



Charles Wilford

June 5, 1917 - March 18, 2011

Charles Arthur Wilford, 93, died Friday, March 18, 2011 at his home in Murrells Inlet. His two daughters, Linda Wilford and Lorraine Perry, were present with him at the time, as was his wife of 68 years, Dorothy Wilford. He was born in New York City on June 5, 1917 to Karl Wilford of Bohemia and Margarethe Jablinowski of Germany. He attended Stuyvesant High School in New York City, then City College of New York, class of 1938, where he was an outstanding football player. During his college years he earned some money renting seat cushions at Lewisohn Stadium, and got to listen to the era's top opera singers there. He played professional football briefly before becoming a high school teacher. He went back to school himself for a Master's Degree from Columbia University.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Marie Pfeiffer, but she and their child died in childbirth. When he got a teaching job in Scotia, New York, near Albany, he met Dorothy Van Valkinburgh, and they were married on December 23, 1942 while Charles Wilford was in the Army, stationed in Madison, WI. He made use of the German language skills he learned at home and on family visits to Germany to serve in the OSS intelligence services after the surrender of Germany.

Mr. Wilford taught English and German at Sleepy Hollow High School in Tarrytown, NY from 1946 until 1976, and he and his family lived in North Tarrytown and then Ossining. Mr. Wilford also coached football, and he taught for one year at a high school in Mosbach, Germany, as an exchange teacher

in the Fulbright program. The Wilfords moved to South Carolina in 1984, living in Garden City and then Murrells Inlet.

Mr. Wilford stayed active until his last few weeks of life. He enjoyed swimming, skied into his 60's, golfed into his late 80's, and when he could no longer ride his bike, he switched to a 3 – wheeled bike, and was still able to greet his many friends as he rode around the Woodlake community. Mr. Wilford enjoyed music, plays, movies, reading, travel, and perhaps he was best known for loving to tell good stories and jokes.

Mr. Wilford is survived by his wife, Dorothy VanValkinburgh Wilford; daughter, Lorraine Perry and husband Norman, also currently of Murrells Inlet; daughter, Linda Wilford and her husband Randall Ham; granddaughter, Jennifer Perry; grandson, Jason Perry, his wife Danielle and their child, Mr. Wilford's great granddaughter, Kamryn. He is also survived by one of his cousins, Herbert Zuleger and predeceased by his other cousins on both his mother's and father's sides.

A memorial will be planned by the family.

An online guestbook is available at: www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

LW

“ 5 files added to the album *Chuck and family through the years*



Linda Wilford - November 12, 2011 at 06:12 PM

LW

“ 5 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Linda Wilford - November 11, 2011 at 12:26 PM

LP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lorraine Wilford Perry - March 31, 2011 at 11:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Danielle - March 28, 2011 at 07:04 PM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name




Danielle - March 28, 2011 at 06:53 PM

DP

“ 2 files added to the album *Family*



This file is being uploaded.
Please wait a moment.

 Charles and his
great
granddaughter,
Kamryn


Danielle Perry - March 28, 2011 at 06:44 PM

DP

“ 2 files added to the album *Family*



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 Charles and his
great
granddaughter,
Kamryn

Danielle Perry - March 28, 2011 at 06:44 PM

DP

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Danielle Perry - March 28, 2011 at 06:43 PM

CB

“ *Herr Wilford was one of the best and most memorable teachers I had at SHHS. As others have written, he set a high standard for his students. While his class was not easy, the experience was very rewarding. I will never forget his sense of humor (or his "roter Bleistift"). His influence on my academic career was huge; I was a German major in college and then after graduation lived in West Germany for two years.*

I am glad he had a long, healthy, and fulfilling life after retirement. We were all fortunate to have known him. My deepest condolences to his loved ones.

Charlotte Brown (class of 1974) -- Cortlandt Manor, NY

Charlotte Brown - March 27, 2011 at 03:08 PM

NP

“ *Nancy Perham lit a candle in memory of Charles Wilford*



Nancy Perham - March 24, 2011 at 08:50 PM

BA

“ I'm another Sleepy Hollow High School student - Class of 1968 who treasures the memory of "Herr Wilford's" classroom. Engaging? YES! Funny? Always! Great Teacher? ABSOLUTELY! One lesson I took away from his classroom has always stayed with me. Like Doc Rasbeck, Herr Wilford set the classroom standard so high that his students ALWAYS did very well on the State Regents exam. The lesson is to train hard so you're ready for whatever comes at you. My deepest condolences to you on your loss. - Bill Anzovino - Cortlandt Manor, NY

Bill Anzovino - March 24, 2011 at 06:43 PM

WC

“ Coach Wilford was head coach of our football team. He taught me not only football but how to compete in life with fairness and grace. I'll always remember our days in the practice field at North Tarrytown High school.

Walter Ceconi
Captain 1950 Championship Football team

Walter Ceconi - March 24, 2011 at 12:25 PM

TI

“ Herr Wilford was a profoundly influential teacher, a true master of his craft as well as a motivator. I recall fondly his many tales about his days in the military, boxing, and life in general. I consider him to be one of the most important parts of my early German language career, which I took all the way to college. To this day I still reap the benefit of his gentlemanly wisdom. My deepest condolences to his family on their loss. "Der Mai ist gekommen..." Auf Wiedersehen, Mein Herr. Thomas J. Dunnings III, Sleepy Hollow High School, German I 1975-1976.

Thomas J. Dunnings, III - March 23, 2011 at 05:14 PM

MC

“ I considerate myself very fortunate to have had "Herr Wilford" as my German teacher at Sleepy Hollow High School (1970-73). He was engaging, funny and an excellent teacher. I will never forget our class trip to see The Stuttgart Ballet in NYC. When asked why I wanted to study German, the answer was simple....I was told he was the best there was. I always wondered where retirement took Mr. Wilford and after reading some of the tributes, I'm happy to here that he lived a long, healthy and happy life surrounded by his family. It seems that he never lost his sense of humor. Please accept my sincere sympathy for his passing.
Mary Jo Camia (Kiselak) - Ossining,NY

Mary Jo Camia - March 23, 2011 at 09:16 AM

SS

“ CHUCK WAS A GREAT MAN!! SUMMER WILL NOT BE THE SAME AT THE POOL WITHOUT HIM. OUR PRAYERS GO OUT TO HIS FAMILY. LOVE JOHN & SANDY SHUMSKY

sandra shumsky - March 22, 2011 at 10:04 AM

CK

“ Chuck was one of the first people we met when we moved to Woodlake four years ago. He always made a point to stop and talk with us when he was riding his bike through the village. He was a great man with wonderful wit and a friend to all that knew him. We will miss Chuck. Our deepest sympathy to Lorraine, Linda, Norman and their family.
Cathy & George Klarmann - Woodlake

Cathy Klarmann - March 21, 2011 at 08:18 AM

MA

“ We've only known Chuck for about 4 yrs, but feel as though he was a lifelong friend, because that's the way he made you feel. His sharp, quick, intelligent mind was always ready for conversation, and his humorous side was always ready for a good joke, funny story, or a little teasing. One day, I arrived at the pool with a new pink sunhat. Chuck admired the hat and complimented me on it a few times over a period of about half an hour. I finally got up and went in the pool to cool off, and shortly Chuck yelled to me and asked if he could sit in my lounge chair. I thought this was odd, as he always sat in a certain chair in the shade, so I turned around to see why he wanted my chair, and there he was, lounging in my chair with my pink hat on! I truly never wanted to leave the pool before 3:00, I so looked forward to seeing him everyday. I know I'm not the only one to feel this way, and he will surely be missed, but surely never forgotten!

*Marty Anderson
Woodlake Village*

Martha Anderson - March 21, 2011 at 06:36 AM