



Wilma Ann Campbell

September 19, 1936 - January 13, 2023

Wilma Ann (Whiting) Campbell, an inspiration and teacher to many, passed away peacefully at the age of 86, on January 13, 2023. Wilma Ann was born to Elwood Edward and Eunice May (Fladeboe) Whiting, on September 19, 1936, in Charlotte, Michigan. She was the second child of a talented family of six. Her parents recognized early the musical ability Wilma had and she began dance lessons at the age of three. She was a good student, and participated in many extracurricular activities; band, cheerleading, plays, and had many lifelong friends in the CHS class of 1954.

Wilma had an opportunity through her Lansing dance teacher to open her own studio in Charlotte. During her Senior year, she became the owner and teacher of her very own dance studio. Soon after she had a blind date with a handsome young man from Olivet, the couple fell in love. Both Norm and Wilma were ambitious yet family oriented, so while Wilma taught dance classes, Norm attended General Motors Institute in Flint. Once married, it wasn't long before Norm was an engineer at GM and they had three children to add to their happiness.

Wilma owned the Campbell Dance Studio for 41 years where she and daughters Lori and Mary Jo taught classes. Many dancers started as toddlers and continued through high school and beyond. Hundreds of students and their families became part of the family of Campbell dancers over several

decades.

During her career Wilma was able to study with tap-greats at various workshops and conventions in Chicago, New York, LA, and Las Vegas. Her continued education with the art of dance never stopped, whether learning or teaching it. Her annual dance recitals were wonderful productions. The dancers especially looked forward to performing and many fond memories were made. She was a pro at enlisting people to help with behind-the-scenes projects, as well as getting a reluctant person to perform. One did not say NO to Wilma.

Wilma formed the "Dancing Deputies" group to perform as the local entertainment for Charlotte's annual Frontier Days festival. She was passionate about bringing entertainment to her community. Her dancers performed in talent shows, chorus line and band bounces for the CHS band, along with the Lowell and Chesaning Showboats as well as many other venues.

As the years went by, she was delighted to add more family, with in-laws, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was adept with social media so was able to stay in touch with her grands and greats and extended family and friends. She made all who knew her feel special and loved. Her very large extended family on both sides of the family tree benefited from her positive nature, kindness, and life lessons along the way.

During retirement Wilma and Norm enjoyed life on the road in a RV, life in Florida during the winter, and at their haven at Sugar Springs near Gladwin, MI. The grandchildren have many fond memories of golf camp, fishing trips, and swimming either in the lake or the clubhouse pool. Much special time was spent with the grandparents. Wilma's favorite pastime at the lake was the sunset rides on the pontoon when the weather suited her just right.

Wilma returned to live in Charlotte once Norm passed away in 2003. It was great to have her home and close to family again. It didn't take her long to become involved again with the Eaton Community Senior Center. She was once again able to either direct or be part of their variety shows and entertainment. She taught computer lessons to Seniors to keep up with modern technology.

Wilma is survived by her children, Lori (Steve) Coplin, Andy (Karen) Campbell, Mary Jo (David Hosey) Campbell; grandchildren, Jason Mills, Ryan (Nicci) Baum, Kindra (Larry) Smith, Patrick Baum, Holly (Chip) Nevins; great-grandchildren, Dayton Cubis, Lincoln Baum; Camden, Caysen, Colbie Nevins; Rozlyn, Molly, Brady Smith; brother, John (Sue) Whiting; brothers-in-law, Gerry Campbell, Brian (Sharon) Campbell, Gerry (Patti) Congleton; many nieces, nephews and their children; as well as cousins and their families; and several of her life-long friends. She was predeceased by her parents; her husband, Norm; parents-in-law, George and Bea Campbell; sisters, Lucille Tuckey, Marion Whiting, Leila Whiting, Linda (Matt) Silvas; in-laws, David (Judy) Campbell, Daniel Campbell, Shirley Campbell; son-in-law, Rex D. Baum; daughter-in-law, Cammi D. Campbell; and grandson, Corey A. Campbell.

Friends are encouraged to support Wilma's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. The family will receive visitors Friday, January 20 3-5:00 p.m., and 7-9:00 p.m. at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. A Celebration of Life service will be Saturday, January 21 at 2:00 p.m. at Charlotte Assembly of God. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com, click on Wilma's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from

your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Eaton Area Senior Center or Siren of Charlotte. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 20. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

JAN 20. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Visitation

JAN 21. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Charlotte Assembly of God
1100 E. Clinton Trl.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

JAN **21**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Charlotte Assembly of God
1100 E. Clinton Trl.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Wilma Ann Campbell



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - January 20, 2023 at 09:28 PM

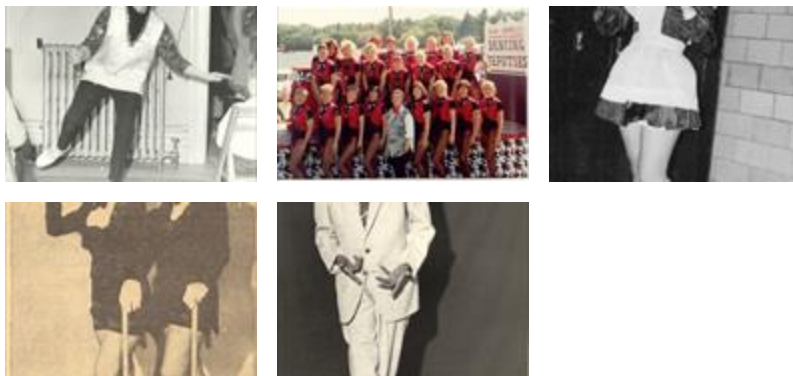
TL

“ My sisters and I were tap dance students of Wilma in the late 1960's, early 70's. We learned more than just tap dancing... accepting others, kindness, pride and joy come to mind. The recitals were when we really shone! Wilma was a wonderful teacher. I am sorry for your loss of her.
Terry Martens (Lindsey)

Terry Lindsey - February 01, 2023 at 07:49 PM

LC

“ 22 files added to the album Wilma and family



Lori S Coplin - January 24, 2023 at 06:47 AM

LC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories



Lori S Coplin - January 24, 2023 at 06:45 AM

RA

“ I attended warm and beautiful Memorial Service for my Cousin Wilma on line and felt her presence with me here in Florida. Happy to have shared face time with her in August at Campbell Summer Fest. Will be in touch soon, as she kept in touch with me in the past via email. HUGS & THOUGHTS to Lori, Andy, Mary Jo & families/



Becky (Struble) & Tony Aimone

Rebecca Aimone - January 21, 2023 at 05:01 PM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 21, 2023 at 05:46 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wilma Ann Campbell.



January 21, 2023 at 10:48 AM

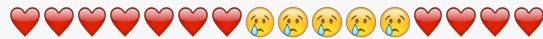
CB

“ When I was 4 my parents decided to get tap lessons for me. I was enrolled in the Jimmy Walter's dance studio in Lansing. Jimmy started with me, but soon switched me to one of his young instructors (Wilma). Within a few months Wilma decided to open her own studio in Charlotte. My parents decided to follow Wilma for my lessons. I was her first student in the small garage. She was a part of my life for 71 years. I echo all the amazing tributes written by everyone that new her. She had an impact on my life that helped me through the good times and not so good times, always with kind words,unbelievable patience and beautiful smile. She will always be in my heart and I know she is with God's Angels instructing them in some sort of entertainment. I love you Wilma more than words can adequately express and I will miss you so.



Connie Burgess - January 21, 2023 at 08:05 AM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 21, 2023 at 10:13 AM

SF

Very well said Connie. Great memories with Wilma teaching Beth and I. Great times.

Steve Fish - January 22, 2023 at 11:51 AM

AS

“ Aunt Wilma, I have so many Awesome memories with you, Uncle Norm, Lori, Andy and Mary Jo! Very close with all your Grandchildren! I'm gonna really miss chatting with you, and Leila! After Mom & Dad passed away you both were there for Me!! I hope you knew how grateful I am for that, and for Loving my Family along with Me, we all Love and will miss you, but the Memories we have are forever!! Our Motorhome trip to Jackson, for ice cream...you guys took not only your 3, all of the Tuckey kids and us 4 Silvas kids, what a day that was. Trips to the lake in your camper with my little sister Angel, and I many dance recitals for us girls. then our girls. Even my baby Granddaughter Raelynn got in on it...trips with Uncle Norm pulling us in the snow with his tractor! So many to mention! My favorite tho, Christmas at your House!! Rest in Heaven till we meet again..love u the most!

Amelia Sawatzki - January 20, 2023 at 10:22 PM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 21, 2023 at 10:14 AM

PB

My condolences to the family. I will miss seeing Wilma's smiling face. She was such a beautiful lady inside and out. She was always there with a helping hand. Wilma will be missed by many, she has done a lot for the community and many people.

Pauline Borgman

Pauline Borgman - January 21, 2023 at 12:57 PM

CH

“ Hi Lori

We just wanted you to know our thoughts are with you, and we're sorry to hear of the loss of your mom.

Craig and Diane

Craig Holmes - January 20, 2023 at 01:11 PM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 21, 2023 at 10:14 AM

BF

“ *Wilma was a special friend. We go way back to when she was teaching dance out of her Dad's garage. When she formed Dancing Deputies, she asked me to join. We had taken dance training at the same school of dance in Lansing. I knew it would be great to work with Wilma. Just look where she took the "Deputies"! Wilma was a great lady. She will missed.*

Barbara Franks - January 20, 2023 at 12:19 PM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 21, 2023 at 10:15 AM

AC

“ I would like to express my deep admiration and love for Wilma. She was the most highly evolved human I have ever met in person. I always felt seen by her no matter how many other people were around. She affected everyone emotionally and happily. She was a very profound friend to my mother, Connie Keeny Carpenter for over 80 years. No matter how much time went by without seeing each other, there was a strong bond even stronger than sisters. She was a beauty, intelligent and talented off the measurable charts! The world will not be the same, but she will live on in the hearts of so many people, young and old. Thank you to her wonderful family for sharing.

Anne B Carpenter - January 20, 2023 at 05:09 AM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 21, 2023 at 10:15 AM

KS

“ When I think of Wilma I think there is one classy Lady. She had the most loving heart and best smile. She was a friend of my Aunt Connie for 80 + years and was a part of our family. I am honored to have said that she was my tap dancing teacher also. The last time I saw her was at the sock hop and I waited on her. She gave me a big hug and said Thank You.(I felt good I could do it for her.). She was such a special lady who will be missed. Thank You to her Family for sharing her with us.

Kerri Stiver - January 19, 2023 at 03:43 PM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 19, 2023 at 11:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wilma Ann Campbell.*



January 19, 2023 at 08:35 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Wilma Ann Campbell.*



January 18, 2023 at 10:36 AM



“ *Wilma had a way of making you feel like she loved you most! She truly poured her love out on so many and made us each feel special. She recruited me for the Gypsy Rose Lee musical when I was in 10th or 11th grade and again as The Artful Dodger in Oliver the following year. You know “boys” never want to get involved in that “sissy stuff,” but I’m so glad she got me involved. I really enjoyed it and they has proven to be lifelong fond memories for me. I also remember how she recruited many of us for the St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital drive each year. I didn’t particularly like knocking on doors asking for donations but knew it was a worthy cause, so I was proud to be a part. She truly had a heart for children. I will always love you and miss you, Wilma!*

Lynn VanVleck - January 17, 2023 at 10:38 PM



Lori Coplin - January 17, 2023 at 11:04 PM

CC

A light has gone out in my world, I have lost the greatest friend anyone ever had. We had 80+ years of being "sisters of the heart". I miss you but thanks for all the wonderful memories. RIP

Connie Carpenter - January 18, 2023 at 01:16 PM

CH

Well said Lynn

Craig Holmes - January 20, 2023 at 01:13 PM

KR

“ *Sad to read the news. The world will miss this fellow entertainer. RIP Wilma, I know there will be dancing in heaven!*

Keith Reynolds - January 17, 2023 at 04:39 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Wilma Ann Campbell.*



January 17, 2023 at 03:03 PM

JY

“ Dance has been a part me for as long as I can remember and still to this day, is something I dedicate my time to. This would not be a part of my identity if it were not for Wilma. Shortly after moving to Charlotte, my mom enrolled me in tap classes at Campbell Dance Studio with Wilma. During my first year, it was safe to say that I was not fully on board with tap dance. I didn't want to go to my classes and asked my mom if I could quit. My mom, not knowing what to do, sought Wilma's advice. Wilma instructed my mom to teach a lesson in finishing what you start. That I could stop dancing after the recital, but to at least finish it out. Well, my mom followed Wilma's advice and I completed my first recital and never looked back. One show was all it took, and I fell in love with dancing and performing. I was a part of 23 Campbell Dance Studio recitals and am going into my 13th year as a Dancing Deputy. To say my life would be markedly different without Wilma Campbell is a massive understatement. Thank you, Wilma, for everything you have given to my life. If it wasn't for what you did, I would not be who I am today. You have planted in my heart and in my soul a never-ending rhythm that will bloom forever.

Jillian Yeates - January 17, 2023 at 02:56 PM

MW

“ God has received another angel in Wilma. We will miss you so much lovely lady. Rest In Peace and know how much you were loved and that you will be remembered by so many. Our prayers and condolences to your family.

Modesta and Wes Whitworth - January 17, 2023 at 01:44 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wilma Ann Campbell.*



January 17, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ *Wilma was our band chorus line instructor and we all loved her. She had such a quiet way of teaching us and made us want to be the best. God has a place for you, Wilma. Loved you so much!*

Joan Saums Post-Brown - January 17, 2023 at 01:04 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Wilma Ann Campbell.*



January 17, 2023 at 12:59 PM

SF

“ To a wonderful woman who I can honestly say help start my love for dance. This passion for performing help me grow into the person I became. I was able to pass on to future students as a teacher myself always remember where I came from. I remember practicing in the basement of her house and the painting on the wall behind us of a stage. She was a kind and wonderful person who will never be forgotten. She is dancing in the stars!!



- Steve Fish

Steve Fish - January 17, 2023 at 12:05 PM

SF

“ Steve and Joe Fish purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Wilma Ann Campbell.



Steve and Joe Fish - January 17, 2023 at 11:59 AM

DH

“ Her loss brings tears to my eyes. She was the very definition of an "Earth Angel" for all the lives she touched with her grace, love, kindness and compassion. Her hugs were the best. Such a loss for all of us but beautiful gain in Heaven.

Denise Hummel - January 17, 2023 at 11:35 AM

LP

“ *The most graceful, fabulous, teacher I ever hadfor 18.5 years. She was my favorite teacher of ALL! Her warm smile, delightful attitude & paitence of a saint are just a few of her fine qualities that were displayed while teaching. I love her and she will be missed!!! God has a SPECIAL & KIND ANGEL in WILMA!!!!*

Lori Page - January 17, 2023 at 06:49 AM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 17, 2023 at 08:10 AM

JR

“ *What a timeless lady! We go way back to gymnastics and tap dance at around 10 years old and then Dancing Deputies and alumni deputies later on, so over 50 years! She was my second mom and definitely influenced my life. With her infectious smile; gentle voice; encouraging words; and genuine interest in how others were doing, how could you not feel better after being with Wilma? Her legacy lives on in her family, and now she is reunited with her dear Norm. I will miss her deeply, but I celebrate a life so well lived. She will live on in all of our hearts, and I hope that will bring comfort to you in the days ahead.*

Jennie Richardson - January 16, 2023 at 07:15 PM

DA

“ *Dawn Adams purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Wilma Ann Campbell.*



Dawn Adams - January 16, 2023 at 06:46 PM

LH

“ My deepest condolences for Lori & her family. Wilma (grandma) was wonderful, loving, kindest, giving lady that was full of life. So many wonderful memories have been shared through our daughters with time spent with Wilma at the lake during the summer. Especially playing the game “ hand & foot “! Cherish all your memories and hold each one close to your heart as she is looking down smiling brightly at all of you !

Lorie Hartley - January 16, 2023 at 06:18 PM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 17, 2023 at 08:10 AM

JJ

“ oh the memories of this beautiful woman! I was one of the privileged to be in the high school band when Wilma taught the chorus line our routines for the annual Band Bounce. Years later, her Dad married Lloyd's mom, Dorothy, and she and Lloyd were happy to share the fact they were "brother and sister" through this union! She was also Lloyd's classmate and a very dear friend to both of us. Charlotte will miss this super talented lady. And so will her many friends!

jackwyn e johnson - January 16, 2023 at 04:15 PM

MC

“ She was nothing short of extra special, that's for sure! I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of her legacy with Campbell Dance Studio and The “Dancing Deputies”. I will miss her beaming smile while performing so much. I will continue to dance and appreciate the art- in Wilma's honor ☐

Malia Cicorelli - January 16, 2023 at 04:11 PM

DH

“ Wilma was the most smiling and pleasant woman I have known. You wanted to be in the Senior Center Productions each year, she was inventive, and professional!. I also was her partner on a game on Face Book. Your family has my sincere condolences for your loss of Mom, grandma, aunt, and friend. She was pure elegance! Gonna miss her.

Diane Hudson - January 16, 2023 at 03:53 PM

CF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carrie French - January 16, 2023 at 02:45 PM

RS

“ As a classmate I was always in awe of her talent, I worked on several of her shows at the school as the stage manager. She was a great person fun, beautiful and I always wanted to date her. Our last visit she told me she was very happy I had become a Minister. To the family I know your grief, but remember she is now teaching angels to dance with wings on our prayers during this time trust in our Lord for that peace.

Rev Leonard & Gayle Shults - January 16, 2023 at 02:21 PM

SP

“ *The news of Wilma's passing was so very sad. She was an incredible woman who contributed so much to the culture of Charlotte, as well as being a wonderful family woman. She was my friend Marion's big sister and I remember her a force of nature. My deepest sympathy goes to her family as they process this loss. Not everyone leaves a legacy like Wilma's.*

Sally Lange Padley - January 16, 2023 at 02:02 PM

BR

“ *My deepest condolences to all of you as you go through this difficult time. Wilma was such an amazing lady!!! When I first started taking dance lessons with her it was in an old chicken coop behind her parents house. I absolutely loved it. Then she moved her studio to the basement of her family home on South Boswick St in Charlotte. At that time Lori and Andy were little and she was pregnant with Maryjo. She didn't let that stand in her way of teaching dance. I remember her always being happy and treating her students with love as if they were her family also. At first I danced with an all girls group. My brother Butch used to tag along with me for my lessons. That gave Wilma the idea of having him and myself team up as a duo. Best thing ever to happen for us as it created a special bond between brother and sister that has lasted all of our lives. Thank you Wilma for making this possible. We love you and will miss you but will never forget the wonderful memories you have given us. R.I.P. Sweet Lady ❤️❤️*

Betty Fuller Root - January 16, 2023 at 01:13 PM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 16, 2023 at 11:19 PM

TM

“ My heartfelt sympathy to Lori, Mary Jo, Andy, and your family's. I don't think that there ever has or ever will be, someone so special that I was blessed to have in my life. My earliest memories that I have, Wilma is in them. As a child she guided me like a mom, as an adult she was my friend but greatest of all she taught me to dance. I will hold you all in my hearts. May your wonderful memories that you shared together, her beautiful smile, and her love for her family that we all felt, help you through this most difficult time of your lives. With Love! Terry Morrison, Sue DePue and our family's

Terry S Morrison - January 16, 2023 at 12:42 PM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 16, 2023 at 11:19 PM

DR

“ I was a student of Wilma's starting 4th grade to Sophomore in high school. Wilma's building into my life as a young man both dancing and character was instrumental in preparing me to have success in every facet of my life. She will always hold a special place in my heart. Praying for the Lord to give her family a peace and comfort that only He can down.

Dick Ranshaw - January 16, 2023 at 12:29 PM

LC



Lori Coplin - January 16, 2023 at 11:20 PM

SC

In 1969, when Brian and I were married, Beatrice Campbell, my new mother-in-law, videotaped a portion of our reception. The technology was not what it is today; the movie was grainy and without sound, but we enjoy watching the memories that were recorded. In this video, we and the wedding guests were moving to a "slow dance". The floor was crowded, but skillfully weaving in and out was a lovely woman in a royal blue chiffon dress and her handsome husband, Norm. Not only was Wilma an excellent tap dancer, but she and my brother-in-law were both graceful ballroom dancers. We were fortunate to have Norm and Wilma in our lives for many years. I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to their loving children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Rest in peace, sweet sister-in-law.

Sharon Hartigan Campbell - January 18, 2023 at 07:01 AM

MD

Mary Hogle DeBar - January 20 at 9:30 AM

In 1951 I became a student at Olivet High School and soon became a member of the H.S. Marching Band. I was fortunate to be invited to join the Charlotte Marching Band on their summer camping trip and was lucky to be introduced to Wilma and her sister, Lucille, who were assigned to guide me thru the week's activities. I learned a lot under their guidance and it was a fun week! They put me at ease and I have never forgotten how kind they were to this poor country girl. What a wonderful experience for me.

Mary L DeBar - January 20, 2023 at 10:05 AM