



James Andrew Wiltz

December 16, 1934 - December 24, 2017

The Dixon community has lost its music man. James A Wiltz, Dixon High School choral director passed away on December 23 at the age of 83.

Focus, energy and drive was his plan for life. It was in the goals he achieved and the legacy he leaves. Jim was an encourager and motivator cleverly disguised as a music teacher. He saw the potential in every individual and was dedicated to helping them achieve their goals.

Jim always expected the best and gave his best. It was his way of thinking above an impossible goal and telling yourself you can achieve it; taking the most precious dream in your heart and finding a way to pursue it.

Whether it be on the tennis court, the basketball court, or on the stage, he gave from his heart. He cared not for gold or wealth, but for what was inside the heart of a friend. Each person touched him deeply and remained in his memory. His love for people was his passion and those who took the time to know him were rewarded with an honorable man's friendship. He gave his best in every task. His face showed his soul, there was never a mask.

Jim held many degrees, accolades and trophies but his heart was lifted only by his connection with people. He was born on December 16, 1934, in Peoria, to Arnold and Ethel (Campbell) Wiltz of Metamora. Jim had one brother Arnold Jr. who, along with his parents, preceded him in death.

Jim lettered 14 times in high school sports and entered Illinois State University on a basketball scholarship. He graduated with a BS in vocal and instrumental Music Education. Jim received his Masters Degree from Wayne State University in Music Education and Performance. He taught music at Metamora Grade School and High School and served as the director of choral activities at Dixon High School for 35 years. Jim was a tennis coach at Newman High School, choir director of St. Patrick's Church, President of School District Eight's Illinois Music Educators Association, director of the European All State Choir, JC's teacher of the year, director and producer of award winning show choir (JW and Company), DHS half time productions, choir concerts, and full stage musicals. He also served as the assistant to Vaclav Nelhybel at Interlochen Center for the Arts. In his retirement, Jim was active in the St. Patrick's Church, St. Vincent DePaul.

Jim is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sharon Dale Wiltz, of Dixon; and his children, Marci (Marie Bracciale) Wiltz of DeLand FL, Michael (Becky) Wiltz of Plano TX, Joni (Ross) Wiltz-Berkley of Lisle, and Jamie Wiltz of Dixon; he is also survived by four grandchildren; Zachary Wiltz, Trevor Wiltz, Camille Wiltz and Evelyn Berkley; sister-in-law Mardell Wiltz of Washington IL, niece Sharon (John) Wiorek of Macomb, Chris (Brian) Albright, of Washington IL, sister-in-law Julie Dale of Sterling, and niece Jennifer Gowers of New York, NY.

Jim had a deep relationship with God and everything he did was rooted in his faith. He was a messenger of faith, hope and love, and was a good and faithful servant. Our family thanks him for leading us with this faith. He dedicated his life to his family and he made life fun. I'm glad we danced and sang his song, life without him will be long.

A visitation will held on Friday, December 29th from 4pm-8pm at St. Patrick's Church, Holloway Center in Dixon with a scripture service at 7:45 PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Dixon on Saturday, December 30th at 11:00AM, with Rev. Thomas Doyle, officiating. Burial will be at Oakwood Cemetery in Dixon with a luncheon following at the St. Patrick's Church Holloway Center. Memorials may be made to St. Patrick's St. Vincent DePaul or to the James Wiltz Music Scholarship fund at Dixon High School.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood

416 S Dement Ave
Dixon, IL 61021

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **29**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St Patrick Catholic Church Holloway Center
612 Highland Ave
Dixon, IL 61021

Service

DEC **30**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church in Dixon
612 S. Highland Ave.
Dixon, IL 61021
(815) 284-7719
office@stpatrickdixon.comcastbiz.net
<http://www.stpatrickdixon.org>

Tribute Wall



“ James Andrew Wiltz

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ James Andrew Wiltz

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM

BB

“ Dear Sharon and family, It with great sympathy that I write you to express my deepest condolences in the passing of James. He truly had a wonderful life and was a large influence on so many not the least of was me. I appreciate so much the wonderful memories of my four years at Dixon High School which began in 1960 - Mr. Wiltz first year also. I remember beginning in the robed choir the second semester of my freshman year and playing in the pit orchestra for the very first musical Roberta. Of course since that time Mr. Wiltz was a constant Leader in all things musical. I treasure the few minutes I had last year to visit with him and his family. I admire his decisions in life, including his last decision to let go of this early state gracefully. His faith in God and His Son Jesus Christ, and in the knowledge that we will return to a future life where we will all be together as one family is a comfort and example to all of us. Nevertheless, those who are left will miss him (at least temporarily) and will endeavor to carry on following his example of faith. I send my love and best wishes to you, Sharon and all of your family. You all are forever etched in my memory and heart.

Brian L. Bowman

Brian L. Bowman - December 31, 2017 at 02:23 PM

KF

“ Kris Baker and Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of James Andrew Wiltz.



Kris Baker and Family - December 29, 2017 at 10:53 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Andrew Wiltz.*



December 29, 2017 at 03:27 AM

CL

“ *My condolences to the family. May the Lord continue to hold you in the palms of His hands during your hour of bereavement. It is because of Mr. Wiltz's musical influences at Dixon High School that the sounds of music are forever etched in my memory! Even though I was not a student of his, I benefitted and gained a great appreciation for his ability to turn the stage at DHS into productions worthy of Broadway acclaim! He will truly be missed!*

Curt LeBlanc

Curtis LeBlanc - December 28, 2017 at 12:16 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of James Andrew Wiltz.*



December 28, 2017 at 09:26 AM

DM

“ *Sorry for your loss God bless all*

debra merritt - December 27, 2017 at 10:22 AM

DM

“ *Sorry for your loss God bless all. Debra merritt*

debra merritt - December 27, 2017 at 10:17 AM

RB

“ *The Richard Boyer family send thoughtful memories of a tremendous professional educator, a true friend, and a person who impacted thousands in so many ways. All of us who knew Jim can recall many wonderful times with his wit, humor, and kindness--all coming through. Our sincere sympathies go to his beautiful family and to all who knew him.*

Richard Boyer - December 26, 2017 at 11:58 PM

MP

“ *I had Mr. Wiltz as a choir director for 3 of my 4 high school years. He was a great man & really put his all in to make sure homecoming half times & spring plays were everything & more. Mr. Wiltz you will be missed. To your family & friends my thoughts & prayers are with you.*



Michele Perry - December 26, 2017 at 11:22 PM

LB

“ *I am so sad to hear this news. I student taught in Dixon in the 80's. It was such a great experience. He loved teaching music and his show choir! I will be forever grateful for his guidance and support!!! Love and peace to the whole family.*

Lynda Burise-Lantz - December 26, 2017 at 07:56 PM



“ *RIP young Man!*

Wayne Burgess - December 26, 2017 at 07:37 PM

TC

“ *Terry and Sandy Conklin purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of James Andrew Wiltz.*



Terry and Sandy Conklin - December 26, 2017 at 06:30 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Andrew Wiltz.*



December 26, 2017 at 02:03 PM