
Anthony Joseph "Tony" Wilken Jr.(1930 - 2018)

Anthony "Tony" Joseph Wilken, Jr.

Jackson - Anthony "Tony" Joseph Wilken, Jr. 87, of Ridgeland, MS passed away Tuesday, July 24, 2018 in Ridgeland, MS.

Born September 9, 1930 in Carlyle, Illinois to the late Antone "Tone" Wilken & Antoinette "Nettie" Borgelt, he was one of nine children raised on the family farm in Wade Township. His mother died in 1949, and around that time Tony joined the Army and achieved the rank of Corporal. While serving his country he became interested in civil engineering. After three years he left the service and began a career as a land surveyor. He traveled all over the country, helping build the infrastructure of a growing nation. He had an incredible recall for the places he had worked and people he met. In 1962, he took a job surveying land on a remote part of Hancock County that was to become the NASA test site. During this time he met the love of his life Elizabeth "Bettye" Lois Carver of Bay St. Louis. They married and eventually relocated to Jackson, MS in 1969. They shared 52 years of marriage before Bettye passed in January of 2014. Tony was an avid gardener. He was proud of his garden and had blooms all year long. He had an inventive mind and was a tinkerer. He was not wasteful and would repurpose whenever possible. Tony followed politics and current events, and he loved to engage in debate. He was a parishioner of St. Richard Catholic Church in Jackson, MS.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by an infant sister, Maria Adele, a brother, Henry "Hank" Wilken, and his wife Rose, sister, Gertrude "Trudy" Luebbers, and brother-in-law, Harold Carver.

He is survived by a brother, Richard Wilken, sisters, Jeanette and Betty "Bet" Wilken, Helen Monken, and her husband Ed, Mary Reiss and brother-in-law Irving Luebbers; daughter, Rose Wilken Bonelli, and her husband John; stepdaughter, Nita Morgan and her husband Glen; step-son, Rick Layne; granddaughters, Amanda & Cam Bonelli, Elizabeth Giuffria, Heather Layne Smith, Stephanie Brown and Adam and Anthony Morgan; sister-in-laws, Nina Carver and Delores Caldwell and her husband David; nine great-grandchildren that loved their pawpaw Tony, in addition to many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held Friday, July 27, 2018 at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis, MS from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. with a Mass of Christian Burial at 1:30 p.m. Entombment to follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bay St. Louis, MS. Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis, MS is in charge of the arrangements.

Funeral Home**Edmond Fahey Funeral Home Inc**

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