

I N L O V I N G M E M O R Y

# 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



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. In 2023 he received the Century Farm Award from Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, and in February 2024 his family's legacy was recognized on the floor of the Arkansas House of Representatives during Black History Month.

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 †) · Gardenia 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	LOCATION	SCHEDULE
Saturday May 2, 2026	First Missionary Baptist Church 205 North Oak Street Humphrey, AR 72073	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 T I M O T H Y 4 : 7



## O N L I N E M E M O R I A L

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