



R. W. "Buzzy" Wilkinson

November 18, 1932 - January 15, 2016

R. W. "Buzzy" Wilkinson passed away on Friday, January 15, 2016 at the Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina at the age of 83 following a short illness. He was born on November 18, 1932 in Welch, West Virginia and was the son of the late E. M. Wilkinson, M. D. and Addie Mae "Johnson" Wilkinson of Pineville, WV.

He is survived by Patricia Ann Hayes Wilkinson; and two sons, Richard Ernest "Rick" Wilkinson and Frank Warren Wilkinson and his wife Gina Butcher Wilkinson of Bluefield, VA. Also three grandchildren Anne Warren Wilkinson, Caroline Pearson Hayes Wilkinson, and Frank Thomas Wilkinson of Bluefield, VA. He is also survived by his brother E. M. Wilkinson, Jr. of Covington, VA. He graduated from Greenbrier Military Academy in Lewisburg, WV and then attended the University of Virginia and graduated in 1955. He was an exceptional athlete and became the first basketball player to have his jersey number 14 retired at the University of Virginia. He was also recognized as an All American in 1954 and 1955 and still holds the single season ACC scoring record for averaging 32.1 points per game in 1955. He scored 2,233 points during his college career and is currently third on the University's all-time scoring list. He also averaged 28.6 points per game for a career and scored 898 points his senior year which is a record as well. He was drafted by the Boston Celtics in that same year.

He was honored on July 25, 2015 at the Sports Legends Reunion at the Beckley Moose Club. They referred to him as the "Jerry West of the University

of Virginia.”

He decided to give up a career with the Celtics following a car accident and attended law school at The University of Virginia graduating in 1962. He moved to Bluefield, West Virginia and worked at The First National Bank of Bluefield (now First Century Bank) and had a rewarding banking career that lasted for 50 years. He retired as President and CEO on December 31, 2010. He was still active on the boards of the Bank and Holding Company at the time of his death. His passion was working with people and making the community a better place to live for everyone.

Buzzy also served as President of the H. I. Shott, Jr. Foundation, as well as, the Ethel N. Bowen Foundation. He was active in many civic organizations and believed in giving of his time for the betterment of the community.

In accordance with his wishes, the family will have a private service. The family would ask that in lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Christ Episcopal Church, 200 Duhring Street, Bluefield WV 24701, for their Food Pantry Program.

Those wishing to share memories or condolences may do so by visiting www.mercerfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ R. W. "Buzzy" Wilkinson

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ Frank and Family,
Sending you my sincere condolences. Although I only met Mr. Wilkinson briefly, I felt like I knew him and your family through Frank, with whom I worked in Charlottesville at National Bank. From Frank, I know you as a loving family and I am very sorry for your loss. Sending you strength and prayers of concern.
Gayle Morris
Wells Fargo, Charlottesville

Gayle Morris - January 26, 2016 at 04:12 PM



“ I want to extend my condolences to Patti, Frank and Rick in the passing of Buzzy. I served on the Banks Board for many years and valued my association with him. He worked tirelessly to enhance not only First Century Bank but also the communities in which all of us lived and worked. We will be forever grateful for his efforts and accomplishments

Harold L Miller Jr..

Harold L Miller Jr. - January 21, 2016 at 01:50 PM



“ To Rick...you are in my thoughts and prayers during this time, as is the rest of your family

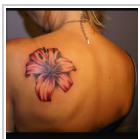
Carla Akers - January 21, 2016 at 11:59 AM

BM

“ I had the pleasure and privilege to play basketball with Buzzy at UVA. He was a great player and a good person. I send my sincere and heartfelt sympathy to his family.

Bill Miller

Bill Miller - January 20, 2016 at 08:32 PM



“ Becky Hicks-Adams sent a virtual gift in memory of R. W. "Buzzy" Wilkinson



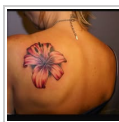
Becky Hicks-Adams - January 20, 2016 at 03:04 PM

BA

“ Becky Adams lit a candle in memory of R. W. "Buzzy" Wilkinson



Becky adams - January 20, 2016 at 02:56 PM



Anna I'm sorry for loss of your grandfather I know you will miss everyday but know he is watching over you and the family

Becky Hicks-Adams - January 20, 2016 at 03:00 PM

AM

“ I came to know Buzzy just a few years ago and I have regarded him not only as my friend, but also as the type of person whom I should strive to be. He was not only brilliant and charismatic, but he was mindful of his community and generous to people with both time and resources. He loved his family and his church, and he was truly a pillar in the community. His passing will be felt for a long time. Gina and I will cherish our memories of him, and the Veneri family will miss him very much.

Anthony R. Veneri

Anthony R. Veneri and Gina Veneri Moore - January 20, 2016 at 12:03 PM

MB

“ Frank, Gina and Family... My thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time. I have wonderful memories of your dad. He was an awesome man who will surely be missed. May our Lord comfort you and give you peace. Marie Blackwell, Bluefield, WV



Marie Blackwell - January 20, 2016 at 09:21 AM

RP

“ As a teenager in Virginia I certainly remember "Buzzy" Wilkinson when he was such a terrific basketball player at UVA>> I never met him but remember his basketball skills

R. Pitts, Bowling Green, Va

R. Pitts - January 20, 2016 at 07:03 AM

DH

“ Annie so sorry to hear of your loss i know you will miss him very much our prayers are with you an your family may God put his arms around you an comfort you all in this time of sorrow, Your D.Q. friend, Dolly Hambrick



dolly hambrick - January 19, 2016 at 08:40 PM

EF

“ We were saddened to to hear of Buzzy's passing and our condolences go to the Wilkinson family.
Harold and Ellen Fineberg
Gilbert, Arizona

Ellen Fineberg - January 19, 2016 at 08:16 PM

SP

“ May God comfort and give you all peace and strength during this difficult time. Mr. Buzzy W. was such a good man and will be missed by many.
The Ponder Family

Sarah Ponder - January 18, 2016 at 05:50 PM

JE

The West Virginia Banking Community has lost a "Giant"
RIP Buzzy

Joe Ellison

Joe Ellison - January 19, 2016 at 05:56 AM