

# MARVIN NEAL WILHELM

August 31, 1937 ~ September 12, 2022 (age 85)

A funeral service for Marvin Neal Wilhelm, will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, October 29, 2022 at the United Church of Christ in Wheatland, Wyoming with Chaplain Quinn Wilhelm as an officiant. Inurnment will be at the Wheatland Cemetery with military honors accorded by Laramie Peak VFW Post 3558 and Ora Call American Legion Post #10 .

Marvin Neal Wilhelm (born a Wyoming Cowboy and Denver Bronco at heart) of Denver, Colorado passed away on Monday, September 12, 2022, peacefully in his home, surrounded by family and friends. He was 85 years old.

Marvin Neal Wilhelm was born at home, in Wheatland, Wyoming, on Tuesday, August 31, 1937. He was the eighth of nine children born to Katherine (Fox) and John Wilhelm, who were German immigrants from the Volga River region of Russia. Marvin was raised on the family farm just east of Wheatland, by his father who was a farmer and his mother who was a homemaker. Marvin maintained a close relationship with his other brothers who were still at home, John, Ronald, Harvey, and Larry. In 1949, Marvin's father was killed in an automobile accident, leaving Katherine a widow at 49, and to raise the four remaining boys at home, Ronald, Harvey, Marvin, and Larry.

Marvin attended schools in Wheatland and graduated from Wheatland High School with the class of 1955. Following graduation, he went to work for the J.M. McDonald Department Store in Wheatland, eventually rising to management positions in stores in other parts of Wyoming and Montana. Unhappy in the retail world, he enrolled at the University of Wyoming for two years in the late '50s. He enlisted in the United States Army in June of 1960, doing his basic training at Fort Hood, Texas before going overseas to Korea, where he remained until being discharged in March of 1962. Marvin remained in the United States Army reserves until June of 1966.

Marvin moved to Colorado after being discharged, living in several locations in the western Denver area suburbs. Marvin pursued a career in the field of home floorcoverings, working for several carpet firms in the Denver area. Marvin had always had a strong desire to own rental property, and in the mid 1970's this dream became a reality with the purchase of his first 4 plex on Logan Street in Denver. This small beginning led to the purchase of a 13-unit apartment complex on Columbine Street in Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood in the late 1970s. This apartment complex was flanked by a second apartment complex which was managed by a feisty red headed German woman named Ruth Steckler. Marvin invited her over to his apartment one day for coffee and the rest is history. Ruth and Marvin married in December of 1980. Together they were property owners to several properties and built a successful real estate portfolio.

Family was very important to Marvin, and he frequently spoke to his brothers and sisters on a weekly basis prior to their passing. He enjoyed their yearly Christmas get together at his sister Dorothy's and the family meetings they had, usually held at his sister Viola's ranch. He loved to travel and looked forward to his yearly trip to Wheatland for "Old Grads School Reunion." Marvin was a quiet man. To say he was a man who enjoyed family is almost an axiom. Marvin's greatest pleasure was to travel and see family and spend time enjoying food and drink and telling stories. Marvin traveled with his wife, Ruth, and they took many trips to Germany, enjoying morning coffee at the cobblestone street cafes close to their condo. A voracious reader, Marvin was extremely well read and very intelligent. Schooled by both he and Ruth's experiences, coupled with the deeply ingrained family work ethic. Marvin saw it as his duty somehow to support people who knew, as he did, to have struggled to succeed. Marvin was a die-hard Denver Broncos fan, and would never miss a game, even if he was in the hospital. He knew every statistic for every player on the team, any random question about football, Marvin had the answer. He was not short of words when watching football, and his speech was frequently laced with somewhat colorful metaphors. Marvin was a very deep thinker and a man of unquestionable loyalty to those he loved. He could be given to moments of complete spontaneity, but mostly his life was very modest and predictable. A man who would describe the perfect day as a comfortable chair and a good book.

Marvin was preceded in death by his parents, John and Katherine Wilhelm; siblings, Leo, John Jr. (Janet), Ronnie, Harvey (Jodie) and Larry, Dorothy (Herman), Ernestine (Willis), and Viola (Louis); and nephew, James Wilhelm.

Marvin is survived by his wife, Ruth; stepdaughter, Susan and her partner Keith; sister-in-law, Janice (Ron's wife); 21 nieces and nephews; several great and many great-great. He was the last of the nine Wilhelm brothers and sisters to join his family in eternity. Marvin was proud to be from Wheatland. His life started there, and he will return to be buried with his parents and brothers. The Wilhelm Family tree is now complete.

Donations can be made to the Platte County Library, 904 Ninth Street, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201 in Marvin's name.



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