



Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson

March 1, 1928 - May 1, 2012

Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson passed away on May 1, 2012 surrounded by loved ones. He was a very beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. Pete loved people and was loved by all who knew him. He was a resident of Hoover, AL. and a former resident of Clinton, Louisiana. He was born in Wiggins, MS. on March 1, 1928. He worked as an electrician at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, LA. but spent every moment he could working with cattle and horses, which were his love, as he was born a cowboy. He was a rodeo rider in his youth and enjoyed rodeoing with his daughter, Kitty. He moved to Hoover, AL. in 2007 and eventually sold his beloved Staggerin' W Ranch in Olive Branch, LA. in 2010.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Ebba Day Wilson, daughter, and son-in-law, Kitty and Rusty Downs of Hoover; stepson, Rocky Stitt of Baton Rouge, LA.; grandson, Brandon D. Stitt of Baton Rouge, LA.; three granddaughters, Alena, Ingrid and Thyra Downs of Hoover; three sisters, Flo Bennett of Clinton, LA., Mary Alice Johnson of Amite, LA. and Marie George (Burnell) of Houston, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents, Veronica and A.E. Wilson; sisters, Joyce, Doris and Gloria Wilson; brothers, Arthur, Charles, Dan and William "Bill" Wilson; and a nephew, David Wood Wilson.

Pallbearers will be, Rocky Stitt, Jason Mitchell, Sidney Day, Jr., Reggie Marshall, Richard Conner and Jason Finley. Honorary Pallbearers will be Bobby Oliveaux, Rusty Downs and Geary Vance.

A special thanks to nurses, Don Lightsey and Karen Renaud and CNA

Scharie Peterson of Solemar Hospice for their kind and loving care of our dear loved one.

Viewing will be at McCalla Memorial Funeral Home on Saturday, May 5, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM with funeral service to follow at 10:00 AM in the chapel. Elder Rod Williams will be officiating. Interment will follow in the mausoleum at Jefferson Memorial Gardens South.

Online condolences may be offered at: www.mccallamemorialfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Jefferson Memorial Gardens South

2701 John Hawkins Parkway
Hoover, AL 35244

Tribute Wall

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 07:01 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 06:42 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 06:30 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 06:22 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 06:21 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 06:16 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 06:14 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 06:06 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 06:03 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 05:55 PM

KD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



kitty wilson downs - May 10, 2012 at 05:54 PM

FA

“ (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4) . . . *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation. . . My heart aches for all of you who have been under tribulation for so long. Pete's illness was surely something hard to bear. What a hope--to be able to see him again with youthful vigor!*

Fran (and 'the Pope')

Fran Ashford - May 07, 2012 at 02:57 PM

KD

Thanks Pope Ashford and Fran, much love to you

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 03:49 PM

JM

“ *Ebba and Family,*

My thoughts and prayers are with you. Mr. Pete was always a special friend of mine.

Judy Johnson Myles

Judy Johnson Myles - May 07, 2012 at 07:03 AM

KD

Thanks Judy, he will be dearly missed and yes he always thought you were so sweet and beautiful. And of course, he was right on target. love, Kitty

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 03:50 PM

JT

“ *Jason F. - Dallas, TX lit a candle in memory of Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson*



Jason F. - Dallas, TX - May 05, 2012 at 09:59 AM

KD

Thanks Jason. It was great to see some of your family there. I know it was a long trip for them from Texas, but totally appreciated. It definitely will be different around her.

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 12:50 AM

EW

Thank you Jason. Love to you, Aunt Ebba

Ebba Wilson - May 07, 2012 at 06:53 AM



“ I Remember Pete

Pete was a sage brush philosopher. The words he used defined him. His facial expressions when he used these sayings were part of it.

If he believed you were concerned unnecessarily, Pete would say: "Don't worry about the mule going blind, we'll just tie it to the back of the wagon." If you were talking about doing something unwise, he would say: "that would be marly foolish to do that."

Pete, though, was always cautiously optimistic and supportive, not negative, but a realist. If his two teams LSU or Ole Miss started playing poorly after a good start, he would say: "They're addled." If they didn't come back and win, " They were too light for the job."

He called Nortre Dame coach, Ara Parseghian, Kosygin because it sounded "close enough." My daddy did that "close enough" thing too. Some would say they were mentally lazy but Pete and my daddy would say they had better things to do than learn hard to say names.

Among the better things to do were hunting and ranching. Dogs and horses. Pete wasn't a drug store cowboy, or a rhinestone cowboy, or an urban cowboy. Pete was a real cowboy, who knew how and had done real cowboy stuff, but Ebba had better not catch him doing it because he had been busted up real bad in his rodeo days.

Pete loved to go out on a frosty morning and hearing some hounds yelping and howling in the distance would yell: "Hunt for him!" But they don't run hounds as much as they used to because we don't have rabbits like we used to; and we don't have quail like we used to either. And now as Pete would say: "The skinny neck man is gone" too.

---With great love & sadness,

Fred McDuffie

Fred McDuffie - May 04, 2012 at 11:20 PM

KD

Uncle Fred, I immediately knew this was from you after I read sagebush philosopher.. Thank you for your kind words; he loved you and hunting with you.

Kitty Wilson Downs - May 05, 2012 at 06:15 AM

EW

Thank you Fred.

Ebba Wilson - May 05, 2012 at 07:14 AM

RD

“Pete Wilson was the best father-in-law that anyone could have had. He was always asking did we need something or could he do something for us. It was both mine and Kitty's priviledge to be able to help him when he couldn't help himself. We had many happy afternoons together and he had so many sayings, but I think my personal favorite was when he didn't want to have to fool with something, he'd say, "I ain't renting and I ain't going to work on Monday". For a man who had a lot materially, it was the simple things that pleased him the most. All he wanted was "time and kind" words. I will miss Pete Wilson dearly and I am sad that Mrs. Wilson has lost her beloved Pete and sad for Kitty that she's lost her buddy, sad for our three beautiful daughters that they have lost their Paw Paw, but he is in peace now and it is well deserved. Love Rusty Downs



Rusty "Shiney" Downs - May 04, 2012 at 09:13 PM

KD

Oh Rusty, that was so sweet. He loved you so and appreciated how you took over the manly duties of the house. You were so kind and patient with Pete. I love you.

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 12:52 AM

ID

“ When I think of my Paw Paw, I think of the adventures as a child in Olive Branch. Paw Paw was always grilling us food, entertaining us with his cats "catching the board", showing us the latest treasure he found in the woods and we would end the day sitting on the front porch waiting to see the deer cross the front pasture. He was such a loving and entertaining grandfather, I will miss him greatly and am so thankful for the time I had with him.

Thank you to my Maw Maw and parents for providing such loving care to him these past years. The dedication they had to keeping him comfortable and happy at home was unbelievable. I love you all.

Ingrid Downs - May 04, 2012 at 02:46 PM

EW

I love you

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 04:28 PM

KD

You precious Angel; we love you so much

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 12:53 AM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson.*



May 04, 2012 at 12:54 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson.*



May 04, 2012 at 12:32 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson.*



May 04, 2012 at 12:10 PM



“ *Maria Boling lit a candle in memory of Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson*



maria boling - May 04, 2012 at 09:06 AM

EW

Thank you for remembering my darling. Ebba

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:04 AM

KD

Maria Boling, I miss you and we appreciate your kind words about Pete being a tall cool glass of water. That was so sweet. Love you

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:10 AM

DF

“ *Donna Fuentes purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson.*



Donna Fuentes - May 04, 2012 at 08:58 AM

CK

“ *I am sorry for your loss. Pete was a dear person who I always enjoyed seeing and talking to. May God bless you during this time of sorrow.*

Clyde Kennedy

Clyde Kennedy - May 04, 2012 at 08:44 AM

EW

Thank you , Mr. Kennedy. Pete thought so highly of you.Ebba

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:07 AM

KD

Thanks Mr. Kennedy. Pete said, " he's the man". thank you

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:00 AM

KF

“ I feel as though I've known Mr. Pete all my life. Some of my fondest memories as a child were with visiting Kitty and her family. Mr. Pete always made me feel welcome, like one of his kids. The world has lost a wonderful, kind and caring man, but Heaven has gained an angel. I'm sure he'll be watching over all of us, til we're together again.

Karen Foster - May 04, 2012 at 08:00 AM

EW

*Thank you for your sweet note. Pete thought so much of you.
Ebba*

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:07 AM

KD

Karen, you are such a doll. Pete thought you were precious and spoke of you often when he was able to remember. I especially appreciate how you have kept in touch throughout his illness. It means alot to us. We love you.

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:02 AM

EV

“ Pete had a knack of making you feel special. He always asked if there was anything he could do for you. I'll always remember how he lovingly called Mom the professor. He truly loved his family and friends, and he was a wonderful brother-in-law. And I have so much love and respect for Ebba as she devoted herself to his care during these last few years.

Estrid Vance - May 04, 2012 at 07:43 AM

EW

Thank you Estrid. I love you. Ebba

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:11 AM

KD

Yes, Estrid, Ebba devoted every waking minute to her beloved Pete. I respect my mother so for remaining so strong and loyal for so many years. Thanks

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:04 AM

DH

“ Ebba and Kitty, We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts are with you and your family during this time of sorrow. We always enjoyed coming to your house and spending time with all of y'all. We always felt at home. Love to all of y'all. Dale and Connie Howell

Dale and Connie Howell - May 04, 2012 at 07:14 AM

LP

*Dear Ebba & Family,
i am so sorry to hear of your loss. I remember Mr. Pete. He was always so kind and sweet. my love to you all,
Lorenda Patten*

Lorenda A. Patten - May 04, 2012 at 08:02 AM

EW

*Thank you Dale and Connie. I remember you both fondly.
Ebba*

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:12 AM

EW

Thank you Lorenda for your kind words. Love, Ebba

Ebba Wilson - May 06, 2012 at 06:12 PM

KD

Oh Connie and Dale, how we miss yall coming by the farm and visiting and all the fun we had. I am so glad that we have been able to reconnect over the past year and share our family memories with each other. Pete loved you and Dale. Thanks, and Love you.

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:06 AM

RC

“ *Richard Conner sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson*



Richard Conner - May 04, 2012 at 12:52 AM

RC

Mr. Pete was really funny.I remember him saying that he had a PHD. I was impressed and then he explained it was a post hold digger. He always had the best outlook on life and made me feel a part of it. I am honored to be a pallbearer for Mr. Pete. I keep remembering him telling me to 'stay straight' whenever I would leave the house. I'm still trying Mr. Pete. You will be dearly missed. I don't know what my Kitty and Mrs. Ebba are gonna do without you. Much love to you all and you will be in my prayers. See you either tomorrow or Saturday morning.

Richard Conner - May 04, 2012 at 01:05 AM

EW

Thank you Richard.. I appreciate your thoughts. Love,Ebba

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:12 AM

KD

Richard, I'm so so sorry it didn't work out for you to be there as a pallbearer. You know you were dearly missed. Mama was looking forward to her hug from you . The service was beautiful, Pete had a lovely amount of flowers. I am looking so forward to seeing you in 2 weeks. The wedding will be such an uplifting occasion after such a sad one. I love you. Kitty

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:16 AM

HD

“Pistol Pete” was one of a kind, a true southern gentleman. He had a kind word for everyone and always made time to entertain children and to make them feel important. He was a wonderful brother-in-law, always offering to help in any way he could. He would tell me to “ call day or night, my boots are right by the bed. I can be there in a minute!” It was an honor to be a part of his life-he will be missed!
hsdmtd@haol.c

Helen Day - May 04, 2012 at 12:33 AM

EW

Thank you Helen. I love you. Ebba

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:13 AM

KD

Yes Helen, you are right, he would do anything for anybody. And he will be dearly missed. Thanks for making the long trip over here, We appreciated it.

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:18 AM

MG

“Kitty, I'm so sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family during this time of sorrow. I can only hope that you find solace in the fact that you got to spend more time with Pete these past few years. I know it weighed heavily on your kind heart when we worked together.

Michael Gilliland - May 03, 2012 at 11:45 PM

KD

Thank you sweetie. You are such a kind wonderful man.

kitty wilson downs - May 04, 2012 at 12:23 AM

KD

Michael Gilliland, your spray was absolutely gorgeous. It was the biggest tribute to Alabama I've seen in a long time. Roll Tide. I am looking so forward to seeing you at our upcoming HAPPY occasion of Alena's wedding.

You have been so kind since the very first day I met you and have remained the same and your kindness and generosity are truly appreciated. Love you Sweetie.

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:23 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson.*



May 03, 2012 at 11:13 PM

KD

“ *I'm gonna miss my four leaf clover hunting buddy and his never ending welcome of "Who let you out?" I guess a throw back from his Angola Days. He never met a stranger and became quickly loved here in Hoover, Alabama.*



Kitty Wilson Downs - May 03, 2012 at 09:04 PM

KD

Well, I found one today, I appreciate the help!! Missing my buddy so, but I know it's OK. I love you "Pistol Pete"..

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:25 AM

KD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kitty Wilson Downs - May 03, 2012 at 08:57 PM

KD

He so enjoyed his visit from Brandon who he called "The Dude".

Kitty Wilson Downs - May 03, 2012 at 09:06 PM

CL

This is a great picture. You all look very happy!

Cyndi Lowry - May 03, 2012 at 09:33 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson.



May 03, 2012 at 08:53 PM

Thyra Downs

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Thyra Downs - May 03, 2012 at 08:14 PM

KD

What a beautiful picture of Paw Paw and Ingrid.

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:27 AM

 Thyra
Downs

“ *We will always be "living on this ranch" Paw Paw. Love you and miss you! I'll always be your "Head One"*

-Thyra-

Thyra Downs - May 03, 2012 at 08:11 PM

EW

Thank you Sweetie. He loved you so much. Love, MawMaw

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:15 AM

KD

You are such a sweetheart. He did love his "Head One"!! LOVE YOU BABY

KITTY WILSON DOWNS - May 07, 2012 at 08:47 PM

AD

“ Paw Paw "Pete" was such a kind hearted Grandfather. He was always so friendly and had a joke to tell. I can remember any time he'd walk into a restaurant he would survey the room to see if he knew anybody there. If he did he'd make sure he went and told them hello before he sat down.

When my sisters and I were little he always made sure we had fun when we came to visit him and Maw Maw. During the summer he would make us our very own swimming pool in the back of his pick up truck. Paw Paw would always tell us, "we're living on this Ranch!"

I hope that I'm fortunate enough to have the long, loving, and happy marriage that Paw Paw and Maw Maw shared. I'll miss Paw Paw "Pete" with all my heart.

Love, Alena Downs

Alena Downs - May 03, 2012 at 07:19 PM

EW

Love you Butterfly. MawMaw

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:15 AM

KD

Maw Maw's Butterfly, you made me cry when I read your post. You are such a loving precious angel and Paw Paw was so proud of you. I love you very much.

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:32 AM

GV

“ Pete was a truly kind-hearted person. I never once saw him treat anyone with anything but the utmost respect. The world would be a better place if there were more people like Pete Wilson in it.

Geary Vance - May 03, 2012 at 06:56 PM

EW

Thank you Geary. I love you.

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:16 AM

KD

You are so right Geary Vance

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:33 AM



“ *Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Mr. James I. "Pete" Wilson.*



May 03, 2012 at 06:05 PM

CA

“ *Very sad to hear of your loss Ebba.
Though we are physically countries away, you are only a keystroke
away if you need to chat.
Our thoughts are with you.
Cathy McKeon and Andy Peters*

Cathy - May 03, 2012 at 05:06 PM

EW

Thank you Kathy. Pete loved you very much. Ebba

Ebba Wilson - May 04, 2012 at 10:17 AM

KD

*Thank you so much for your kind words for my mother. She definitely
will continue to need those keystroke chats. Love, Kitty*

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:37 AM

JM

“ I'm very saddened to hear of Pete's passing. Though I never knew him at his best, I could easily tell what a fun and loving person he was. I would have loved to have gotten to know him years earlier. My thoughts and condolences are with the family, and I am honored to serve as a pallbearer.

Jason Mitchell

Jason Mitchell - May 03, 2012 at 03:02 PM

KD

Jason, thank you so much for serving as a pallbearer and being there for all of us. Pete thought alot of you and was very happy that you and Alena are getting married. We can't wait until you are OFFICIALLY part of the family. We love you honey.

kitty wilson downs - May 07, 2012 at 01:39 AM