at 2:00pm at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home. Visitation will be Thursday from 12:00-1:45pm at the funeral home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **24**. 12:00 PM - 1:45 PM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home  
322 Hwy. 31 N.  
Athens, AL 35611  
(256) 232-1051  
info@limestonechapel.com  
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

## Funeral Service

APR **24**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home  
322 Hwy. 31 N.  
Athens, AL 35611  
(256) 232-1051  
info@limestonechapel.com  
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronald Griffith Wilkins.

April 24, 2025 at 07:56 AM



“ Bill J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald Griffith Wilkins.

Bill J. - April 24, 2025 at 07:20 AM



“ Ron and I spent 20 years together in the healthcare field in Fort Myers, Florida. While developing Fort Myers Community Hospital, we became close friends and even to the point, he felt like a brother to me. His strong faith, positive attitude, ability to relate to people and make them feel important made Ron a role model to me. His faith allowed him to be courageous and his courage helped shape the lives of so many people on his walk through life. Ron was truly a genuine man who was loved by all, including myself.

BILL JOHNSON - April 24, 2025 at 07:06 AM



Just now saw this. Thank you for all your special comments. You were really a very special friend to us both and we loved that you stopped by for a visit with us in Elkmont. Ont have your new address so hope this teaches you. Miss him every day but know he is in a better place and had left me with wonderful memories 🥹

Pat Wilkins - July 01, 2025 at 01:36 AM

PD

“ *Ron's genuine smiling greeting will be missed. My love to Pat and all his family. Prayers for God's comfort to embrace them as they grieve.*

Pat Darby - April 23, 2025 at 10:39 PM

PD

“ *Pat Darby lit a candle in memory of Ronald Wilkins*



Pat Darby - April 23, 2025 at 10:34 PM

DW

“ *I grew up next door to Ron and his family- they were like family to us!! He was always so much fun and so supportive of me. He rode rides with me at the fair, our families went on picnics at the beach, and we spent lots of time together!! Dean was my ring bearer and Renee was my flower girl in my wedding. I love this family so much, and even though there has been miles between us for years now, they hold a very special place in my heart. I know I will see Ron again someday , and for that I am grateful!*

Delynn White - April 23, 2025 at 01:13 PM

FT

“ *Friends/family in Tampa purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of Ronald Griffith Wilkins.*



Friends/family in Tampa - April 23, 2025 at 10:17 AM

TC

“ The Smelsers and the Crenshaws planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald Griffith Wilkins.

The Smelsers and the Crenshaws - April 22, 2025 at 11:54 PM

TC

“ The Smelsers and the Crenshaws purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Ronald Griffith Wilkins.



The Smelsers and the Crenshaws - April 22, 2025 at 11:54 PM

DB

“ Remembering the kind, loving, gentle personality that Ron had. Most of all, he was a man of great faith and did so much to reach out to others. May his family be strengthened in the days ahead by the hope he had as a Christian.

Don and Sonia Brady - April 22, 2025 at 07:38 PM

GS

“ Glenn, Jennie, Hisham, Olivia and Samir planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald Griffith Wilkins.

Glenn, Jennie, Hisham, Olivia and Samir - April 22, 2025 at 04:01 PM

GS

“ Glenn, Jennie, Hisham, Olivia and Samir purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ronald Griffith Wilkins.



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**Glenn, Jennie, Hisham, Olivia and Samir** - April 22, 2025 at 04:01 PM

PL

“ Phillip & Cindy Lafferty purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ronald Griffith Wilkins.



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**Phillip & Cindy Lafferty** - April 22, 2025 at 01:58 PM