



Murl Wilkins

September 20, 1950 - June 6, 2023

Murl Dean Wilkins was born on September 20, 1950 in Harrah, OK as a twin brother to Burl Wilkins. Murl attended McLoud Public Schools. During high school he played football and was on McLoud's first wrestling team. It was during this time that he developed a love for reading and history. After high school, Murl married his high school sweetheart Karen Crookham of Harrah. He enlisted into the US Army shortly after his marriage and earned his Jump Wings as an Army Parachutist with the 173rd Airborne Brigade as a "Sky Soldier." He spent nine months deployed in Vietnam before being severely injured in combat during Operation Junction City. Due to his brave and selfless service, Murl was awarded the Purple Heart as well as the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. After sustaining a life changing injury that would stop most people in their tracks, Murl was able to rehabilitate and earned his teaching degree and two master degrees. Murl instructed several thousands of students over his career as a teacher of shop, construction, and auto restoration for thirty years between Choctaw High School, OCCC and Northwest Technology Center. Murl was an avid antique car lover and could fix or build just about anything. His knowledge about automobiles and construction was fascinating and immense.

After retiring from his first career of teaching, Murl started his own business doing home inspections. After retiring from that career he was approached by the State of Oklahoma to do conduct accident investigations for job sites in

and throughout northwest Oklahoma. With Murl's vast knowledge of OSHA standards and safety practices, he fit perfectly into that role. After retiring for a third time in his professional career, Murl invested in cattle industry, becoming a gentleman rancher keeping him busy for several years into his final retirement.

Murl continued to enjoy fishing, hunting and gardening most of his life until he became ill. He was a true survivalist and enjoyed the outdoors. He was known for stocking his freezer with deer meat for the winter and always braving the cold to get a deer or two.

He was also known for his patriotism and extreme pride for U.S. soldiers. Murl was the Commander of the Black Wing 2847 VFW for over 10 years and he organized countless events welcoming soldiers home from deployments.

During his life, Murl had two daughters, whom he loved unconditionally and he gleamed with pride when he spoke of them to others. Murl provided for his daughters and made many sacrifices to make sure they were educated and taken care of.

He was blessed with 5 grandchildren that he loved to spoil and brag about. He was united marriage to Shirley Honer on June 5, 2000 and with that marriage he gained a stepdaughter, Carrie Hatlestad. Murl and Shirley enjoyed going to swap meets and auctions. They also enjoyed traveling to visit the family in Oklahoma City especially on the holidays. Murl enjoy the outdoors so much, he chose to share his passion with his stepdaughter Carrie taking her hunting and fishing. Murl and his family are so thankful that he was able to pass in the comfort of his own home.

Murl was preceded in death by his Father Owen Winkle, Mother Helen Winkle, brother Darrel Winkle, half brother Alvin Winkle, and half sister Patricia Winkle.

He is survived by his sister Juanita Hayes, twin brother Burl Wilkins, brother Donald Winkle, wife Shirley Wilkins, and stepdaughter Carrie Hatlestad, daughter Jennifer Lindsey and husband Eric Lindsey, daughter Kimberley Bement and husband Thomas Bement. Grand children, Madelyn Lindsey,

Annabel Lindsey, Thomas Bement, Eli Bement, and Sawyer Bement. Murl has many cousins, nieces and nephews and extended family that are surviving also that will miss him dearly.

There will be a BBQ pot-luck at the Women's building at the Alva Fair grounds on June 17, 2023 at 4:00 come & go.

In Lieu of flowers, the family requests that if you choose, make a donation to the The Honor Crew which is a charity organization that helps spouses and families with hardships while their spouse is deployed for military service. Go to honorcrew.org to donate. Or you can mail checks payable to The Honor Crew PO Box 476 Edmond, OK 73083.

Cemetery Details

Fort Sill National Cemetery

2648 NE Jake Dunn Rd, Elgin, OK 73538
Elgin, OK 73538
<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftsill.asp>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **16**. 4:00 PM (CT)

Women's Building at the Alva Fairgrounds
South of Alva
Alva, OK 73717

Barbecue potluck, in remembrance Murl Dean Wilkins

Tribute Wall

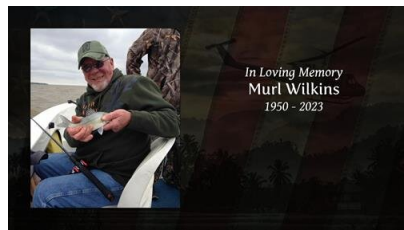


“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Wharton Funeral Chapel - June 15, 2023 at 07:20 PM



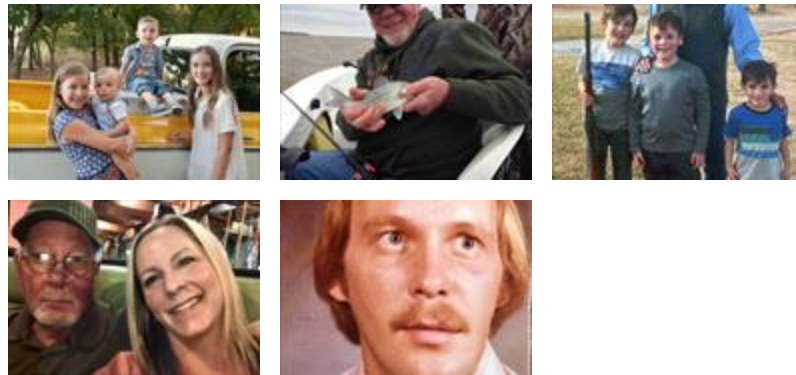
“ *Wharton Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Murl Wilkins*



Wharton Funeral Chapel - June 15, 2023 at 05:50 PM



“ *133 files added to the album Muel Memories Album*



Wharton Funeral Chapel - June 15, 2023 at 05:57 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Murl Wilkins.



June 12, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ I didn't know him on a personal level, but we were in his first building trades class in Alva. We were hellions, but I swear this man had the patience of no other. I wish I'd had the chance to tell him what an unbelievable instructor and person he was. RIP Mr. Wilkins.



Former Student - June 11, 2023 at 09:09 AM



“ We will miss the soft spoken friend and co worker. Murl was interested in kids and all projects .We honor him on his military service to his country .love and peace David and Susan

Susan haraughty - June 10, 2023 at 08:04 PM



“ The celebration of life is the 17 Saturday before Father's Day!

Shirley Wilkins - June 10, 2023 at 08:28 AM



“ Murl was a wonderful man and friend who always gave back more to this old world than he took from it. He was a quiet man and most never knew the extent of his life and talents. Rest in peace.

Audry Stewart - June 09, 2023 at 04:48 PM

JG

“ So much about ones life we never know. Amazing Life Murl. Thank you for all the Service that you provided. Bless Shirley and the children during this difficult time. Always....Jane Gaskill



Jane Gaskill - June 08, 2023 at 07:38 PM

LL

“ Mr. W as more then a friend. He was like a brother. Took classes and then it blossomed into so much more. He fought at the same time as Monte in Vietnam together. Both attended OCU but never met until Murl was teaching. They shared a special bond. Mr. W you will be missed on earth. Until we meet again. You'll always be in my heart.



Lisa Lopshire - June 08, 2023 at 03:44 PM

PS

Mr. W was a nice man he always spoke to you, and always had a kind word he will be missed by me

peewee smith - June 10, 2023 at 11:01 PM