



Charles "Charlie" Wilson III

June 12, 1949 - November 25, 2024

Charles "Charlie" Wilson III was born in Russellville, KY, on June 12, 1949. He passed away on November 25th, 2024, in Bend, OR, at the age of 75. The oldest of five children, Charlie was raised in Bowling Green, KY, by his parents, Lucile and Charles Wilson Jr. He met his soulmate and best friend, Melissa, at Glendale Baptist Church in 1966.

Charlie began his military service as a Military Police Officer in 1969 and married Melissa in 1971. Upon graduating from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, he earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. He served honorably for 23 years, retiring from active duty as a Lieutenant Colonel, and continued his service as a GS-15 with Recruiting and Cadet Commands for nearly 20 more years.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 53 years, Melissa; his children, Jason, Andy, and Kathryn; his sisters, Pat, Lynda, and Joyce; and his grandchildren, Jack, Charlie, Emerson, Ellie, Maddie, Audrey, and Emma. He also leaves behind countless friends who became like family.

Charlie spent half his life traveling the globe in service to his country, but Kentucky was always his true home. He and Melissa lived in Elizabethtown, KY, for more than 20 years. A proud Kentucky Colonel, Charlie was beloved by many for his selflessness, generosity, and steadfast pride in his children and grandchildren. His hobbies included helping anyone in need and sharing stories of his family's accomplishments.

Funeral services will be held at his son Andy's home on Saturday, November

30th. Charlie will be deeply missed but forever cherished by all who knew him.

Tribute Wall

LK

“ Dear Mr. Charlie Wilson.
My beloved late husband, Paul N. Kotakis (Cadet Command) ALWAYS said You were his "Guardian Angel". You greatly helped my Husband in his last year at Cadet Command bf he retired. You intervened on his behalf with forthrightness & great compassion during his serious illness, and finally going back home to Virginia to be with his Wife & Children/ Grandkids. You were used by God to intervene for such a time as that 🙏 Thank You Sir for being God's servant in such an effective way 🙏
My Condolences to your Wife, Children & Grandchildren. Lord Jesus bless You Always 🙏🇺🇸

Laurie Kotakis - September 22, 2025 at 03:11 PM

EW

“ Pops will always hold a special place in my heart his soothing country and his soft words could have always put a smile on anyone's face. He was the best grampa I could've ever asked for

-Ellie belly

Ellie Wilson - June 20, 2025 at 05:12 PM

LD

“ Charlie was perhaps the best supervisor I ever had. He was fair though firm, and I greatly respected his fountain of knowledge and experience he brought to both Army Accessions Command and Cadet Command. He was a friend, battle buddy, and above all, a good man. Both Rhonda and I will miss him greatly and we will always think of him and Melissa. God Bless You Charlie. Leo & Rhonda Daugherty

Leo Daugherty - December 06, 2024 at 12:08 PM

RS

“ Rameys & Stockers purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.



Rameys & Stockers - November 30, 2024 at 11:26 AM

RS

“ Rameys & Stockers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.

Rameys & Stockers - November 30, 2024 at 11:26 AM

CK

“ It is difficult to put into words what he meant. He was a friend, mentor, and colleague during a critical period of my career. We did some great stuff at Fort Knox, and I learned so much from him - lessons I use often even now. He was an outstanding man, family man, officer, and public servant.

Chris Kolakowski - November 29, 2024 at 10:27 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.



November 29, 2024 at 08:11 AM

AW

“ Aurora W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.

Aurora W. - November 29, 2024 at 12:15 AM

AW

“ Aurora W. purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.



Aurora W. - November 29, 2024 at 12:15 AM

FJ

“ Charlie was a mentor and an exceptional leader. His legacy of service and the positive impact he had on everyone he met is timeless. Rest in peace, my friend.

Fred Johnson - November 28, 2024 at 10:22 PM

TT

“ Charlie was a mentor and a friend. Always with a smile, warm handshake, and words of encouragement and genuine concern. I have missed seeing him since we both retired. My heart is heavy at his loss. Deepest sympathies to his family.

Tom Tiernan - November 28, 2024 at 09:19 PM

CH

“ This is such a profound loss. He was a mentor, but more importantly, he was a great man. I truly never heard anyone say anything bad about him and everyone loved him. He was my boss and continued to be one I turned to for guidance. One of the things he used to say that just tickled me was “First name Charlie...last name Wilson” (reference to the popular singer). I will miss him tremendously.

Carlotta Hunter - November 28, 2024 at 07:49 PM



“ 62 files added to the album Charlie



Jason-Audi Wilson - November 28, 2024 at 12:44 PM

DS

“ Charlie was a fast friend that I had the utmost respect for. He was a shining star at Cadet Command. I will miss him very much. I know his kindness and care for others was universal. You knew he was a Christian because of his love. I will pray for him as he goes ahead and does a recon. My deep condolences for all his family and friends.

Dr. Rick Swain

Dr. Richard Swain - November 27, 2024 at 09:47 PM

PT

“ My sympathies to Charlie's family and friends. I don't think I ever saw Charlie without a smile. He will be missed.

Patti Tobakos - November 27, 2024 at 04:54 PM

TC

“ Mrs. Wilson,
Deepest sympathy to you and your family in the bereavement of Charlie. I always enjoyed Charlie when he was at Cadet Command. He enjoyed being Santa Claus for the Holiday Christmas party. He always talked about taking care of you when you were ill. Charlie will be missed. You and your family are in my prayers.



Theo Myers, Cadet Command, RMID - November 27, 2024 at 02:54 PM

YC

“ Your friends at Cadet Command purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.



Your friends at Cadet Command - November 27, 2024 at 02:30 PM

YC

“ Your friends at Cadet Command planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.

Your friends at Cadet Command - November 27, 2024 at 02:30 PM

GA

“ GGG Girls (Sam, Ashley, Katie, Anne) purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.

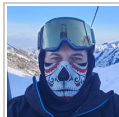


GGG Girls (Sam, Ashley, Katie, Anne) - November 27, 2024 at 02:15 PM

JA

“ Charlie and I had a rough start getting to know each other. But as we both realized there were no hidden agendas, that we both wanted our commands to succeed it was a great relationship. We eventually moved from a professional relationship to a friendship.
He was a mentor to many individuals and was always able to provide support and wisdom. He will be missed for his honesty, humor, and concern for other people.

Jim Ainslie - November 27, 2024 at 12:38 PM



Thank you for your kind words of my Dad

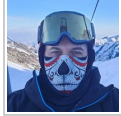
Jason-Audi Wilson - November 27, 2024 at 06:26 PM

MP

“ I worked for Charlie at USAREC and HQ AAC. He was a great boss, but more importantly a better friend. My heart breaks for Melissa losing her best friend. He adored his family and those grandbabies. My prayers and thoughts will continue in the days ahead. I know you all created some great memories with him.



Monica Pack - November 27, 2024 at 10:28 AM



Thank you, Monica

Jason-Audi Wilson - November 27, 2024 at 06:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.

November 27, 2024 at 08:46 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.



November 27, 2024 at 08:46 AM



“ In God's care, you rest above, in our hearts, you rest with love! Our deepest thoughts and prayers go out to your family.

Cadet Command G4 FMD, G37, and Safety - November 27, 2024 at 08:29 AM



“ Cadet Command G4 FMD, G37, and Safety purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.



Cadet Command G4 FMD, G37, and Safety - November 27, 2024 at 08:27 AM

BM

“ Brett & Matt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.

Brett & Matt - November 27, 2024 at 02:56 AM

BM

“ Brett & Matt purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Charles "Charlie" Wilson III.

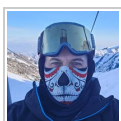


Brett & Matt - November 27, 2024 at 02:56 AM

N(

“ Charlie Like all of the cousins kid brother
Our family is close knit even though we rarely are all together Our
cousin "brother" watching over us.
Love you Charlie Boy❤️

Nancy Stanfield (Blanchard) - November 26, 2024 at 08:21 PM



Jason-Audi Wilson - November 27, 2024 at 06:28 PM