



## Francis "Frank" Edward Wilson

August 18, 1943 - December 17, 2024

Francis (Frank) Edward Wilson of Saline, MI, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his devoted family, on December 17, 2024, at the age of 81. Frank was born on August 18, 1943, in Providence, RI, to the late Catherine and Francis Wilson. He spent his early years in South Providence, RI, before his family moved to Hartford, Connecticut, during his teenage years.

Frank was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 55 years, Helene Wilson, who was his unwavering partner through all of life's seasons. Together, they built a meaningful life, raising four exceptional children: Brian (Jaymi) Wilson, Cathy (Frank) Toth, Kevin (Jennifer) Wilson, and Michael (Melanie) Wilson. Frank was also a proud Papa to ten treasured grandchildren: Veronica, William, Korinne, Monica, Bianca, Molly, Kevin, Isabella, Mae, and Zander, each of whom he delighted with his famous pesto pasta and generous servings of ice cream.

Frank grew up among his close-knit cousins Charlene Mullen, Catherine Gallacher, Barbara Hodge, and the late Jean Kelly, with whom he shared a bond akin to siblings.

A natural storyteller, Frank lived a life brimming with adventure, and his experiences provided endless inspiration for his captivating tales. His lifelong passion for aviation not only fueled his dreams but also defined his career.

This passion led him to Michigan, where he and Helene raised their family. As a pilot, Frank's career took him around the globe, culminating in his retirement as a 757/767 Captain with United Airlines. Along the way, he forged lifelong friendships with colleagues who shared his love of flying.

If he wasn't in the sky, he wanted to be in the ocean. His love for the salty water began at Roy Carpenter's Beach, where he worked as a lifeguard and honed his skills as a surfer. Later in life, he cherished summers at his home in Narragansett, RI, where he could often be found swimming, speed walking along the shore, and catching up with family and friends.

Having a full house with his children and grandchildren was the cornerstone of Frank's happiness, especially during Christmas. Wearing his Santa hat and playing classic Christmas music, he poured his heart into preparing a memorable feast, followed by hours spent together around the Christmas tree—moments his family will forever treasure.

The family invites all who knew and loved Frank to a visitation at Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home on Sunday, December 22nd, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Saline, MI, on Monday, December 23rd, at 10:30 AM, with visitation beginning at 9:30 AM. Father John Linden will preside as Celebrant. In accordance with Frank's wishes, cremation will follow, and his ashes will be placed in the St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Columbarium, beside his wife, Helene. For those unable to attend in person, the funeral Mass will also be live-streamed by visiting this link <https://youtube.com/live/GG-mg25xrCI?feature=share>. In lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to the Michigan Flight Museum (<http://miflightmuseum.org>) ([miflightmuseum.org](http://miflightmuseum.org)) in Frank's memory.

To share a fond memory you have of Frank, to sign his guestbook, or for directions, please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com).



# Cemetery Details

## St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church Columbarium

910 Austin Road  
Saline, MI 48176

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **22**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
301 E Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176  
(734) 429-9760  
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com  
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

## Visitation

DEC **23**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
910 Austin Dr  
Saline, MI 48176-1157  
(734) 429-5210

## Mass of Christian Burial

DEC **23**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
910 Austin Dr  
Saline, MI 48176-1157  
(734) 429-5210

## Luncheon

DEC **23**. 11:40 AM (ET)

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church  
910 Austin Dr  
Saline, MI 48176-1157  
(734) 429-5210

# Tribute Wall



“ Robison-Bahnmiller Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a  
The livestream of the service will start at apx. 10:20 A.M. in memory  
of Francis "Frank" Edward Wilson



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**Robison-Bahnmiller Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - December 19, 2024  
at 12:13 PM

BT

“ Uncle Frank ws always happy, jovial and knowlegeable. He would  
stay at our house in NY when flying and talk for hours about his  
adventures as a pilot and discuss the interesting history and  
mechanics of flight. Every summer he would challenge me to a  
swimming race in the ocean. I would tell him he could never beat  
me to Monahans from the beach; he would roar with laughter and  
eventually say you are right:) He brought a lot of fun times to our  
summers and we will all miss him.

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**Beth T.** - December 20, 2024 at 07:53 AM

AR

“ Frank was a big Trump fan and when Trump ran for President in 2016... I told Frank I was never voting for him. He was so sure (and rightly so) about Trump. He said to me “Annie, just listen to Trump one time” He made me promise and I did listen to Trump speak... and I was sold. It was through Frank that I became a Trump fan too. He was right!  
I loved Frank and Helene and miss them but KNOW I will see the both in heaven someday!!! God bless his precious family.

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Anne Redmond - December 18, 2024 at 10:09 PM

IS

My grandpa was an amazing papa he always spoiled me and my cousins when we came over. He offered us ice cream and any other sweets he knew they had, but almost never offered us real food. There was only one type of potatoes he would eat, sweet potatoes. He would give me a whole lecture on why I should eat them when he knew I didn't like them, so my defense was always "Well then why don't you try some real potatoes, not sweet ones." then he would back off laughing and saying no no and no.  
There was not one time that when I went over he would either ask or already have his holy water ONLY in his special cup that was labeled Papa's holy water so that no one else could use it.  
I think he was a very lucky guy from the stories my mom told me like the one when he crashed into a corn field and just walked away from the wreck down the road till a police picked him up and gave him a ride, also another one was when he was supposed to fly one the of the flights that got hijacked on 9/11 but he was switched to a different flight and many other flying incidents.  
But now he gets to have an even better life that is eternal and soon ne and all of my family will be with him and my grandma.

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Isabella - January 08, 2025 at 11:21 AM