



Jenny Kathryn Wilson

June 23, 1996 - September 3, 2020

Jenny Kathryn Wilson, born June 23, 1996, departed this world on September 3, 2020. She leaves her parents, Amy and Don Wilson; brother Caleb Wilson and his wife Megan; grandmother Judy Wilson; aunt Nancy Alford and husband James; cousin Greg Wallace and wife Michelle; uncle Anthony Wilson and wife Tabethia; aunt Michelle Baker and cousins Megan Baker and Corey Hampton; as well as many other dearly loved family members. She also leaves dear friends from White Station High School, Rhodes College, and the Memphis Zoo, as well as colleagues and friends in the Memphis theatre community.

At 24, Jenny had already achieved many of her dreams. She had a blast performing musical theatre at White Station High School, then moved on to McCoy Theatre productions at Rhodes College, where she studied Theatre, Music and Film. Jenny was featured in musicals at Rhodes including: *Heathers*; The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, for which she received a College Division Ostrander nomination for Leading Actress in a Musical; and the title role in *Violet*, garnering her the 2018 college division Ostrander Award for Leading Actress in a Musical. Jenny's performance at Theatre Memphis, again in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, was recognized with a 2019 Ostrander leading actress nomination. A memorable review from Jenny's college years reads, "Jenny Wilson - are you even acting? Is that just you?" Emotion, intellect, and energy were combined seamlessly in the roles Jenny inhabited.

In addition to her love of theatre, Jenny was passionate about protecting and caring for 'non-human' animals, both her own pets and the animals she had the privilege of caring for at the Memphis Zoo. At the zoo, Jenny worked most closely with Ash the Gray Fox, Grizz (short for Grizzabella) the Virginia Opossum, Ross the Virginia Opossum, Aggie & Rey the Nigerian Dwarf Goats, Poppy the Binturong, Jacques & Gus Gus the rats, Milli the Giant African millipede, and Sergeant Pepper the Rhode Island Red Rooster. Because of Jenny's work, many animals are able to thrive and serve as animal ambassadors, teaching us to better understand and protect all creatures.

Because of Jenny's abiding concern for animals and desire to make a difference in a world changing too fast for many of them, she was pursuing a Master's degree in Anthrozoology from Canisius College, where she had recently begun her second year of study.

We have lost our beautiful daughter, sister, friend and colleague. The world is a darker place without the light of her talent, humor and kindness. Jenny touched so many lives, whether performing onstage or just quietly lending her presence, sometimes without saying anything at all, but now and then catching you complete off-guard with her spot-on 'Where did that come from?!' observations and insights.

A gentle and thoughtful soul who cared for all creatures, even the most humble mouse or insect, Jenny taught others to love more deeply by her example. There is no better way any of us could hope to have lived.

A memorial service will be held at 6:00pm on Monday, September 14, at the Memphis Zoo. Please note, all attendees must be masked and social distancing guidelines will be strictly observed. If you plan to attend, email the number of attendees in your group to memorialservicersvp2020@gmail.com, ensuring that as many family and friends can be safely accommodated as possible. Thank you.

Comments



“ Dear Amy & Don,

My heart aches for you as I remember your talented daughter. She was such a bright light to so many in the Memphis community- on stage at Rhodes, Theatre Memphis, the Zoo. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love,
Matthew Hayner

Matthew Hayner - September 14 at 06:43 PM



“ Dear Matthew,

Thank you so much! Don, Caleb and I are held together by the love and kindness that is reflected from what Jenny shared with others. This adds to that warmth and that love, and it is Everything right now.

Much love & many virtual hugs heading your way,

Amy Wilson

Amy Wilson - September 22 at 09:34 AM



“ TO ALL THE WILSON FAMILY: MY HEART HURTS FOR UR TERRIBLE LOSS. MAY GOD SURROUND U WITH HIS LOVE AND GIVE U STRENGTH TODAY AND IN ALL THE DAYS AHEAD. THERE R NO WORDS TO HEAL UR BROKEN HEARTS, NOW. JUST KEEP UR FAITH WITH GOD AND LET HIM COMFORT U. GOD BLESS U ALL. RIP WITH JESUS, JENNY.

LOVE U, JUDY. (MY FRIEND)



RAY & CAROLYN ERVIN - September 14 at 01:24 AM



“ Martina Benson lit a candle in memory of Jenny Kathryn Wilson



Martina Benson - September 12 at 09:00 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Jenny Kathryn Wilson.



September 12 at 08:59 PM



“ Brenda Cross lit a candle in memory of Jenny Kathryn Wilson



Brenda Cross - September 11 at 09:53 AM



“ Our hearts ache for your great loss. What a fun and beautiful young lady she was at Grahamwood Elementary. We are praying for your family. - Jay, Amy, Chesney & Emma Bethea

amy bethea - September 10 at 09:21 PM



“ Amy, thank you so much for this - those were some challenging and wonderful years in many ways! Thanks for your prayers and your concern. It is our food and our medicine right now.

Lots of Love & Virtual Hugs - Don & Amy

Amy Wilson - September 14 at 03:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jenny Kathryn Wilson.



September 10 at 11:10 AM



“ My heart is broken for all of you for the loss of your beautiful and talented daughter. Your loss is immeasurable. She was a bright light.

Cynthia Voisine - September 09 at 10:42 PM



“ Oh Cynthia, thank you so very much for your kind words! We are still foggy & confused at this inexplicable absence in our world. But we are lifted up and immensely grateful for all the invaluable support & love you are sending - Amy & Don

Amy Wilson - September 14 at 03:18 PM



“ Jenny was dearly loved by my Abbie. They were perfectly matched as big and little sisters. I had the great pleasure of seeing her perform so beautifully in Putnam. May her memory forever be a blessing.

Laurie Norris - September 09 at 10:09 PM



“ Laurie - your dear, sweet Abbie has been a quiet and calming presence for us. I am so very happy she was Jenny's big sister, and that they shared so many things in common. This was a remarkable friendship that gave Jenny such joy! Sending all our love, Amy and Don

Amy Wilson - September 14 at 03:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jenny Kathryn Wilson.



September 09 at 06:53 PM



“ This hurts. Jenny was such a calm and caring presence in my classroom. Her class period in particular was a special group and I have such fond memories of them. Thinking of you during this season.

Molly Oster - September 09 at 06:28 PM



“ My heart is shattered. Amy delighted the world.
All my love is yours today.



Christine Parker - September 09 at 04:12 PM



“ Dear Christine - thank you so much for your message. We miss our baby girl Jenny so very much. Still feel her here with us, and I'm having some sweet one-sided conversations. Will always love her and think of her every day. This is just devastating but we are blessed to have one another and the love and support of friends such as yourself! Amy

Amy Wilson - September 14 at 03:29 PM



“ Dear Amy,
I hold you and your family and Jenny in my heart.

Lydia Spencer

Lydia Spencer - September 09 at 03:30 PM



“ Dear Lydia, thank you so very much! No way to count the loss. I know it will unfold daily, and I know our family with the help of friends, will be there for one another. Such a blessing!

Much love, Amy Wilson

Amy Wilson - September 14 at 03:22 PM



“ Sympathy Chocolates was purchased for the family of Jenny Kathryn Wilson.



September 09 at 03:15 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jenny Kathryn Wilson.



September 09 at 02:44 PM



“ What great times we shared with Jenny -- parties galore! She was a sweet child who grew into a lovely and talented adult. She was smart, like her parents, and I know she will be incredibly missed by all her family. Sending much love and hugs. ~Mark and Angela Saunders



Angela Gill Saunders - September 09 at 01:19 PM



“ Dear Angela & Mark - This is so wonderful! I love these photos. Oh how well I remember the white elephant parties. They were just the BEST. Love you so, so much--take care & let's talk soon - Amy :-)

Amy Wilson - September 14 at 03:27 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Jenny Kathryn Wilson.



September 09 at 12:49 PM



“ I am so very sorry to hear of Jenny's passing. No parent should have to go through this. You are in my thoughts

Barbara Myers - September 09 at 10:52 AM



“ Dear Barb - thank you so much for your kind words! We are a bit lost in the woods, confused is the best way to put it. It really does not compute at all. Love to you and your family, Amy & Don

Amy Wilson - September 14 at 03:26 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Amy Wilson - September 09 at 03:54 AM



“ My heartfelt condolences to Jenny's family and friends. I only knew her slightly, having worked on Putnam Spelling Bee at Rhodes with her. I found out today we also had the Memphis Zoo in common - I worked there for ten years, before she did. A friend from the zoo told me of her passing and of how highly she was thought of at the zoo, and I know this was true at Rhodes - I remember her smile, her energy & friendliness. My heart is with you as you mourn this great young woman.

Kathy Haaga - September 08 at 10:10 PM



“ Kathy, we thank you for sharing this. It has been heart-warming to hear from others who love Jenny. We're hungry to hear those stories, and to repeat our own and continue loving her. Peace & blessings to you, Don and Amy Wilson

Amy Wilson - September 14 at 03:24 PM