



Donald H. Wilsey MD

March 22, 1930 - August 23, 2021

Donald H. Wilsey, MD

Gloversville

Donald H. Wilsey, MD, 91, passed away peacefully at home on August 23, 2021 surrounded by his loving family.

Don was born on March 22, 1930 in Gloversville, NY to the late Arthur Wilsey, MD and Mildred Kuhn Wilsey. He was a lifelong member of Foothills United Methodist Church. A 1947 graduate of Gloversville High School, Don also earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Union College where he was an active member of Delta Phi fraternity (“one of the first three fraternities in the country,” he was fond of saying).

Following his graduation from Union in 1951, Don earned a Masters degree in Education from Columbia University. In addition to being an English fanatic, always referring to the dictionary, Don was also educated in Latin, French, German and Spanish. He later went on to Upstate Medical University in Syracuse to pursue his lifelong passion and become a physician.

During an internship in Buffalo, Don met the love of his life, Joyce Randolph. Don and Joyce were married in 1959 and lived in New York City until 1963 after Don completed his residency. They returned to Gloversville where they raised their three children. Don began to practice medicine with his father at 25 First Avenue, in the same house where he grew up. Dr. Wilsey was a prominent physician in Gloversville for forty two years and delivered over 5,000 babies at Nathan Littauer Hospital.

Don lost his first wife, Joyce, way too soon in 1974. They were a match made in heaven and it was love at first sight. A few years later, he was blessed to find his second wife, Darla Nigro, with whom he enjoyed thirty three wonderful years of entertaining family and friends and traveling until her passing in 2011. Throughout his life, Don was an avid lover of sports. Though he never weighed much over 170 pounds, he held the GHS record in the discus for twelve years and played fullback on his high school and college football teams. He was captain of the track team in college, and played on the undefeated 1951 Union College football team.

Don loved being outdoors, from his early years playing ball in the side yard with his friends to YMCA camp to his lake house on the Sacandaga. He took great pride and joy in his yard; passers-by often noticed how much time he spent mowing the lawn and tending to the landscaping.

Some of Don's favorite pastimes included dancing, drinking Manhattans, sharing his knowledge of grammar, playing the piano and searching for the ever-elusive perfect setting on the thermostat.

Don will be remembered for his strong work ethic, words of wisdom, humorous one-liners and easy going nature. He made a lasting impact on the many lives he touched and will be an incredible role model to his family for generations to come. He was a kind and gentle soul.

He was predeceased by his brother A. William (Joy) Wilsey and his sister Joan (Milford) Clemons.

Dr. Wilsey is survived by his three children Elizabeth Dobbie, Christopher (Robyn) Wilsey, and Linda (Steve) String; as well as by four step-children Thomas (Kathy) Nigro, Michael Nigro, Tammy Purdy and Tara (Paul) Goliber, along with seventeen grandchildren (Melissa, Scott, Lauren, Tyler, Broden, Katie, Matthew, Emily (Justin), Steven (Jolene), Brett, Eric (Amelia), Marc, Todd, Kirstin, Kaylynn, Kendall and Nicholas) and five great-grandchildren. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, and brothers / sisters-in-law. The family will receive relatives and friends on Saturday, August 28, 2021

from 9 am - 12 pm at the Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home at 111 County Highway 106 (Corner of Rt. 29 and Black Street) Johnstown. A memorial service will follow at 1pm at Foothills United Methodist Church, Gloversville officiated by the Reverend Brad Chesebro assisted by Cindy Van Allen. In continuing his dedication to education and medicine, Don has donated his body to the Anatomical Gift Program at Syracuse.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org), Nathan Littauer Hospital Foundation (nlh.org), or Foothills United Methodist Church (foothillsunitedmethodistchurch.org).

Previous Events

Calling Hours

AUG 28. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Halgas Funeral Home
111 County Highway 106
Johnstown, NY 12095
(518) 883-5323
debbie@halgasfuneralhome.com
<https://www.halgasfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Service

AUG 28. 1:00 PM (ET)

Foothills United Methodist Church
17 Fremont St.
Gloversville, NY 12078

Tribute Wall

PD

“ Don's practice was winding down 20 years ago when my practice in Gloversville was just starting. He provided excellent medical care before we had fancy scans and lab tests. His years of experience and thoughtfulness alone got him to the correct diagnosis and treatments and he was always ready to pass these skills on to the new doctors. And he was always there with a quick smile if any of the other doctors needed help with a patient.

That was Don in a nutshell at the hospital always ready to help. And not just with medical decisions. He helped with anything that needed attention. For example, all operating rooms have sinks outside the door where we wash our hands before surgery. Our sink was old and it often was ice cold or scalding hot. Not infrequently, Don was on his back on the floor with a 3 ft long wrench from home adjusting the water temperature!

He lived a life of service to others. He was a wonderful friend, a wonderful doctor, and a wonderful man. I am very sorry for your loss.

Pete Dowling, MD

Peter Dowling - August 28, 2021 at 02:32 PM

PD

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Pete Dowling, MD

Peter Dowling - August 28, 2021 at 02:31 PM

LJ

“ Dr. Wilsey delivered my two girls and I found him to be very kind and compassionate. I found out his daughter Linda Gail and I shared the same name. He got quite a kick out of that! Peace and sympathy to his family.

Linda Jurica

Linda Gail Jurica - August 27, 2021 at 01:42 PM

CN

“ I worked with Dr Wilsey for many years. He was kind, caring, intelligent and humorous. He was a font of information and loved words and their meanings. He will be greatly missed, not only in his career, but deeply felt by his friends and family. May the families precious memories sustain them and know he was highly respected by staff and patients alike. Christine Ney

Christine Ney - August 27, 2021 at 01:16 PM



“ He delivered all 7 of our babies and our first grandson. Always kind and caring and a true gentleman always. Thoughts and prayers to his family

Michelle Caraco - August 27, 2021 at 12:35 PM

SS

“ Steve, Heidi and Kyle Shore purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Donald H. Wilsey MD.



Steve, Heidi and Kyle Shore - August 26, 2021 at 07:49 PM

CM

“ Claudia, Kevin, Justin, Zach & Meggie purchased the Peach, Orange & White Mixed Fireside Basket for the family of Donald H. Wilsey MD.



Claudia, Kevin, Justin, Zach & Meggie - August 26, 2021 at 02:25 PM

SS

“ Sending thoughts and prayers to the family!
Love Steve, Heidi and Kyle Shore.



Steven Shore - August 26, 2021 at 08:35 AM

CD

“ Don, “ Doc” Wilsey, was a gentleman, friend, confidant, and well respected member of our community, he was loved and will be missed by many, especially his loving and supportive family. We were fortunate to have spent many good times together, with him his wife, Darla over the years, traveling together, sharing dinner parties, holidays, going to the lake house, and just having fun.....Don was a good sport and always had a smile to share. May fond memories offer comfort to those he loved in time to come. Our love,
Albie and Conniejo

Conniejo Dicruttalo - August 25, 2021 at 11:15 AM

DS

“ I was so lucky to spend some time with Doc over the past few months. He was truly the kindest man I have ever met. I will miss his "awwww shucks" . Rest in peace handsome! He was truly blessed to have such a supportive family. Linda, Beth, Chris and families you are in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless you all and keep you in his loving arms.

Debra Small - August 25, 2021 at 10:35 AM

LK

“ Love, Diane, Dan, Kristin, Mike & kids purchased the Multicolor Pastel Mixed Flower Fireside Basket for the family of Donald H. Wilsey MD.



Love, Diane, Dan, Kristin, Mike & kids - August 24, 2021 at 08:52 PM

NL

“ I love this man like a brother. He was a very special person and glad he was in our lives

Nancy Laporta - August 24, 2021 at 07:47 PM