



## Dr. Odell D. Wilson

February 24, 1954 - March 24, 2025

Dr. Odell D. Wilson, a devoted husband, loving father, cherished brother, and faithful servant of God, passed peacefully into the arms of his Savior on March 24, 2025, at his home. He was a man of great faith, wisdom, and kindness, who touched the lives of so many through his unwavering devotion to his family, his church, and his students.

Odell was born on February 24, 1954, to the late Arthur Willis Wilson and Mary Hazel Lee Wilson. He was also preceded in death by an older sister who passed away in infancy. From an early age, he exhibited a love for learning and a heart for service. He was selected and admitted into the Air Force Academy, but his deep love for his wife led him to choose Berea College instead. He married his beloved Joann Jerrell Wilson on August 17, 1972, and they shared 52 wonderful years of marriage filled with love, faith, and dedication to one another.

He earned his Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in Physics from Berea College in 1976, then continued his pursuit of education by obtaining his Master of Education from Union College in 1984. He later earned his Doctorate in Education from East Tennessee State University in 1987. A dedicated educator, he spent his career molding young minds at Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College, teaching mathematics, where he ultimately retired as a Professor in December 2016. His commitment to

education and service was recognized when he was honored as a Kentucky Colonel in 1988.

Odell had a remarkable gift for storytelling, weaving wisdom and humor into every lesson he taught. Whether in the classroom, at home, or among friends, he could captivate an audience with a tale that both entertained and enlightened. His stories left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of hearing them. He also had a love for a good bargain, always finding joy in discovering a great deal and sharing his frugal wisdom with those around him.

Above all, Odell was a man of deep faith. He served as an Elder at Elydale Primitive Baptist Church, where he was a guiding light to his congregation. His love for God was evident in the way he lived his life—always with compassion, humility, and a servant's heart.

Odell's greatest joy was his family. He was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Joann, and a proud father to his children, Jared Wilson (Sheila) and Erin Reasor (Joe). He was also a loving and cherished grandfather to his grandson, Gabriel Cartwright Wilson, who was deeply loved. He was a devoted brother to Wade Wilson (Jeraldine) and a caring brother-in-law to Harold and Nancy Jerrell. His family circle extended to his nephews and niece: Darrell Wilson, Joey Wilson, Glen Wilson, Scottie Jerrell, Mark Jerrell, and Kelli Hughes, all of whom he loved dearly.

Though he has left this earthly home, his legacy of love, faith, and wisdom will endure in the hearts of those who knew him. He was not only a pillar of strength for his family but also a source of inspiration to his students, colleagues, and church family. His presence will be profoundly missed, but the impact of his life will continue to be felt for generations to come.

A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered. While we

mourn his passing, we take comfort in knowing that he is now at peace, reunited with loved ones who have gone before him, and resting in the presence of his Lord.

“Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Lord.” –  
Matthew 25:23

The family will receive friends from 5 until 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 28, at Robinette Funeral Home in Jonesville, located at 146 Maple Drive, Jonesville, VA. The funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 29, at Elydale Primitive Baptist Church, located at 141 Bethany Road in Ewing, VA., with Elder Ricky Dorton officiating. Graveside services will follow in the Elydale Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery.

Online condolences may be sent by visiting, [www.RobinetteFuneralHomes.com](http://www.RobinetteFuneralHomes.com). Robinette Funeral Home of Jonesville is serving the family of Dr. Wilson.

# Cemetery Details

## Elydale Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery

Ewing, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAR 28.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Robinette Funeral Home (Jonesville)  
146 Maple Drive  
P.O. Box 238  
Jonesville, VA 24263  
(276) 346-1196

## Funeral Service

**MAR 29.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Elydale Primitive Baptist Church  
141 Bethany Road  
Ewing, VA 24248

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ *Aubrey Stapleton lit a candle in memory of Dr. Odell D. Wilson*



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**Aubrey Stapleton** - June 07, 2025 at 08:30 AM

DG

“ *I just learned of Odels passing today. It really hurt me as I thought highly of this great Man. I met him when I was just 16 as he hired me to help him do the foundation work and water line for his new Home. I saw him and Joann recently at Walmart and thought of how nice it was to converse with them as it had been awhile. I know he's in a much better place with Jesus now but, he will be greatly missed here* 🙏🙏



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**Denver Garrett** - April 07, 2025 at 09:35 PM

DW

“ From an early age, Uncle Odell spurred a love of science and math in me. I didn't realize it until much later, because it was in almost everything we did. From showing us his experiments in his lab at Papaw and Mamaw's house, to having me help him when he was trying to design a "firestarter" product, he was always willing to share his knowledge and passion for science. I remember it like it was yesterday, one summer I came home after not doing well in Calculus at UVA. Odell just wouldn't accept my excuse that I just "couldn't get Calculus" because to him, Calculus was the language of the universe. And he set out to help me understand that, on a tobacco setter as we set the field for growing one day. I was captive to him for the day, and he took advantage of it. I didn't get it, and still don't, but it was that love and passion, and unrelenting willingness to teach me that I remember so fondly. We hadn't visited for a long time, but I have thought about you often and the lessons you taught me. Including the proper materials for building a cinder block wall. Love you and will miss you Uncle Odell. Darrell

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**Darrell Wilson** - March 29, 2025 at 12:46 PM

DG

“ Joann, Erin, Jared,  
You and your families are in my thoughts during this difficult time. I had known Odell since elementary school and was so sorry to hear of his passing. May God grant you strength and comfort now and in the days to come.  
Debbie Wolfenbarger Garrett



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**Debbie Garrett** - March 28, 2025 at 07:02 PM

LB

“ I'm very sorry for your loss. Many prayers for you and your family.

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**Lisa Barrick** - March 27, 2025 at 07:34 PM

BA

“ *Sending Prayer and Love to everyone.*



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**Bill and Tinker Anderson** - March 27, 2025 at 12:57 AM

BA

“ *Bruce and Barbara Ayers purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Dr. Odell D. Wilson.*



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**Bruce and Barbara Ayers** - March 26, 2025 at 07:20 PM

TL

“ *Tim Long purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Odell D. Wilson.*



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**Tim Long** - March 26, 2025 at 08:21 AM

JS

“ Heartbroken over hearing this.... He was not only a great professor, but one of best men I've known in life.  
When he found out I was "farm boy" just like him he used that to help me understand algebra better.  
I will always remember him telling me to look at it like I was filling up the water, but my cow was drinking at the same time. Now figure out how long it takes to fill the water.

*His passion to help the youth of the area to achieve their academic goals will never be forgotten*

*Thanks for all the help... From one farm boy to another... You'll never be forgotten*

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**Jonathan Steele** - March 25, 2025 at 01:26 PM

RC

“ Words can’t express my gratitude and love for my teacher, role model, mentor and friend, Odell. He poured himself into his service for the Lord through his teachings to ALL, whether at home with his family, in church, teaching the beauty of mathematics at the chalkboard or the computer using a practical, common sense method that anyone could understand, telling stories at Swappin Meetin and other community events, modeling Robert’s Rule of order at our faculty meetings and keeping all of us on the straight and narrow path at Southeast by mentoring us individually with his wisdom and knowledge. He would lend knowledge to us, with the expectation that we would pay it forward to others! I would not be who I am today had I not had Odell in my life since 1983. He loved Joann with all of his heart and soul. He bragged on her always, especially at lunch when eating his left overs from dinner. “Joann has always made a different delicious recipe for us, no meal is the same!”. He glowed talking about his beautiful family. I think of Odell and his family when I read Psalm 112:1-6 Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, Who greatly delights in His commandments, His descendants will be mighty on the earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness forever. Light arises in the darkness for the upright; He is gracious and compassionate and righteous. It is well with the man who is gracious and lends; He will maintain his cause in judgement. For he will never be shaken; The righteous will be remembered forever. (NASB) Dr Odell Wilson will be remembered forever! Prayers of comfort for the days ahead to all. All my love, Rhonda Creech

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Rhonda Creech - March 25, 2025 at 09:57 AM

LL

“ So sorry to hear of his passing. He was such a wonderful person and educator. He will be sadly missed. Prayers for peace and comfort.



Linda Lewis - March 25, 2025 at 07:56 AM

SY

“ I am so so sorry to hear of Odell's passing! Sending much love and prayers to all!

Sheri Yates - March 25, 2025 at 06:34 AM

EW

“ Sending sympathy and condolences to my friend Joann and all of Odell's family. May God bless and comfort you.

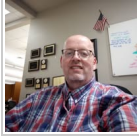


Ernestine Whitt Wright - March 25, 2025 at 04:10 AM



“ I loved his math classes when I was attending Southeast. I looked forward to his riddles and jokes. He was an amazing teacher. I'll never forget some of the stories he shared while trying to break down math problems, there's still times that I'll randomly think of him when I see a light pole and will laugh.

Cody Cornett - March 24, 2025 at 11:16 PM



“ I am saddened to hear this. Mr. Wilson was such a caring and helpful person when I had him in class at Evarts High School. Then at SKCTC, I took every class he taught because I knew he was there to help me succeed. He was interested in my sister, Karan, myself, and every other student that he came in contact with's future. He sure will be missed by those who knew him and cared for him. Rest in peace Mr. Wilson. Until we meet again.

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**Michael Browning** - March 24, 2025 at 08:27 PM



“ With much love and great sympathy from the both of us and our children.

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**Ron & Ovella Gibbons** - March 24, 2025 at 07:24 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Sis. Joann, Jared and Erin. I spent years in the church with Elder Odell as he preached alongside my father Elder Mickey Wilson at the Elydale Church in Ewing, VA. Know we are heartbroken for you, know we love you all and our prayers will be with you. God be with and Bless you all.

*Brady, Elizabeth, Shelia and Tyler Wilson*

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**Brady Wilson** - March 24, 2025 at 06:31 PM