



## James "Hank" Wilburn

July 19, 1955 - May 19, 2023

James "Hank" Wilburn, 67, of Gilmer, was born on July 19, 1955, in Lincoln, Maine, to Henry Louis and Dorothy Mae Verrier Wilburn and passed from this life on May 19, 2023, in Plano, Texas.

Hank married Kerry Alexander on July 6, 1995, in Longview, Texas. He worked as a commercial building contractor all over East Texas. Hank built many churches, restaurants, and many other commercial projects. He never met a stranger at any place he worked or visited.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Kerry Wilburn; daughter, Emilee Ann Wilburn Copeland; brothers, George Wilburn (Linda) and Henry Wilburn (Renesia); sister, Sandra DeGuerin (Ralph); his mother-in-law, Kathy Nelson; brother-in-law, Darren Alexander (Melissa); sisters-in-law, Maria Canzolino and Donna Warren; and brother-in-law, Jimmy Canzolino; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Gary Wilburn; and his sister, Joyce Jackson; father-in-law, James E. Nelson.

Memorial services will be held 1:00 pm -3:00 pm, Saturday, July 22, 2023, in the chapel of McWhorter Funeral Home.

Please visit Hank's online registration book at [www.mcwhorterfh.com](http://www.mcwhorterfh.com) to leave a memory for the family.

# Previous Events

## Service

JUL **22**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home  
1074 St. Hwy 300  
Gilmer, TX 75645  
(903) 734-7070  
info@mcwhorterfh.com  
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Hank Wilburn Funeral Service*



McWhorter Funeral Home - July 22, 2023 at 03:51 PM



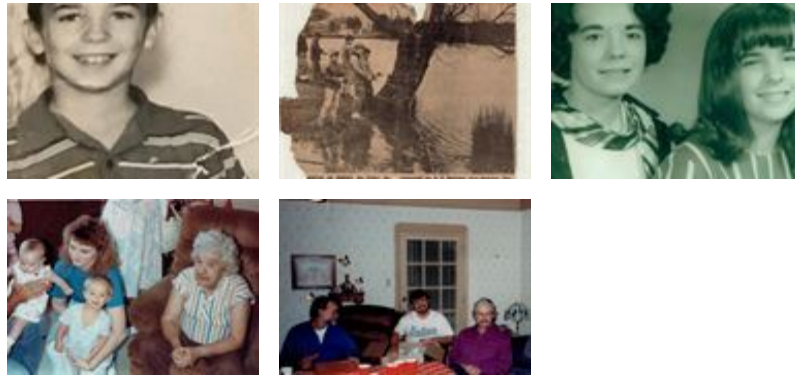
“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James "Hank" Wilburn.



July 21, 2023 at 12:35 PM



“ 116 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



McWhorter Funeral Home - July 20, 2023 at 02:33 PM

SR

“ *Hank was one of a kind. He had such a great personality and would put a smile on anyone's face. I'm so glad he met Kerry and was able to spend the rest of his life with her. Their love for each other was inspirational. My love and prayers to Kerry and the rest of the family. He will most definitely be missed by many.*

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**Stacy Renesto** - July 17, 2023 at 06:41 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Hank" Wilburn.*



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July 17, 2023 at 06:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Hank" Wilburn.*



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July 17, 2023 at 05:55 PM

KB

“ To Kerry & family: We are so sorry to see where Hank passed away back on 5/19/23, we just saw his listing on funeral home page today, 6/6/23. We always thoroughly enjoyed knowing Hank & working on his “old rides” in our shop back several years ago. May Jesus comfort you & yours now & always. Hank will be greatly missed by so many and the community. Jesus loves you all; only by the acceptance of His grace & glory can we have eternal peace within. 🙏🏻✝️🙏🏻  
With sincere deepest sympathy,  
Keith & Donna Blanton  
White Oak, TX



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**Keith & Donna Blanton** - June 06, 2023 at 10:03 PM

JN

“ Hank, you will missed by so many. When you and Kerry enter a room you both light it up with you smiles and laughter. You love people and people love you. You know how make everyone smile and feel welcome. I feel blessed having met you and getting know you. My thoughts and prayers are with Kerry and family. Sending love& hugs❤️

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**Jessica Neitzel** - June 05, 2023 at 10:54 PM

DC

“ I was fortunate to meet him through working at the Christus hospital. He always had a funny greeting for me in the elevator, hall, or wherever I saw him. He would find something funny to say and we would both get a good laugh. I think he knew working in a hospital can be very tough and he just wanted to make people smile. He was very good at making people smile. I could have just left a very sad situation in a room and then see him in the hallway, and all of that sadness went away. One time he called my pizza “ugly” that I had at lunch. 🙏 I am deeply sorry for his family for his passing. I am very thankful for all of the laughs he gave me and other hospital staff. Sometimes those laughs were the best part of my day. ❤️ rest in peace Mr. Hank.

Dana Carr - May 26, 2023 at 04:50 PM

SD

“ I only met Hank in the fall of 2022, when he started supervising the work at Christus Good Shepherd. Everyday, whenever I saw him, he would say "hey girl!". He had a great sense of humor, and would cut jokes with everybody. We were so sad to hear he had passed, we hoped that we would see him again soon. He's going to be greatly missed

Sabrina Davis - May 26, 2023 at 11:59 AM

VS

“ Always had a smile! You will be missed Hank by so many! Sending prayers to your sweet wife, family, and friends! Give my Mom a big hug and tell her I love her, she thought the world of you! 🙏



Vikki Davidson Shipp - May 24, 2023 at 10:36 AM

MA

“ I did not know Hank well, but what I did know was that we loved his wife and his dogs. He continued to even love his dogs he found new homes for and that is how I met Hank. I was lucky enough to get to give a new home to our Augustus aka Gus. Hank kept up with Gus and came to see him compete in Rally and Obedience and was just and proud of him as if he was still his dog. I enjoyed letting him know how Gus was doing.

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**monica Adkins** - May 24, 2023 at 07:54 AM

AJ

“ Oh Hank I have tons of memories. Mostly involving softball. I know you and Keri were the best match. I just saw you a few weeks ago at the hospital. You were talking about yalls love. Enjoyed our chat. Given Heaven some he'll buddy. Give our loved ones hugs. Fly high. We got it from here and will watch over Mrs Keri

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**Amanda Johnson** - May 23, 2023 at 11:51 PM

SL

“ I can't believe my friend Hank is gone. The one that could always make me laugh no matter what. He was one of the sweetest, funniest folks I have ever met. He made me feel like part of the family. I loved all of the times that he and Kerry and friends, and I shared. He was taken from us too soon. I will not question God's decision to bring him home but I will say that I am going to miss him and I'm going to miss his smile. He was one of a kind. One of the good ones. I know it will be hard for his wife to move on without him in her life. I know he truly loved her and she truly loves him. They are a very special couple. Fly high Hank and know that the people you left behind Love you and will miss you terribly. I have lost a special friend. I'm sending love and condolences to your family. I want Kerry to know I'm here for her if she needs me as you would want me to be. And until we meet again, my friend, I will hold a special place in my heart for you forever.



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**Sheila Lewis** - May 23, 2023 at 08:49 PM

LR

“ I will always remember Hank Wilburn as "Jimmy Wilburn", the scrawny kid that was one of the first people we got to know when we moved to Gilmer and he was one of my brother's best friends for years. :) Rest in peace Jimmy! Prayers for all of the family and loved ones.  
Linda (Lee) Rumfield

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**Linda Rumfield** - May 23, 2023 at 06:53 PM

CC

“ So sorry Kerry for the loss of your beloved Hank. Prayers for you and his family. I don't think he ever met a stranger. He was a great person to know. He is resting with God in a new body. Love you my dear friend. 🙏❤️



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**Carolyn Carter** - May 23, 2023 at 05:29 PM

KL

“ Hank said if my mouth is moving you know I'm picking on you. I only pick on the ones I like. He was most proud of how much he and Keri loved each other and they could trust each other completely. Love, prayers and peace for the family.

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**kay lucas** - May 23, 2023 at 04:29 PM

KA

“ Sorry to hear about the loss of Hank. He had many wonderful friends and a even greater family that he left behind! Prayers to you all.

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**Kent Abernathy** - May 23, 2023 at 02:53 PM

BS

“ I was so sad to hear about Hank. He was always such a joy to talk to. I am the Project Coordinator at HGR so I had to help Hank out with anything technology related. He was so funny. He always said his wife did all his technology things so it was hard for him to learn how to use his new phone and ipad lol. He told me many times how much he appreciated and loved his wife. I could tell they were very close. Today I am praying for her and his family. I know he will be missed dearly. Heaven gained an angel. He would have said a "grumpy" angel. :)

*Fly high Hank!*  
*Brittani Scott*

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**Brittani Scott** - May 23, 2023 at 02:37 PM

SK

*Unfortunately I did not know Hank well, however what I know is that he was the loveliest man.  
The love that Kerry and Hank share is one that dreams are made of. I only hope that Kerry's loving spirit will guide her through these darkest days.*

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**Susan Keener** - May 23, 2023 at 05:33 PM

CC

*Hank would always make his rounds every morning. He would show up on Friday with a couple dozen donuts and make his rounds. Well I showed up with donuts on Thursday one week just to mess with him. He said what are you doing. I told him I was stealing his thunder this week. He called me something that if you knew Hank you understand. We laughed and I made his rounds with him. I never took credit for it! Hank was probably the BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD! Fly High Buddy!*

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**Christopher Crone** - May 23, 2023 at 07:01 PM

LM

*My dear friend Hank you will be missed by all those who knew you. I will always keep our friendship alive in my life, from our fires to the love you had for Jake ,Jonah and of course Maggie our times at the fence, filling in the pond, cutting down the pines and watching you raise your shop Hank we had a good 30 yr run as neighbors keep a seat open for me because I will see you again my friend love you buddy till we meet again*

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**Lewis Miller** - June 18, 2023 at 10:22 AM

YN

*After reading the other tributes of Hank, I can't find the words to express the joy he contributed to our family. His knowledge and construction of many buildings in the East Texas area was remarkable. His most recent claim to fame is the Melinda Lambert store in Lindale, the restaurant and most all the buildings in that complex. He and my late husband took a whole wall out in our house to give us the "open" area that is so popular these days. Hank you were a gentleman and had a great sense of humor. We love you and will miss you. We will take care of Kerry for you. Don't know about them dogs though.*

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**Your mother-in-law Kathy Nelson** - July 18, 2023 at 01:20 AM

RB

*Kerry, my heart breaks for you and your loss. I never got back to Longview to get to know Hank. But I never worried about you because I knew he would take care of you. You two had a wonderful love and a special bond. I'm praying for God's peace over you. Love you dearly, Rebecca (aka Becky :-)*

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**Rebecca Brown** - July 21, 2023 at 04:52 PM