

IN LOVING MEMORY

Deacon Earl Wilson, Jr.

March 28, 1930 — April 23, 2026

H U M P H R E Y · A R K A N S A S · 9 6 Y E A R S

NOV 27, 2023

Century Farm Award

FEBRUARY 2024

Black History Recognition

DECEMBER 2024

136 Years on the Land



Deacon Earl Wilson, Jr., age 96, of Humphrey, Arkansas, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at Baptist Medical Center, Little Rock. He was born March 28, 1930, in Humphrey to the late Earl Wilson, Sr. and Willie Thompson-Wilson, and was raised on family land rooted in a heritage established generations before him.

A farmer, carpenter, and contractor known for his skill and steady hands, he served more than 65 years as Deacon and Head Deacon for Bayou Meto and the First Missionary Baptist Church of Humphrey. He spent over 40 years at Circle T Duck Club and led the renovation of his beloved church.

On November 18, 1948, he was united in marriage to Enola McNeal, who preceded him in death on September 21, 2013. Their union of nearly 65 years was blessed with thirteen children. In December 2023, the family gathered for a Mortgage Burning Ceremony — an affirmation of land kept and heritage passed forward. On November 27, 2023, he received the Century Farm Award from Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders at the state capitol, and in February 2024, during Black History Month, Jeremiah Moore visited the family farm in Arkansas County to honor the Wilson-Thompson legacy on the very ground where John Wesley Thompson, born into slavery, had lived, worked, and died. In December 2024, the family celebrated 136 years as a Black family-owned farm in Arkansas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Earl Wilson, Sr. and Willie Thompson-Wilson; his sister, Gracie Smith; his beloved wife, Enola McNeal Wilson; and four of his cherished children — James Wilson, Michael Wilson, Burnestine Starks, and Sharon Oates.

S U R V I V E D B Y

JoAnn McGregor (Raymond †) · JoLinda Smith (Cortez †) · Gardemia Graham (Herbert) · James Wilson † · Carolyn Miller (Cornel) · Dr. Faye Wilson · David Wilson · Michael Wilson † · Burnestine Starks † (Rickey Sr.) · Barbara Cornelius (Gary) · Sharon Oates † (David) · Cynthia Wilson · Kathy Williams (Mansfield Everett)

And a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, great-great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

S E R V I C E O F R E M E M B R A N C E

DATE

Saturday
May 2, 2026

LOCATION

First Missionary Baptist Church
205 North Oak Street
Humphrey, AR 72073

SCHEDULE

Lie in State — 9:00 AM
Celebration of Life — 10:00 AM

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

2 TIMOTHY 4:7



ONLINE MEMORIAL

Scan to view photos, videos, and sign the guestbook.

earlywilsonjr.com

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