

## Roy Kenneth Wilson

July 9, 1913 - September 21, 2008

Roy K. Wilson, 95, a retired educator, journalist, and consultant, died at University Hospital in Augusta, GA on Sunday, September 21, 2008.

A native of Charleston, IL, he was a 1936 graduate of Eastern Illinois University, received a masters degree from the University of Illinois, and did additional graduate work at Columbia University and the University of Maryland. In 1959, he received an honorary doctorate from Glassboro State College in New Jersey in recognition of his service to education.

Mr. Wilson began his professional career as the first Director of Public Relations and Alumni Services at Eastern Illinois University. Following his service in the US Navy in World War II, he accepted a position with the National Education Association in Washington, DC where he later became Director of Press, Radio and Television. In 1947, he was one of the seven founders of the Education Writers Association when it was organized to help the nation's news media improve coverage of education. In 1968, he left the NEA to become the first Executive Director of the National School Public Relations Association until his retirement in 1976. In 1973, he was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Educational Research Service which was organized to provide assistance to 2,500 school systems across the United States. Following his retirement from NSPRA, he was a consultant for the Educational Research Service and organized over fifty national

conferences. His professional memberships included the Public Relations Society of America, Education Writers Association, National School Public Relations Association, the American Association of School Administrators, and the National Press Club.

On August 19, 1939, he married the former Ruth Royce in Charleston, IL. Mr. Wilson and his wife lived in Fairfax County, Virginia, for over forty years prior to moving to Aiken, SC in 1984. In 1991, they moved to Brandon Wilde in Evans, GA. Always involved in the communities in which they resided, Mr. Wilson was a former member of the Charleston, IL Rotary Club and the Aiken Kiwanis Club, where he edited the newsletter for over two years. He was a founder of the Academy of Lifelong Learning at USC Aiken. At Brandon Wilde, he developed the SPECTRA series of programs for the residents and served as a member of the Resident Council. At the time of his death, Mr. Wilson was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Evans.

Mr. Wilson is survived by his wife, Ruth Royce Wilson. Additional survivors include his nieces, Diane Paull of Miami, FL; Barbara Lumley and Sharon Wilson, both of Rio Rancho, NM; and Mary Ann M. Tucker of Paris, IL; and his nephews, Fred Wilson, Jr. and William Wilson, both of Albuquerque, NM; William H. Tucker of Aiken, SC; T. Bradley Tucker of Chrisman, IL; and Dr. Andrew M. Tucker of Timonium, MD. He was predeceased by his son, Robert Royce Wilson, and his daughter-in-law, Ann Oberlink Wilson, both of whom died in an automobile accident in 1966. He was also predeceased by a brother, Fred Wilson, and a sister, Helen Paull.

Memorial services will be scheduled at a date to be announced. Private burial services will be conducted at Mount Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Eastern Illinois University Foundation for inclusion in the Roy K. Wilson Endowed Scholarship Fund, 860 West Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920; the Wesley United

Methodist Church, 825 North Belair Road, Evans, GA 30809; the University of South Carolina Educational Foundation-Aiken Partnership, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801; or the Hitchcock Woods Foundation, Post Office Box 1702, Aiken, SC 29802.

Posey Funeral Directors of North Augusta in charge of arrangements (803-278-1181). Visit the registry online at [www.poseyfuneralhome.com](http://www.poseyfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Following the Service, Posey Funeral Directors

1307 Georgia Ave  
North Augusta, SC 29841

# Tribute Wall



“ Roy Kenneth Wilson

October 06, 2023 at 06:29 AM



“ Roy Kenneth Wilson

September 24, 2022 at 12:12 PM



“ Hi webmaster!##imported-begin##Kazeldod##imported-end##

October 18, 2008 at 04:03 PM



“ I feel a great loss both personally and professionally. "Uncle" Roy was one of a kind that always focused on everyone else, especially "Aunt" Ruth. He welcomed everyone into his circle of friends with open arms. He taught me a great deal about EIU's past and took great pride and joy in the vision for our future. I will miss the calls, letters, and visits, but am glad that he and Ruth's legacy will live on at Eastern Illinois University for years to come. They have truly made a difference in the lives that follow. Our thoughts and prayers go to Aunt Ruth, Mary Ann, Tuck, Brad, Andy and all the family on your loss. Certainly his influence in your lives is quite evident in your accomplishments personally and professionally as well. As we celebrate EIU's Homecoming this weekend in Charleston, our thoughts and prayers will be with you as we also celebrate the life of a truly great man.##imported-begin##Jackie Joines##imported-end##

October 17, 2008 at 09:58 AM



“ On behalf of Eastern Illinois University I want to share how proud we are to claim Roy as a distinguished alumnus of this University! Those of us who have had the opportunity to know Roy and his contributions to the education journalism field are losing a good friend and admired colleague. Vaughn Jaenike, Emeritus Dean of the College of Fine Arts###imported-begin##Vaughn Jaenike###imported-end##

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October 16, 2008 at 04:33 PM



“ Hi!  
My name is Jessika!###imported-begin##DorryLeaby###imported-end##

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October 15, 2008 at 01:09 PM



“ How does one assess the magnitude of the loss Roy's family, his professional associates and his legion of friends have sustained? It is truly enormous. Roy was a consummate professional, a caring and loving husband, father and uncle, and the truest friend one could have. I met Roy in the mid-1950s and was preparing a packet of golf, PR and Fighting Illini clippings to send him when the unwelcome news of his death arrived. So, our friendship bridged more than 50 years. Margie joins me in this expression of sympathy to our beloved Ruth and the Wilson, Tucker and Paull families.###imported-begin##Joe Davis###imported-end##

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September 25, 2008 at 04:47 PM



“ I only met Roy Wilson once, but his legacy in building NSPRA touched my life and the careers of so many others. May you be comforted in knowing that his memory will always be connected with the professionals who are seeking to build community relationships so children can be successful in school.##imported-begin##Chevon Baccus, APR##imported-end##

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September 25, 2008 at 04:22 PM



“ To Ruth and other members of the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and Roy. As one of the many school PR people he touched and influenced, I have always felt our profession and lives were blessed thanks to Roy. He was one of a kind, and the world will miss his class.##imported-begin##Larry Ascough##imported-end##

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September 25, 2008 at 04:15 PM



“ Roy Wilson was one of our founding board members. His leadership was highly instrumental in building ERS and helping countless school leaders, especially superintendents, run quality school districts. He worked closely with our first President, Glenn Robinson, and their legacy lives on in the work ERS does today. Members of the ERS staff who worked with Roy remember him as a consummate gentleman and educator. He will be missed.##imported-begin##John Draper, Educational Research Service CEO##imported-end##

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September 25, 2008 at 03:59 PM



“ Roy was our association's first leader and it is true to say that there would be no NSPRA without Roy.

*I knew him as a gentleman with class. He placed NSPRA on the national education map and helped countless others in our profession.*

*His contributions will always be with us.*

*Rich Bagin*

*NSPRA Executive Director##imported-begin##Rich Bagin  
##imported-end##*

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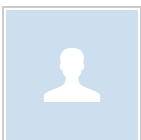
September 25, 2008 at 03:50 PM



“ Ruth, we were so sorry to hear of Roy's death, but 95 years is a very full, and in Roy's case, rewarding life. We wish you the best in this time of grief.##imported-begin##Ken and Jean Muir##imported-end##

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September 25, 2008 at 03:32 PM



“ As an NSPRA past president, I want to express my condolences to Roy's family and thank them for the gift of his time to the cause of public schools.

*His service to the National School Public Relations Association made a vast difference to thousands of children.##imported-begin##Gay Campbell, APR##imported-end##*

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September 25, 2008 at 03:31 PM



“ Like so many others, I was greatly affected by meeting Roy in the early 1970s. I felt right away that I had his friendship and support. Beyond that, he introduced me to people nationwide who became wonderful colleagues and close friends.

Joe Rowson##imported-begin##Joseph P. Rowson##imported-end##

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September 25, 2008 at 03:23 PM



“ I had the privilege of meeting Roy at an NSPRA meeting some years ago. He helped set the stage for a wonderful organization that continues to grow and flourish. My thoughts are with his family and friends.##imported-begin##Richard Thornton, APR##imported-end##

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September 24, 2008 at 08:27 PM



“ Ruth and Family: Roy was my mentor and friend. I'm saddened by his death, but so joyful for his life and all he brought to me, personally, to the school pr profession, and all the hundreds of professionals who followed his mentoring. He was a wonderful, classy person who, except maybe for his golf swing, excelled at everything in life. Bill Jones, past NSPRA president.##imported-begin##Bill Jones##imported-end##

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September 24, 2008 at 05:25 PM



“ Dear Ruth and family,  
I am so very sad, but glad I was able to see and visit with Roy while he was at MCG. He thoroughly enjoyed the chocolate shake I brought to him! I will miss Roy and his letters and calls and lunches with you both.

Much love, and may God grace you with His peace and comfort.  
Lynn Gilmore###imported-begin##Lynn Gilmore###imported-end##

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September 24, 2008 at 09:17 AM



“ Ruth,

Thinking of you and so sorry for your loss. My Dad, Bill Austin enjoyed farming for you. I'll keep you in my prayers.

Jo###imported-begin##JoEllen (Austin) Watkins###imported-end##

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September 23, 2008 at 12:46 PM



“ Warm thoughts from Tucson. Thinking of Roy and sending condolences to Ruth.

Debbie Curley###imported-begin##Debbie Curley###imported-end##

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September 23, 2008 at 10:57 AM