



Wilson, Mary Ella (Walker)

1931-2023

By [Messenger Staff](#) | Published on May 24, 2023

Mary Ella Wilson, 92 of Greenwood went to be with her Lord Saturday, May 20, 2023, after a life full of memories with family and friends.

Funeral will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 25, 2023, at Decatur Church of Christ.

Visitation was May 24, 2023, at Hawkins Funeral Home Decatur. Burial will be immediately following services at Sycamore Cemetery.

Pallbearers are her grandsons, Cody Wilson, Eric Hillary, Dustin Wilson, Devin Wilson, Travis Wilson, J.J. Wilson and Chance Wilson. Honorary Pallbearers are Matt Weathers, Davy Hillary, Andrew Small and Wendal Bridges.

Mary Ella was born Jan. 9, 1931, to Wendell Orville Walker and Vera Lois (Rhine) Walker in Decatur. She married the love of her life, James Rodney Wilson, April 22, 1950, in Decatur. They were together for 69 years until Rodney's passing on Sept. 6, 2019. They raised four sons, David, Logan, Ricky and Randy who all continue to live in the Greenwood area.

Mary Ella, known as Mamaw to most, was full of life and energy. She was a school bus driver for more than 40 years, covering a daily route in addition to most basketball games and any field trip she could go on. She was a favorite substitute teacher and kept books for basketball games all those years, too. Slidell ISD was truly blessed to have this kid-loving, Greyhound basketball fan for so many years. In addition to basketball, Mary Ella loved volleyball. She played in high school, and continued playing league volleyball well into her seventies. Her team, "The Roadrunners," won many local tournaments. She was tough and competitive and passed this trait on to her kids and grandkids.

On Sundays, you would find her at Decatur Church of Christ, where she was a lifelong member. For many of those years she taught 5-year-olds, who learned the books of the Bible and memorized scripture, with the help of a few goldfish crackers.

Every holiday was special at Mamaw and Poppy's house. Many meals, games, Easter egg coloring and annual hunts, presents at Christmas, the singing of carols — always fun and filled with so much laughter — were shared by every generation, as well as friends who were welcomed and treated as family.

Mamaw and Poppy loved to travel and went on many trips together, but their favorite place was on a lake. They started this tradition with their kids and continued it with grandkids and great-grandkids. Many memories were made on Lake Bridgeport, Wilson Lake and Lake Texoma. They boated, fished, skied, tubed and camped. Just about any lake activity was enjoyed by all. When they were in their 80s, they purchased their lake home on Lake Bridgeport, where many more good times were shared. Mamaw loved to sit on her porch there and just see the water. It was truly her "happy place".

Left to carry on her legacy of love are her sons, David and wife, Becky; Logan; Ricky; Randy and wife, Melissa, all of Greenwood; sister, Truman Whittington of Decatur; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Joyce and James Forgason of Hungerford; sister-in-law, Beth Wilson of Ponder; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Trudy and Ernie Williams of Big Sandy. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Shannon Meyer, Rhonda and husband, Matt Weathers, Cody and wife, Lauren Wilson, all of Slidell, Eric and wife, Jessica Hillary, of Greenwood, Davy Hillary of Fort Worth, Dustin and wife, Blair Wilson of Denton, Devin and wife, Carly Wilson, of Willis, Travis and wife, Dayna Wilson, of Greenwood, Kriston and husband, Andrew Small, of Slidell, J.J. and wife, Ashley Wilson, of Canton, and Chance and wife, Emily Wilson of Greenwood; 31 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Rodney; and sister, Orvalda Bridges.

Any memorial donations can be made to The Mary "Mamaw" Wilson Athletic scholarship fund in care of Slidell ISD, PO Box 69, Slidell, TX 76246. The scholarship will begin in the 2024 school year.