



Wendell Gerald Parker

July 14, 1940 - November 9, 2019

Wendell Gerald Parker was born July 14, 1940, in Greeley, Missouri to Ray Bernard and Esther Virginia (McDaniel) Parker and passed away November 9, 2019, at his home in Salem, Missouri surrounded by his loving family at the age of seventy-nine years.

Wendell grew up on the family farm in Greeley and attended Crossville School near Bunker. He moved to Salem in the second grade and graduated with the class of 1959 from Salem High School. Wendell entered the United States Army National Guard on April 3, 1957, and served his country faithfully until his retirement after twenty-one years of service. During his time in the military, he was able to travel the world and for his faithful service, Wendell earned many decorations, medals, ribbons, and awards. Wendell married the love of his life, Ruth Ann Radford, on October 23, 1964, in Doss, Missouri, and together they shared fifty-five years of marriage and were blessed with three children: Sherri, Kelly, and Kristi.

During his working years, Wendell was employed as a cutter with the International Shoe Company and Barad's Lingerie. He was a founding member of the Salem Collectors Club, and an avid gun and Indian relic collector. Wendell was also a skilled craftsman who loved working with his hands and creating beautiful things for the people he loved. Some of his masterpieces were miniature plows, canoes, and cabins. He also crafted

bows, arrows, and quivers along with a headdress. Wendell enjoyed spending his time outdoors, and a few of his favorite memories include fishing and hunting. He cherished his time spent with family, especially his grandchildren.

Wendell is survived by his loving wife Ruth Ann Parker of the home; three children: Sherri Mitchell and husband Eric of Olathe, KS; Kelly Parker and wife Angela of Salem, MO; and Kristi Steelman and husband J.D. of Salem, MO; one brother: Louie Parker and wife Faye of Jackson, MO; six grandchildren: Ashley Haas and husband John; Logan Nothaus; Braxton, Kennison, and Slayton Parker; and Quincey Steelman; three step-grandsons: Drew, Will, and Luke Christesen; two great-grandchildren: Emerson and Hudson Haas; as well as several nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Ray and Esther Parker.

Wendell leaves behind a legacy of love and a well-lived life. He will be remembered as a dedicated husband, caring father, and a loving grandfather.

Celebration of Life Memorial Gathering for Wendell Gerald Parker was held Saturday, November 30, 2019, in the Wilson Family Center. Military Honors were provided by the United States Army. Honor Mission was provided by the South Central Patriot Guard. All arrangements were provided by Wilson Mortuary of Salem, Missouri.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Memorial Gathering

NOV **30**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Family Center
1000 West International
Salem, MO 65560
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com>

Military Honors

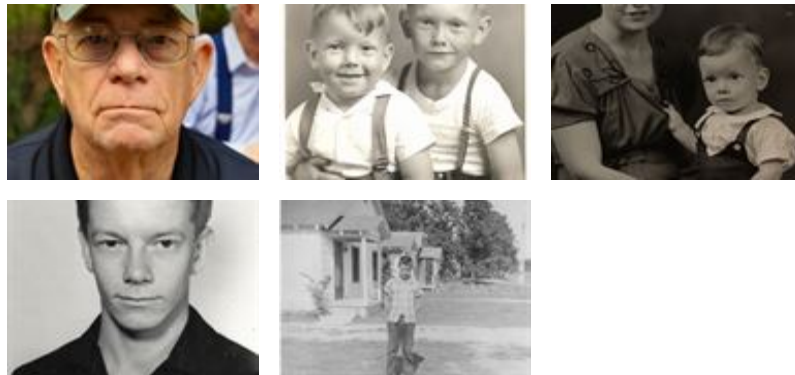
NOV **30**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Family Center
1000 West International
Salem, MO 65560
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall



“ 316 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Wilson Mortuary - November 29, 2019 at 10:39 AM

SB

“ *Ruth Ann, so sorry for your loss, you are in our prayers*

Sandy Pyatt Buck - November 23, 2019 at 05:10 PM

MP

“ *What a dear man, with a wonderful wit. His friendship with Carl and me I shall treasure. Those Montauk visits were so special. We will see you again, dear friend. My sincere sympathy to you, Ruth Ann.*
Mary Jane Stewart Pruitt



Mary Pruitt - November 16, 2019 at 10:39 PM

BW

“ *May God comfort you Ruth Ann and your family and give you strength during this difficult time. Wendell was a friend to us for nearly 40 years. He was a loyal servant in the US Army. He had a special talent with his hands creating treasures of the past. He will be sorely missed. May God bless him.*

Bill and Cecelia Whitaker

Bill Whitaker - November 15, 2019 at 11:37 AM

BE

“ *Ruth Ann and family,
We are so sorry for your loss.
We are praying for my Lord to send comfort at this difficult time.*

Darrell and Belinda Robbins

Belinda - November 14, 2019 at 12:02 PM

TK

“ *Our sincere condolences and prayer for your family. We will dearly miss Windell at our Bay Court block parties.*

Tana Kettner - November 14, 2019 at 08:34 AM

MS

“ *Our condolences to the family - lifting all of you in prayer .*

The Selock Family

marlene Selock - November 12, 2019 at 10:17 AM

BR

“ Sincere condolences to Ruth , Kelly and all the family and friends. Thomas and Betty Russell.



Betty Russell - November 12, 2019 at 09:47 AM

RF

“ I'm so glad I knew Wendell. When we lived next door to his father, Ray, we would see Wendell dropping by after work to visit with his dad. They would sit on the porch next door to us and I remember thinking: "That's special. Every son should keep in such close touch with his father. I hope that's the case when I'm in Ray's shoes."

It was special, Ruth Ann, to see you coming to First Christian as the first new member added after we began our ministry there in 1993. So many great memories ... baptizing Kelly, watching Braxton play on the same T-ball team as our Julia, etc. etc.

I really got to be good friends (at least I would say so) with Wendell when we enjoyed coffee together at McDonalds in the mornings. I just wish I could have visited as his chaplain or friend these last few months.

May the Lord comfort, strengthen, and guide.

*In Christ's love,
Rod (and Jan)*

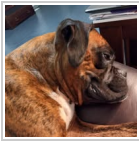
Rodney Farthing - November 12, 2019 at 09:36 AM

RW

“ My condolences to Ruth and family in the loss of our 59' classmate, Wendell. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Ronnie White

Ron White - November 12, 2019 at 09:34 AM



“ Condolences to the family on the loss of a great man. May God give you comfort and peace during this sorrowful time. Aunt Ruth Ann, my thoughts and prayers are with you and the rest of the family.

Peggy (Radford) Johnson

Peggy Johnson - November 11, 2019 at 09:11 PM

PJ

“ Sincere condolences to you all for your loss. Continued prayers during this difficult time.

Pam Jones

Pam Jones - November 11, 2019 at 06:30 PM

AG

“ I always loved my trips to Missouri ! Wendell always got such a kick out of the way I talked. He always welcomed me in his home as part of the family. I know he will be greatly missed. My love to you all from Cedartown, GA. Angie Gravett

Angie Gravett - November 11, 2019 at 06:24 PM

JB

“ Wendell was a good man and although I only seen him once in a while, we always shared a few stories. Always looked forward to visiting with him. My sympathy to his wife and family. Gone but never forgotten.

James Butler - November 11, 2019 at 05:17 PM

JA

“ I served with Wendell in the Salem Unit of the Missouri Army National Guard. I have not seen him in several years, but I remember him quite clearly. To his wife and all the other member of his family, you have my sympathy. I believe this is a better world having had Wendell live on it...

Jim Allen - November 11, 2019 at 04:32 PM

CL

“ Sincere condolences Ruth Ann and family. I'm sure my Mom will be very happy to see him in heaven. ❤️🙏❤️

Carol Lacy - November 11, 2019 at 03:12 PM