



## Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson

July 17, 1947 - January 23, 2019

Mr. Mel Wilson of High River, Alberta passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on January 23rd, 2019 at the South Calgary Health Campus at the age of 71 years. Mel is survived by his daughter Lisa Wilson of Crowsnest Pass, Alberta; son Jason Wilson of Calgary; brother Nick of Texas and his father Lee Wilson of Texas.

A Celebration of Mel's Life was held on Friday, February 8th at 2:00 p.m. at the High River Full Gospel Church.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

FEB 8. 2:00 PM (MT)

High River Full Gospel Tabernacle

1802 9 Avenue SE

High River, AB T1V 2A6 (CA)

(403) 652-2633

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<http://www.hrfgc.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lyle Reeves Funerals created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson*



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**Lyle Reeves Funerals** - February 09, 2019 at 06:47 PM



“ *May the eagles lift Mel up through the clouds where the rainbows dance, and the sky touches the sun... may the wolf give him the foresight and direction to see the path clearly, and the bear give his family and friends it's strength at this time...*

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**Paula Leigh** - February 09, 2019 at 03:16 AM



“ *Colleen Gehrke lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson*



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**Colleen Gehrke** - February 08, 2019 at 02:50 PM

DD

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Mel's family and friends. My brother Terry Dubyk and I first met Mel in 1976 I remember him to a very kind person. I am so grateful that I did get to reconnect with Mel over the past couple of years. Diane Dubyk

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**Diane Dubyk** - February 08, 2019 at 12:23 PM

AG

“ Amos Garrett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson



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**Amos Garrett** - February 07, 2019 at 07:58 PM

AG

“ There aren't words to express Denise and my sorrow and the loss of this dear friend and brother in the great community of musicians, who share a knowledge and feeling for things known to only our brotherhood. Sail on Mel, and say hi to Bix and Louis for me--Amos Garrett

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**Amos Garrett** - February 07, 2019 at 07:57 PM

RG

Mel & I forged a friendship in the winter of 1975 which has lasted all these decades. A shared love of music & countless hours of conversation about life & it's meaning. Melvin, you were a philosopher!! You introduced me to the wonderful, wacky world of chords, i am grateful to you for sharing your vast knowledge. Memories to last a lifetime..... Thanks, Bud! Godspeed!  
Richard

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**Richard Gullison** - February 08, 2019 at 10:27 AM

DM

“ Mel was a kind & generous person. He started Black Diamond Food Bank which brought in goods over 2 evenings for 10 years. A mentor to many, a friend to all. Never recovered from impact of June Flood, 2013. Rest In Peace Old Friend. 🎵🎸🎹

Don & Joanne McCuaig - February 06, 2019 at 11:55 AM

BC

“ Brian, Lori and Jeremy Classen



Brian Classen - February 03, 2019 at 09:28 PM

MD

“ Melanie Dale lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson



Melanie Dale - February 01, 2019 at 11:38 AM

PO

“ Pat Orritt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson



Pat Orritt - February 01, 2019 at 11:36 AM



“ *Our heart-felt condolences to Mel's family. We will always carry fond memories of him as he worked his special kind of magic in this community. A gentle soul, a passionate human, and artist, ..... a teacher. Rest in peace.*

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**Annie Froese** - January 31, 2019 at 02:40 PM

CM

“ *Carol And Dave MacMillan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson*



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**Carol and Dave MacMillan** - January 31, 2019 at 10:17 AM

DH

“ *Dawn Holoboff lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson*



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**Dawn Holoboff** - January 31, 2019 at 12:32 AM

A(

“ First, my family and I would like to send our sincere condolences to Mel’s family.

*I met Mel years ago when I was working at Dudley’s, and I guess he must have forgiven me for not being a musician, because over time I’m proud to say we became close friends. At the time, I just had my oldest daughter, Milla, and Mel would let us take care of his beloved orchids and birds when he was away. When we stopped by for a visit, Mel would let Milla try out his old accordion or let her sit at the drum set in the shop, he was always so gracious.*

*I am thankful for the memories I have with Mel. The music he shared, the conversations we had, the laughs at what a crazy life this can be. Mel, I’ll sure miss your ‘Texas twang’, your smile, hearing your thoughts, your music, and the kindness of your heart.*

*Until we meet again, love to you. Amanda & Family.*

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**Amanda LaBerge (Barker)** - January 30, 2019 at 11:40 PM

AS

“ Andrew J Steel lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson



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**Andrew j Steel** - January 30, 2019 at 12:22 AM

AS

*He was my teacher in music and life.*

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**Andrew j Steel** - January 30, 2019 at 12:23 AM

RD

“ Renee Derbecker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson



Renee Derbecker - January 29, 2019 at 04:34 PM

SP

“ The Peterson's



Sharon Peterson - January 29, 2019 at 12:26 PM

BW

“ Our condolences to Mel's family. Mel was a great guy, and musician friend  
He will truly be missed.  
Bob and Joan Weder



Bob and Joan Weder - January 29, 2019 at 02:25 AM

 Chris Waterstreet

“ Chris Waterstreet lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson



Chris Waterstreet - January 28, 2019 at 11:30 PM

ML

“ *My thoughts and prayers to Mel’s family and his dear friend “Ella”.  
R.I.P. Mel*

**Marcel Levesque** - January 28, 2019 at 08:45 PM

ML

“ *Marcel Levesque lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Melvin Lee Wilson*



**Marcel Levesque** - January 28, 2019 at 08:43 PM

KG

“ *Kara Grad lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Melvin Lee Wilson*



**Kara Grad** - January 28, 2019 at 07:48 PM

JG

“ *Mel and I had some great laughs and shared some great tunes . He  
will live forever in fond memories. RIP BRO .*

**JOE gore** - January 28, 2019 at 06:36 PM

KH

“ We have known Mel since he came to Alberta. He did some tours with Keith.

Our daughter and grandchildren all took lessons with Mel. Many memories.

Condolences to his family. He was well loved.

Keith and Lauren Hitchner

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Keith and Lauren Hitchner - January 26, 2019 at 09:01 PM

SD

“ Our deepest condolences to all Melvin's family,  
Such a loss of a man who had so much passion for music, orchids, birds..and life.

We have very many great memories of him and whoever he was playing with at the pub, one of my faves is when he brought a young Jess singer in, they dressed the part sang for hours, damn we had fun! Mel and Kevin rented our ( haunted ) building and Mel lived upstairs, the ghost was so active when mel lived there,he got a kick out of it, but some of the other boys sure didn't !

Mel you went far to soon, you will be missed by all who knew and loved you..and there is many.

It was our great pleasure to know you and call you our friend.

On to your next gig Mel... hope it's as fun as this one was

Cheers ole boy. 🍺🎸🎤🎵

John & Sharon

P.s....scotch night's were the best !

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sharon Dale - January 26, 2019 at 02:07 PM

BC

“ When I think of Mel I just see a man who defined "cool". His laid back manner always made me feel good whenever or wherever I would meet him. I felt like "I had made it" whenever I played music with him. Thanks for being you Mel, I'll miss you as will my wife Kim and daughters Alandra and Marley. Our heartfelt condolences to his family.

*Brent Corrigan*

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**Brent Corrigan** - January 26, 2019 at 12:23 PM

RM

“ Robyn Morrison lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson



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**Robyn Morrison** - January 25, 2019 at 11:07 PM

HS

“ Heather And Ed Soderberg lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson



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**Heather and Ed Soderberg** - January 25, 2019 at 06:48 PM

DH

“ Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the passing of Mel. He was an amazing man. It was an honour to know him.

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**Dawn Holoboff** - January 25, 2019 at 05:00 PM

SK

“ A unique and talented man doing what he loved to do, while touching many, many lives. The kind of guy you figured would be here forever. As a teacher and friend, your memory will live on. Thank you for being you, Mel. God bless and condolences to the family.

sandra kraus - January 24, 2019 at 06:33 PM

KD

“ We are so sorry to hear of Mel's passing and send our condolences to his family and friends. I learned guitar from Mel - as did 5 of our 6 children. I also had the pleasure of performing with Mel on a couple of occasions. He was not only a gifted musician and performer, but a natural teacher. We all appreciated Mel's easy going style and enjoyed the time we spent with him. Besides working on guitar, we had great discussions about philosophy, film, math, tea - and life! High River has lost a great musical ambassador and a talented, thoughtful, gracious man.

Karen Dempsey - January 24, 2019 at 02:19 PM

RD

“ Rosemary Derbecker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson



Rosemary Derbecker - January 24, 2019 at 01:05 PM

BM

“ To all Mel’s family, my deepest condolences. Melvin was a true Gem of a man. His musical genius, mixed with his extraordinary personality, left everyone he came in contact with, in a true state of betterment. It was like, talking to Mel, or listening to him play, had a magical aura about it, & everyone experienced the feeling. In everyone’s life, they will meet an intriguing character, that will always hold a special place, in their hearts & minds, & Melvin will be that character for the many who knew & loved him. The crew upstairs, gained an amazing session player & singer, entertainer, teacher & philosopher, and an all around great guy. Carry on your amazing gift, Melvin, we all loved you, until our paths cross again, here’s to having known “The Real Deal”❤️❤️🙏🙏🎸🎸🍻🍻

Bert Montgomery - January 24, 2019 at 09:37 AM

JR

“ Jane And Joe Russell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson



Jane and Joe Russell - January 24, 2019 at 08:29 AM

BS

“ I first met Mel when he first moved to High River. I was awe struck by his ability to play such a broad spectrum of music. At that time he was struggling to care for his very precious son and daughter. Very shortly he was looking for a place to teach and share his knowledge of the guitar. I adapted and rented him a small space and often enjoyed standing around the corner and listening to talent in its blossoming. Mel loved to share with his students. I recall him teaching one student for free rather than him leave because his father had lost his job due to economic disruptions. I also recall one of his students having problems with her university music course. She was having problems with an assignment. He took time out of his day and shortly helped her to the right track. My own son took lessons from Mel for many years. I once asked him if he wanted to quit and the answer was "No Way". An answer I am sure that would have been echoed by many of his students.

Aside from his teaching Mel contributed to the music scene in the foothills area surrounding High River and its surrounding neighbors. Much of this performing was done to help others and he received little or no compensation, especially during the Christmas Season. I recall in 2008, Mel was MC - ing a show arranged by his very close friend Jeff Bradshaw. The premier star of the show was Don Helms who played steel guitar on almost all of Hank Williams recordings. When Don arrived he informed them that he much preferred to play to accompaniment rather than play solo. Mel was called upon as he knew many of Hanks songs. After the first song, Don turned to Mel, smiled and commented to the audience, " got a live one here" Little did he know the extent that that statement could cover.

Mel was a giving man and High River and surrounding area should be proud to have been blessed by him. I know that I am proud to have called him a very dear friend!!

*Bruce Stephenson and family.*

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**Bruce Stephenson** - January 23, 2019 at 05:59 PM

AT

“ *Athenna lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson*



Athenna - January 23, 2019 at 05:34 PM

AK

“ *As one of Mel's guitar students, I had the pleasure of getting to know him for the past 3 years. He was a great friend who could always make me laugh and brighten my day. He was a great musician and he will be missed.*

Aidan Kamarous - January 23, 2019 at 04:45 PM



“ *Sharon Doll sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson*



Sharon Doll - January 23, 2019 at 03:11 PM

CS

“ *Our condolences to the family at this very sad time. I remember meeting Mel when he was in his twenties while he was playing in the band at the Bowness Hotel in Calgary, those were the good old days.... We didn't see him often but we stayed in touch. We always stopped by when he was playing at the Calgary Stampede and we were always greeted with a smile and a big hug. He was an exceptional person and a great musician. He will be missed! Rest in Peace Mel.*

Chris & Stewart Saunders - January 23, 2019 at 02:38 PM

DD

“ *Donna Downey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Melvin Lee Wilson*



Donna Downey - January 23, 2019 at 02:15 PM

GP

“ *Sorry to hear of your loss. Mel had a big influence on me as a younger man as my guitar instructor. He was a good man and will be missed.*

Greg Pippus - January 23, 2019 at 12:27 PM

SK

*A unique and talented man doing what he loved while touching so many lives. The kind of guy you figure would be here forever. You touched our lives, teacher and friend. You will be missed as your memory lives on in all those you have touched. Thanks Mel, for being you. God bless and condolences to your family.*

sandra kraus - January 24, 2019 at 02:08 PM

ER

*I remember Mel as a great neighbor, patient teacher and Scout leader in the Black Diamond area. His quiet easy smile made him instant friends with everyone. He and Betty Foran were the inspiration and development of the first Food Bank concerts in the Black Diamond area, He wasn't shy about cornering all his musician friends to perform for free at the benefit for many years. I don't know who enjoyed it more, Mel, the artists or the audience. He contributed to his community in a way not known to many. Thanks Mel. The world is a little sadder without you.*

*Esther and Mike Rogers*

Esther Rogers - January 29, 2019 at 01:16 PM

KF

*High River lost a great musician, and a good friend. He was always a kind man. Still miss his store he was always there. Mel you will be missed. My condolences to your family. Rest in peace.*

*Bill & Karen Fewer.*

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**Karen Fewer** - February 06, 2019 at 12:43 PM

DA

*Mel was a quality man,,so kind and caring a role model for us all*

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**Douglas Anderson** - July 05, 2019 at 06:12 PM

RS

*I met Mel in 1993 when I first moved to the area and I would hang out playing guitar at the Tune Shoppe in High River and chat with him. He encouraged me to teach guitar and I owe him a great deal for that. He was an excellent person and an amazing guitarist. My condolences to his family.*

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**Rob Stokes** - August 02, 2019 at 02:45 PM