

Alec "Al" Wilson

August 21, 1947 – July 21, 2018

Born in Lansing in 1947, Al Wilson graduated from Eastern High School in 1965 and joined the United States Navy. After serving four years, he returned to the Lansing area where he became involved in the Lansing Jaycees. He loved classic cars, golf, traveling and watching his grandson, Cole, wrestle – Al was always his biggest fan. If he wasn't working on his '37 Ford Coupe or attending car shows, he was golfing with "Da Boyz".

When Al helped create the Capital Area Muscle Car Club in 2006, he could not have predicted that one of his proudest accomplishments would eventually bring him full-circle. Upon the Club's founding, Al spoke with his close friend, Dick Iding, to help decide which local non-profit the Club could dedicate their annual fundraising efforts to. Dick suggested Hospice House of Mid-Michigan at Sparrow, which continues to hold a special place in his heart; both the Club and Al quickly agreed that this was the perfect choice.

Since that time, the Capital Area Muscle Car Club members have diligently worked to raise funds benefiting Sparrow's Hospice House, raising more than \$72,000 to-date. Each year when their donation was delivered, it was truly a time of celebration. Al formed friendships with the Caregivers at Hospice House and looked forward to his annual visit. "He really felt good about doing something good for others," recalls Carol, Al's wife of 50 years.

Then, in 2014, Al was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells. Al fought bravely for four years, but eventually it became too much for his body to handle. On Friday, July 20, 2018, Al took his last trip to Hospice House where he was welcomed with open arms by those he had formed great bonds with over the years. Current and retired Caregivers alike went above and beyond to make sure he was comfortable, visiting on the weekend, and even welcoming his cat, Guthrie, for a visit. After 21 short hours, Al Wilson passed away surrounded by his loved ones.

"He didn't have to wait for help, it would be there immediately when he needed anything. The knowledge and support provided by Hospice House Caregivers made a huge impact on the family," recalled Carol. These amazing Caregivers prepared her for what was to come, helping to make both Al and Carol comfortable during their stay. "At the time, you're numb, but the Caregivers have so much knowledge, it gives you tremendous confidence in them."

Al will be remembered for his compassion and the loving adoration he held for Carol. During Al and Carol's 50 years of marriage they traveled the world, even making a special trip to Alaska in the fall of 2017. Al's love and legacy are continued by Carol, their daughter, Tish (Brock) Janes and grandson, Cole Janes, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless special friends.