



Wilson Dunbar McElhinny

May 12, 2024

Wilson Dunbar McElhinny, 94, died Sunday, May 12, 2024 at Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was predeceased by his first wife, Barbara Watkins McElhinny, who died in 1991 and his second wife, Louise Miller McElhinny, who died in December 2020. He is additionally survived by four sons, David, Ward, Edward and William, their respective wives, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and long-time friend and companion Becky Bumsted.

Born in Detroit, MI, Wilson was the son of William Dunbar McElhinny and Elizabeth Wilson McElhinny. A graduate of St. George's School and Yale University, where he was a member of St. Anthony Hall. He began his career in commercial banking in New Haven, CT with the Union and New Haven Trust Company. In 1963, Wilson joined the Reading Trust Company becoming President and Chairman in 1968. In 1972 he was instrumental in combining banks from Harrisburg, Lancaster, Reading and York into a new entity, Hamilton Bank where he served as President and Chairman. In 1983, Hamilton Bank and The Philadelphia National Bank formed CoreStates Financial Corporation where Wilson served as President and later Vice Chairman. He retired in 1990.

In 1975, Hamilton Bank in combination with Armstrong World Industries was instrumental in the development of Lancaster Square and in collaboration with

Armstrong formed The Greater Lancaster Corporation. Joined by ten other local companies, these two enterprises developed their mission of urban renewal, to revitalize downtown Lancaster, with private funding in cooperation with local government.

Active in community affairs in New Haven and Reading, Wilson served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Visitors of Franklin & Marshall College, Chairman of Lancaster General Hospital Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. Additionally, he served as President of the Pennsylvania Society and on the Boards of numerous companies, including Educators Mutual Insurance Company, Hunt Corporation, Irex Corporation, The Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association Insurance Company, Watt & Shand, and Wohlsen Construction Company.

An avid sailor, Wilson and wife Bobbie sailed the Chesapeake, and with their four sons twice sailed the Marion Bermuda Race. He also enjoyed golf, tennis, and skiing throughout the West and Europe. In retirement, Wilson resided in Ketchum, Idaho with his second wife, Lisa, whom he married in 1993. Both avid fishermen, they fished not only in the West, but worldwide. Continuing his commitment to community, Wilson served as Director of the Idaho Nature Conservancy, St. Luke's Wood River Hospital, and the Sun Valley Music Festival. He was Chairman of the First Bank of Idaho before he returned to Lancaster in 2017.

He was an active member of the Lancaster Country Club and Saint James Episcopal Church. Wilson was formerly a member of the Hamilton Club, The Valley Club, and New York Yacht Club.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Wilson's Celebration of Life Service at The Farm at Eagles Ridge, 465 Long Lane, Lancaster, PA 17603 on

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP to David@thegroffs.com

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Wilson's memory can be sent to:
Lancaster Farmland Trust, 125 Lancaster Ave., Strasburg, PA 17579 or
Lancaster Conservancy
117 S. West End Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603 or The Community Library, PO
Box 2168 Ketchum, ID 83340 or Hospice and Palliative Care of the Wood
River Valley, PO Box 4230, Ketchum, ID 83340.

Tribute Wall

VC

“ I am just now reading this in the spring of 2026. I don't actually know any of Wilson's sons so forgive these generalizations i my comments to them. I was so pleased to hear that Wilson had returned to Lancaster and to find some happiness in his final years there. I spent many days and nights at the residence in Lake Creek caretaking with Samantha and Lucy. What a genuinely generous and gregarious man he was. I think I gave him one last hug when he was getting ready to return to Lancaster. I will always remember his warm demeanor and laughing blue eyes. Peace. Vicki Carnes

Vicki Carnes - April 24 at 10:36 PM

BK

“ As we celebrate this Father's Day, we remember those deeply missed Fathers we no longer have with us. I know you are thinking about your dad, especially today. Barb and I send our deep condolences to Ted, Stacey, Beth, Allison, your brothers, and extended family. Although we did not get to spend much time with Wilson, we knew what a special person he was to you and your family. We certainly were the recipients of his kind and generous nature. The many times he entrusted his boat to you and your friends for unforgettable adventures on such an amazing vessel. What a wonderful legacy that you continue to care for and sail Full Circle in Wilson's memory. Wilson also generously welcomed us to stay on the property of their Sun Valley home with Ted and Stacey for an amazing ski adventure. It was a very special vacation and one of the few opportunities I had to meet and spend time with your father. We always came away feeling very grateful for their kindness and generosity. You had amazing parents Ted and I know you will miss your father as much as you have missed your mom. They will always be with you.

Bob Kirschke - June 16, 2024 at 01:37 PM

RW

“ *One mark of a great man is the power of making lasting impressions upon the people he meets. Although I had only limited interactions with Wilson, each one was memorable. Sending lots of love to his family. Rick Witmer*

Rick Witmer - May 27, 2024 at 02:42 PM

NB

“ *Phil and I and our family had the honor of meeting Wilson Thanksgiving 2021. We had heard so many great stories about him from Ted and Stacey and true to form, he was an amazing individual who instantly made an impact on the evening. We loved sharing our bonfire tradition with the McElhinny family discussing Lancaster, sailing and Wilson's joy and pride of his family. We feel incredibly privileged to have made even this small connection to Wilson, and send our deepest condolences to Ted, Stacey, Beth, Allison, Ward, and the siblings we have not met, but have heard so much about. Natalie Birrell and Philip Gilligan*



Natalie Birrell - May 21, 2024 at 07:13 AM

JW

“ My husband, Steve, and I both worked for Wilson at Corestates and admired him greatly. At the time, I had the largest fishing and hunting supplier in the country in my portfolio. At least once a year Wilson would accompany me for a visit to their headquarters and warehouse. We would conduct our business and then take the execs to dinner. My fondest memory of Wilson is when we would return home, he always called Bobbie from a chunky car phone to check in and ask how her day went. He was a role model in so many ways.

Joan Weidman - May 20, 2024 at 08:35 AM

TM

“ 2 files added to the album Wilson



Ted McElhinny - May 20, 2024 at 04:14 AM

TM

“ 2 files added to the album Wilson



Ted McElhinny - May 19, 2024 at 10:22 PM

SV

“ We worked with Wilson at CoreStates Bank. A kind and thoughtful individual, he was revered and respected by all. We will miss him...
Stefanie Valar and Ed Hauck, Lititz, PA

Stefanie Valar - May 19, 2024 at 03:51 PM

WM

“ I had the privilege of spending time with Wilson on the golf lesson tee . (Although I'm certain he loved fishing more). Wilson was genuine. He knew how to listen, encourage, and engage with others. I bet he never met a stranger?
Grateful to have known this exceptional man.
Blessings to his family!

Wade Mauck - May 16, 2024 at 09:26 PM

KL

“ Wilson was a dynamic and highly successful bank CEO and a wonderful human being. He was a pillar in the Pennsylvania business community and a leader among leaders in organizations, associations and groupings of all types. He had an exceptional ability to resolve controversies and bring people together even on highly divisive subjects. In the 80s, he led what first appeared to be a quixotic effort to revitalize downtown Lancaster but ultimately became an outstanding model of success. He was thoughtful, wise, and considerate while, at the same time, straightforward in his communications and relentless in his drive for solutions and improvements. His personal values, integrity, and respect for others were of the highest order. When he was Chair of the Irex Board, he was my mentor, my faithful critic, my supporter, and especially in his later years, one of my very best friends. I will miss him greatly.

Rest in peace, Wilson. You surely deserve the very best.

Kirk Liddell

KIRK LIDDELL - May 15, 2024 at 08:52 PM

LP

“ We send our deepest sympathy to the McElhinny family. We knew Wilson slightly in Lancaster but really came to know him in Idaho.

On our first visit to Ketchum in 1998 we commented that the only person we knew who lived there was Wilson. And who should we run into at the Sun Valley Lodge but Wilson!

We weren't close friends, just merely acquaintances but Wilson said he and Lisa would have us over for a drink. And they did. That time and almost every time we visited over the next 20 plus years.

At many dinners they shared their love and detailed knowledge of the Wood River Valley freely-where to hike, fish, ski and explore. And he always liked to hear what was happening in the business community in Lancaster.

He was a true gentleman who contributed much to his communities and we were privileged to spend time with him.

Lynn and Tim Peters

Lynn Peters - May 15, 2024 at 04:46 PM

GW

“ To the sons of Wilson, of which a few a new and one, I knew pretty well. So sorry for your loss he lived in amazing life is achievements are unmatched. He helped change my life and I will be forever grateful!!

I hope Bill gets to read this I've been seeing you forever. I hope someday our paths can cross please reach out.

Greg Will I live at 673 Kincaid Ave. in Lancaster my last home on this earth. My number is 717-341-3117. Dawn and I send our condolences. ❤️🙏

Greg Will - May 15, 2024 at 04:15 PM

GG

“ I had the privilege and good fortune of working for Wilson at National Central / Hamilton Bank. Wilson’s executive leadership was exemplary, second to none. On a visit years ago to his home Ketchum, his and his wife’s hospitality was most welcoming. Rest in Peace Wilson.
George George

George George - May 15, 2024 at 01:57 PM

KL

“ I was so privileged to know and take care of Wilson. He was so proud of his sons. He was kind and had a great sense of humor. He will be greatly missed. He had a life well lived.
Karen
Resident Nurse

Karen Legieko - May 15, 2024 at 10:01 AM