



Richard William Wilson

December 14, 1946 - December 23, 2025

Richard William Wilson 79, passed on December 23, 2025.

He was born in Newark, New Jersey to the late Frank and Stella Wilson.

He served our country during the Viet Nam War (1967/68) in the United States Marine Corps. He served in Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion 5th Regiment, First Marine Division as a senior radio operator.

He received a Viet Nam Service Medal, National Service Defense Medal, and, Viet Nam Campaign Medal. Richards unit, the 5th marine regiment, was recognized with the Presidential Unit Citation, which is the highest award that a unit can get, for extraordinary heroism and uncommon courage during the fierce engagements of Operation Union in the spring of 1967. He will also receive a Purple Heart Medal.

He was a larger than life character with a booming voice. He gave random bear hugs to friends and family and it made him memorable. His pursuit of humor coupled with his generous random acts of kindness made the world a better place. He loved his family, friends and country fiercely. And he would do anything to help willingly, anytime.

He began his financial career in the Stock Market in N.Y.C. His career spanned 30 plus years in the investment industry as a financial operations manager.

He lived in Boca Raton, Orlando and Weston, Florida during this time. In 2016, his oenophile interests brought him to Northern California where he partnered and maintained a Pinot Noir wine grape vineyard. He was also an avid scuba diver, fisherman and sailor . He settled in Sarasota, Florida in 2018 with his wife Karen. Richard has been a member of the DAV in Sarasota for several years.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 8 years Karen Wilson, his two precious daughters Emily Wilson, Christine Clark. His delightful granddaughter Sia Reese Clark, Emily's' fiancé Daniel, son in law Jonathon, multiple beloved cousins in Orlando, Ohio and beyond, cherished friends for many many many years and of course his very special Viet Nam buddies. The world truly is a better place because Rich Wilson was in it. He shall be surely missed. A friend of Rich Wilson was a friend for life.

There will be a Memorial Service with Marine Corps Honors to be held on Friday, May 29, 2026 at 3:00 pm at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 SR 72, Sarasota, Florida 34240.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers a donation In Richards' honor to St. Jude's Children's Hospital at www.stjude.org Or the DAV would be greatly appreciated. Memories and condolences may be left for the family online at www.MFHcares.com.

Cemetery Details

Sarasota National Cemetery

9810 State Road 72
Sarasota, FL 34241

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY **29**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Rd 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 922-7200

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Marcella S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard William Wilson.*

Marcella S. - January 19 at 03:22 PM

BR

“ *We met Rich (and Karen) in Annapolis maybe 8-9 years ago. I'm not sure I've ever packed in so many laughs and good times with two people in such a short amount of time. When they moved full time to Florida we were happy and excited for them, but we missed them a ton too.*

Rich was such a life force to be around. He was kind and funny. He was witty and thoughtful and generous. All you had to do was pick up the phone and Rich was there. He bailed us out a time or two for sure and he just never hesitated to help.

To Rich's family: I know I'm experiencing only a fraction of the grief and loss that you must feel. For what it's worth, I don't think a man like Rich ever really leaves us. He shaped everyone that knew him and I hope that after you're allowed to grieve, and with some time, the emptiness you feel gets filled back up with all the love and memories of him. He cared so deeply for all of you and you were always in his thoughts. It was easy to tell by the way he spoke about you, and how animated he was when retelling stories and sharing memories of you.

To Rich: we love you man. I'm blessed to have known you, even for just a few short years. See you on the other side.

Brody

Brody - January 15 at 07:23 PM

JR

“ Jennifer R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard William Wilson.

Jennifer R. - January 14 at 05:47 PM