



# Wilbur Culpepper Rumph

JAN 7, 1929 - OCT 9, 2015



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# Wilbur Culpepper Rumph

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**M**ARSHALLVILLE, GA. - Wilbur Culpepper Rumph, Sr., 86, passed away on Friday, October 9, 2015. His life was identified by that of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the family celebrates in the fulfillment of God's promises for him and rejoices in the company of Saints he now stands.

Wilbur was born on January 7, 1929 in the family home he lived his entire life. He was the fourth of six generations who recognized the family residence in Marshallville as "home." He was the youngest of three brothers. Wilbur attended school in Montezuma where his mother, Mrs. Etta Steed Rumph, was a longtime school teacher. He was a graduate of Georgia Military Institute and was a 1951 graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology. Wilbur enjoyed a 52 year career alongside the sons of A.L. Luce, Sr., the founder of Blue Bird Body Company. At Blue Bird, Wilbur served as Vice President of Engineering and as Vice President of Research & Development Engineering, positions influential in the growth of the company, the worldwide leader in school bus transit. During his professional career, he authored one U.S. Patent involving school bus door safety, served on a number of national committees in the school bus industry, and was a member of the Georgia Tech Presidential Scholarship Committee. After retirement he was actively involved in the American Camellia Society. Wilbur was a lifelong member of the Marshallville United Methodist Church, where he served in various leadership roles and taught Sunday School for much of his adult life. A devoted husband, father, and community leader, he is survived by his wife of nearly 48 years, Mrs. Mary Juliet Lindley Rumph, their four sons: Samuel C. Rumph, III and wife Donna of Macon; Wilbur C. Rumph, Jr. and wife Shana of Perry; Malcolm J. Rumph of Pensacola, FL; and Lewis A. Rumph, III of Macon; and six grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his father, Mr. Samuel C. Rumph, Sr., mother Mrs. Etta Steed Rumph, and brothers, Samuel C. Rumph, Jr. and Lewis A. Rumph, II. Visitation will be held at the Rumph family home in Marshallville, on Thursday afternoon, October 15, 2015 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held at the Marshallville United Methodist Church in Marshallville, on Friday, October 16, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., graveside to follow behind the church immediately after the service. In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested donations to a ministry or charity of interest. Several that Wilbur and Mary supported for years include, the Methodist Children's Home in Macon, St. Jude



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Children's Hospital, Shriner's Hospital, Smile Train, and the Wounded Warrior Project. Watson Hunt Funeral Home in Perry, GA is in charge of the arrangements.



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

Mary, my 3rd attempt to sign the guest book. You are very much in my thoughts at this time,,,so many memories of our visit to your home and yours to ours when the children were little! Love, Myra Korb

October 21 at 8:00 PM



**Nan Johnson** posted:

I regret to learn of the passing of Mr. Wilbur C. Rumph, Sr. He was the son of my beloved teacher at Perry Jr. High, Mrs. Etta Steed Rumph. I am glad I got to meet Wilbur at meetings of the Middle GA Camellia Society in recent years.

October 19 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Sam & Donna, deepest sympathies to you both. Becky Gorman

October 14 at 8:00 PM



**Sarah L. Luce** posted:

Members of the Luce family extend deep appreciation and gratitude for Mr. Wilbur's years of faithful service to Blue Bird Body Company. He was a brilliant engineer and a man of integrity. His innovative ideas, sound wisdom and vision helped make Blue Bird an international company. Most important, his commitment to manufacturing a quality product kept millions of school children safe each day. Love and prayers from the children of George, Buddy and Joe Luce.

October 14 at 8:00 PM



**Christina Payne** posted:

We are so saddened to hear about Wilbur. What a wonderful man, husband, father, and servant of the Lord. May you find peace in this time and know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Much love, The Payne Family (Christina-daughter of Nelda Gray Ball; John, Sophie, and Eli).

October 14 at 8:00 PM



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AH

**Alison Evans, President The Methodist Home** posted:

On behalf of the Board, staff and most of all the children served by The Methodist Home, we offer you our sincere condolences. May God's peace be ever present with you!

October 13 at 8:00 PM

JD

**Joe (Tommy) Davis** posted:

As a kid, I enjoyed watching Wilbur shoot birds in trees with only a slingshot. His accuracy was evidenced by the abundance of cats following him when he packed his slingshot. As a high school student, I worked under Wilbur at Blue Bird as a flunky engineer and most appreciated him as both a fantastic person, supervisor, and mentor. An avid fan of college football, when Ga Tech wasn't playing in Atlanta, Wilbur headed to Athens to watch his second favorite team, Georgia. Although I've been away from Marshallville for 60 years, fond memories of Wilbur Rumph remain.

October 13 at 8:00 PM

CB

**Cecilia Brock** posted:

Mary, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your sons at this time. I have e-mailed Myra Dell Hicks Korb. I wish we could be with you at this time, Cecilia McDaniel Brock

October 13 at 8:00 PM

DT

**Denis Thomas** posted:

Saddened to hear of Wilbur's passing. He led a life that most should aspire for. Please accept my sincerest condolences, Denis Thomas and fam

October 13 at 8:00 PM

PA

**Page & Bobby Allen** posted:

Mary, we are very sad to learn about Wilbur. He will be missed by so many. You and the boys are in our thoughts and prayers.

October 13 at 8:00 PM



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DG

**Dan Gray** posted:

Wilbur was a dear member of our family, married to Mary Juliet Gray Lindley of Panama City, Florida. Wilbur literally worshiped the ground Mary walked on and took loving care of her till the day he died. Always friendly, warm and gregarious and a helluva engineer from Georgia Tech. He was a great role model and a man we all admired and tried to emulate. Wilbur will be remembered and missed by all the Gray family.

October 13 at 8:00 PM

GM

**Gloria S. Mathews** posted:

SAM, I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR OF THE LOSS OF YOUR FATHER. HE WILL BE SORELY MISSED BY ALL THAT KNEW AND LOVED HIM. MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY AND FRIENDS. MAY GOD GRANT YOU COMFORT, STRENGTH, AND PEACE, DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

October 13 at 8:00 PM

CM

**Charlotte Thomas Marshall** posted:

Mary, my sincere sympathies are with you, your boys and their families. I was in Williamsburg when Howdy called this morning to tell me about Wilbur's death. There's no way I can be with you this week, but I will contact you soon about getting together. Many thoughts of you and your family have streamed through my mind today, especially my father's pride that you honored him by handing baby Sam to him from your car over four decades ago when you stopped in Donalsonville travelling between Panama City and Marshallville.

October 12 at 8:00 PM

TM

**Tom Mcelheny** posted:

The Marshallville community and communities everywhere are diminished by the loss of a good man. My parents that very highly of him and his lovely wife. I always admired how self effacing he was in light of his part in the history of the town. Comfort to all bereaved.

October 12 at 8:00 PM



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**Cathy Patterson** posted:

I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Wilbur. He always had a smile when I saw him at church. Prayers for you all during this sad time.

October 12 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Mary, I share your grief. Try to remember that without LOVE there would be no grief. God Bless, Billy Anderson

October 12 at 8:00 PM



**The Staff Of Watson-Hunt Funeral Home** posted:

Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.

October 12 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Wilbur by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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