

Thank You!

We greatly appreciate your kindness, your thoughtfulness and your prayers. As we go forward in this journey of sorrow, please keep us in your prayers.

The Family of Lawrence Wilson

Repast

The Bookers
300 N. Poplar Street
Hayti, Missouri 63851



Services

John W. German Funeral
Home Chapel
208 North Third Street
Hayti, Missouri 63851



Pictures

Inside Left Panel

Charles, Kay, Lawrence and Mom Mildred
Father Wallis Wilson
Lovebirds Lawrence and Jessie

Inside Right Panel

Daughter Jackie and her girls, Jada and Jamia
Daughter Crystal and children, Lawrence, Jenise and
Deshone
Daughter Michelle and girls Brionna and Sania
Son Charles and children
Tyree and Lora
Family: Lawrence, Crystal,
Michelle, Jessie and Charles

This Panel (Above)

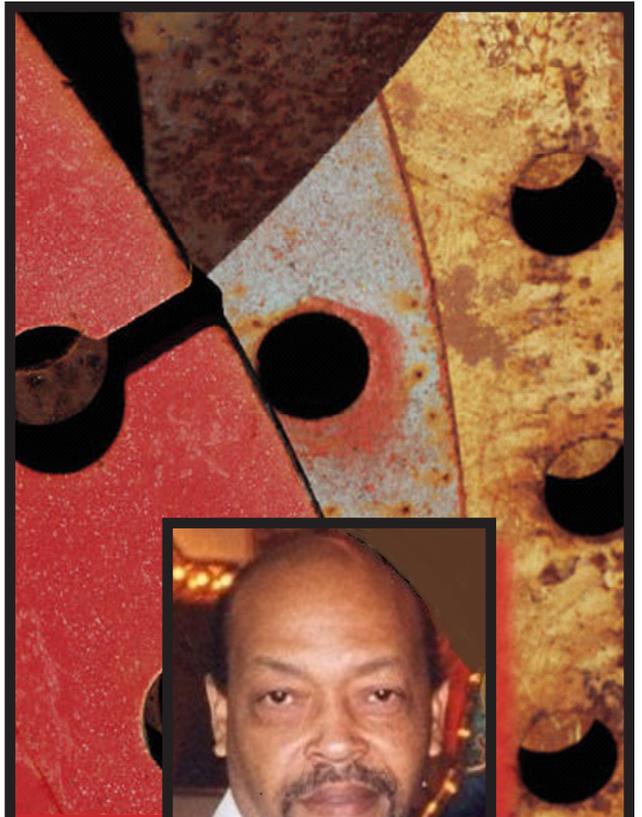
Sleepy Daddy Lawrence with
Crystal and Michelle
Cool Daddy Lawrence with
Little Charles

This Panel (Right)

Lawrence, the hardworking
man, says good-bye



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Lawrence Wilson

January 31, 1947 - February 22, 2013



There was never any doubt whether Lawrence was around. His laugh, which rose all the way from his toes and rocked his entire body, was as familiar and raucous as his drawl was slow. He was not stingy with his laughter or his love.

Lawrence Wilson was born on a farm between Portageville and Hayti where his family lived before moving to the Hayti Heights in the early '50's.

He grew up lording it over his younger brother and sister, Charles and Kay.

Almost everyone but family called him "John," the name given to him by an insurance salesman when he was a baby. The man insisted the policy needed three names.

He was "John" at Hayti Central High School, where he graduated in 1966. Like many before and after him, he wasted no time leaving the cotton and bean fields behind.

"I think he left a week or so later," said his wife, Jessie.

He boarded Greyhound, headed for Elkhart, Ind., where he would live for the next 36 years.

Upon arriving in Elkhart, he got a job working with his father at Reith-Riley Construction Co. During the next few years, he worked briefly at Nipsco, Welsh Buick, Kirk Chevrolet and, finally, Showalter Buick.

"Showalter was after him because they heard of his reputation as a mechanic," Jessie said.

He was there for 30 years until he retired after suffering a stroke.

He could not only fix cars, he could wire a lamp, make a table or build miniatures that looked just like the real thing. His ability to do so many things well, earned him the nickname, "The Doctor."

Sometimes, he was called other names because he teased everybody unmercifully, including his mother. He'd often revise family stories to show himself in a better light. When his mother would call him on it, he'd say, "You don't remember anything, you had a stroke."

His sister, Kay, was often his partner in crime. "He was always coming up with these plans that were going to get us at least 15 years in prison,"

Kay said.

"He was full of fun and laughter and craziness and would talk the ears off everyone he met," Jessie said.

She was Jessie Mae Dancler when they met shortly after he got to Elkhart. She lived out in the country where the "uptown" guys would go cruising for girls.

One evening, John cruised through on his Honda motorcycle, looking for a movie date. She was with someone else but said, "As soon as I saw him, I said 'that's the man I'm going to marry.'"

It took a while, but they were married on July 25, 1977, one day before Jessie's thirtieth birthday.



Lawrence and Jessie retired to Hayti in 2002. He suffered another stroke on February 21, and died at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

"He had learned that each day of life is a blessing and he thanked God every day," Jessie said. "The best part of me is gone."

Lawrence was preceded in death by his parents, Mildred Wilson and Wallis Wilson, and his brother, Charles Erle Wilson.

In addition to his wife, Jessie, he will be missed by his children, Jacqueline Harper, South Bend, Ind., Crystal Reeves (Michael), Champagne, Ill., Michelle Dancler, Hayti, Mo., Charles Lawrence Wilson, Caruthersville, Mo.

He is also survived by his sisters, Gwendolyn Kay Booker, Hayti, Dorothy Jean Swan (Tony), St. Louis, Jackie Wilson, Elkhart, Ind., Teresa Hutchinson (Keith), Elkhart; two brothers, McClinton Wilson, South Bend, Ind. and Shawn Wilson (Lisa), Indianapolis, Ind.; nine grandchildren, Jenise, Lawrence, Deshone, Lora, Tyree, Brionna, Sania, Jada and Jamia, and one great-grandchild, Lawrence.



Services

Saturday, March 2, 2013, 2 p.m.

Rev. King A. Dancler III, officiating

Musical Prelude

Scripture

Prayer

Musical Selection

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Life Story

Eulogy

Musical Selection

Benediction

