



## Wesley H. Hilst

August 2, 1936 - January 1, 2016

Wesley H. Hilst, 79, of Havana, passed away at his home, surrounded by his family at 4:03 a.m. on Friday, January 1, 2016. He was born August 2, 1936 in Pekin, IL to Wesley Arthur and Martha Agnes (Graf) Hilst. He married Dixie Willoughby on August 17, 1958 in Pekin.

Wes is survived by his wife, Dixie, of Havana, three children, Eric (Kathy) Hilst of Delavan, Gwen (Charles) Lutz of Wisconsin, Peter (Tabby) Hilst of Havana, twelve grandchildren; Erika, Olivia, Isabella, Cody, Jacob and Gus Hilst, Lauren and Ian Russell and Joshua, Alex, Ruger and Derringer Hilst, as well as one sister, Lois Ann Sunderland of Arizona. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Kenneth Hilst and one sister, Betty Lou Canterbury. Wes served in the US Army after graduation from high school. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Manito. He was a member of the Havana Optimist Club and former member of the Peoria Sportsman's Club. He was Past President of the Manito-Forest City Rotary Club, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow. He had served as Manito Township Road Commissioner. He worked for Caterpillar Inc. for ten years and was later an Iron Worker with Local #112. He owned his own construction company, farmed and owned retirement homes in Canton, Manito and Havana. He was the Cooperative Weather Observer for the National Weather Services. He enjoyed gardening and sharing his harvest with anyone who could use it. He especially loved to hunt, travel, garden, mow and spend time with his family and friends.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 8, 2016 at Hurley Funeral Home in

Havana from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Manito on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. with visitation one hour prior to the service, also at the church. Rev. Eugene Haug will officiate. Burial will follow the services at Meadow Lawn Cemetery in Manito.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Wesley Hilst Family LP Farm Scholarship, Havana Optimist Club for Children's Christmas Shopping or to the donor's choice. Online memorial messages may be left for the family at [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com).

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Meadow Lawn Cemetery

Manito, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana  
217 North Plum Street  
P.O. Box #648  
Havana, IL 62644  
(309) 543-2244  
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

## Visitation

JAN 9. 9:30 AM (CT)

St. Pauls Lutheran Church  
21819 N CR 3300 E  
Manito, IL 61546

## Memorial Service

JAN 9. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Pauls Lutheran Church  
21819 N CR 3300 E  
Manito, IL 61546



# Tribute Wall



“ *Wesley H. Hilst*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Andy And Demetria Stafford lit a candle in memory of Wesley H. Hilst*



**Andy and Demetria Stafford** - January 12, 2016 at 09:07 PM



*Wes had a light that shined inside of him, that only comes from a man who loves God. He was, a good friend and will truly be missed!*

**Andy and Demetria Stafford** - January 12, 2016 at 09:10 PM



*Thank you so very much.*

*Gwen*

**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:24 AM

JE

“ *Dixie, Eric, Gwen, Peter and families*

*Our deepest condolences on your loss. I shared the news with our boys and all had the fondest memories of spending time with Wes and all of you, and I think that was his gift. All who knew him have memories he created for us to cherish.*

*Thinking of you always*

*Carrie and Jeff Litchfield and family*

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**Jeff** - January 11, 2016 at 02:04 PM



*Jeff and Carrie, thank you and thank you for such kind words. I remember all the great memories like they were yesterday of all of you coming to the farm and lifting us all to dunk baskets. Some of my fondest memories. Miss you dearly,*

*Love,*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:27 AM

SW

“ *Dixie, Gwen, Pete and Family -- So sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

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**Sheila Meyer Wermager** - January 08, 2016 at 04:38 PM



*Thank you Sheila. Was nice seeing your mom and dad at the visitation.*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:28 AM

KD

“ Wes, you were a very well loved man probably because you practiced the saying "What goes around comes around". You touched many lives and many that you weren't even aware of in all of your caring, thoughtful generosity. You will be sorely missed by many.

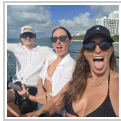
*Every time I look across to where you planted watermelons I get am sad. Some at the VA didn't know your name but they associated you with watermelons. Love ya, dear friend and all of your family.*

*Dixie and family...we are so sorry for your loss. May God's comfort, blanket you all and keep you in His loving mercies. Since I have been sick, I won't be coming tonight, but my prayers will be with you all. Blessings.*

*Karen and Minton Dings*

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**Karen Dings** - January 08, 2016 at 01:08 PM



*Karen and Minton, your message was so kind and brought tears to my eyes once again. I'm so glad my father was able to befriend so many people in so many wonderful ways. I miss him so much as obviously so many others will as well.*

*Fondly,*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:30 AM

ES

“ *Dixy, Eric, Been, and Pete, so sorry to hear about Wes, he was a good man that would help people whenever they needed help.*

*I remember when Deanna and I got married  
( Feb 1988 ) the day before we were married a bad snowstorm  
closed the church road, Wes  
worked to ensure the road stayed open so our wedding could go on  
as planed I was always greatful for that*

*Ernie Brust*

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**Ernie Brust sr.** - January 07, 2016 at 07:47 PM



*Ernie,*

*Lol! He was very proud of his job being road commissioner and glad he made such an impression on your life.*

*Gwen*

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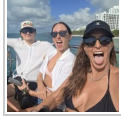
**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:31 AM

TM

“ *WesLey H. Hilst I am not considered part of your family yet (but you made me feel that way) but one of these days Pete and I will make is official! My boys will forever miss and will always here wonderful stories about you. Your family loves and misses you but we all know u are no longer in pain and you are at peace. Pete misses you and isn't taking it very well maybe you can send him some kind of peace his way. Love you and you will be missed everyday.*

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**Tabitha Martin** - January 06, 2016 at 12:53 PM



*Tabby, though your last name is not Hilst you are part of the Hilst family. Dad loved you, Ruger, "Danger" and was especially very proud and loved Peter very much. I wish he could have been here longer to have made memories with your two boys like he has the other grandchildren. We will all make sure to share the wonderful stories we have of their grandfather with them in the future.*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:35 AM

LA

“ *Dixie and family.....*

*We are so sorry to hear of Wes' passing. His kindness to Connie's parents many years ago will never be forgotten. He made the transition so much better for them when they left their farm home and moved to the retirement home in Manito. You have our deepest sympathy and prayers.*

*Larry and Connie (Schumm) Ary*

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**Larry & Connie Ary** - January 06, 2016 at 11:32 AM



*Larry and Connie, thank you so much for the kind words. My father enjoyed very much making sure each resident was comfortable and happy as if they were a part of our own family when they stayed at the retirement home.*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:37 AM

TH

“ so sorry to hear of wes's passing. that man could always make us laugh with one of his many stories. the fun dad (bud) and David and i had hunting on the farms with you guys are fond fond memories that we will always cherish. the help he gave mom and dad back when they were all living outside manito was priceless. i am so so sorry i won't make visitations and the funeral as i have to work, but believe me i will be thinking about him. he was a good man. a honor to be his relative.  
Tim and David Hilst



tim hilst - January 05, 2016 at 05:29 PM



Tim and David, thank you so much for the kind words and reminding me of the fun memories. Your dad always made me laugh as well. I always enjoyed coming out to the house and visiting your parents. Your words I truly treasure. Thank you!!

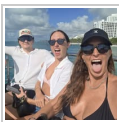
Gwen

Gwen Lutz - January 17, 2016 at 12:40 AM

JS

“ We are so sorry about Wes. He was such a nice man. Thinking of you during this difficult time.  
Sincerely,  
Jerry Gregory and family

Jana Swisher - January 05, 2016 at 04:56 PM



Thank you Jerry so much.

Gwen

Gwen Lutz - January 17, 2016 at 12:41 AM

KB

“ I am so sorry for your loss, thinking and praying for you all, Wes was a very sweet man. If there is anything I can do for you please let me know.  
Kathy Brooks



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**Kathy Brooks** - January 05, 2016 at 12:56 PM



Thank you Kathy.

Gwen

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:42 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Wesley H. Hilst.



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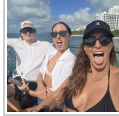
January 05, 2016 at 12:42 PM

SM

“ Dixie and Family,  
It must make you feel a little better to read all the tributes and kind words written about Wes. He had many friends. He always had a smile and friendly greeting when we saw him. He will be missed.  
Our sincere condolences.  
Steve and Kay Moehring

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**Steve and Kay Moehring** - January 05, 2016 at 09:56 AM



*Steve and Kay,*

*I am extremely taken back by each and every tribute. Obviously, every one has their own wonderful note but amazing how dad has touched people's hearts and lives in so many ways. I will obviously not be the only one who misses him on a daily basis. Thank you.*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:44 AM

CH

“ *I am so sorry for for your loss, Wes and I would tease each other alot. Know he will be missed by many. Thoughts and prayers to family and friends..*

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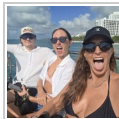
**Chris and Jerry Hackman** - January 05, 2016 at 06:38 AM

Y(

*I am so sorry to hear about Wes. He was a very kind man and will be dearly missed*

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**Yvonne Faichney (Hony)** - January 05, 2016 at 09:37 PM



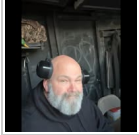
*Chris and Jerry,*

*Lol! I'm sure you are not the only one dad teased. I miss him dearly and am touched by everyone's kind words. Thank you*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:47 AM

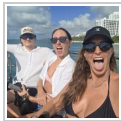


“ Ms. Dixie - and family, words can not near express my heartfelt sorrow.. . Mr. Wes, one of the first, I met during the planning stages of the Havana ferry Project. welcoming me into his home and " Ms. Dixie" taking me in allowing me to set up shop at the retirement home -- becoming very close to them, there friends and family . even to this day-- with a family and career pulling me in many directions, only in passing by - by river i get to wave at them -- I'll always give Mr. Wes a toot salute on the boat whistle when I pas the harbor...

*Peace in Christ*  
*Capt. Jim Cheatham*

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**Jimbo Cheatham** - January 05, 2016 at 01:14 AM



*Jimmy,*

*I cannot begin to thank you enough for the kind words. Dad thought the world of you. All the last night's visiting and sitting up just talking, cooking and/or grilling with all of us, being one and all with our family, the list goes on and on. It was a pleasure having you in our (or their) "home" (lol) and being included as part of our family.*

*Fondly,*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:53 AM

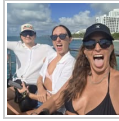
KB

“ Dixie, Pete, Gwen and Eric we are so sorry to hear about Wes. He was a one of a kind. He was always kind to everyone he came across. It was a pleasure to know him. We were always supplied with produce at the DMV he made sure he took care of us. We will miss him dearly. Our deepest condolences go out to you all.

*You're in our prayers,*  
*Chad & Kendra Braden*

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**kendra braden** - January 05, 2016 at 12:10 AM



*Kendra and Chad,*

*Ah honey!! Thank you so much for the kind words. Wow, never realized how many people dad stopped by and dropped veggies by for. Puts a smile on my face.*

*Gwen*

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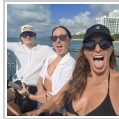
**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 12:55 AM

DB

“*Doug and I are so sad about Wes's passing. We so loved him and will miss him so much! You and your children have our deepest condolences. Janet and Doug*

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**Doug and Janet Bailey** - January 04, 2016 at 11:57 PM



*Janet and Doug,*

*Thank you so much for the kind words. Thank you to Doug for stopping by the house after dad had passed and checking in on us as well. Dad had such great and silly memories with the two of you during Christmas. The two of you are definitely treasured friends. Thank you for always being so special to my parents.*

*Love,*

*Gwen*

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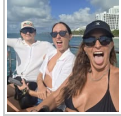
**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:05 AM

LH

“*Gwen, so saddened to here of Wes passing. I have such fond memories of spending time with your family...prayers to all.*

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**Linda D. Hilton** - January 04, 2016 at 11:43 PM



*Linda, thank you so very much. This has been a very difficult time for me but easier knowing my friends have been here for me.*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:06 AM

LL

“ *Laura Litchfield purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Wesley H. Hilst.*



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**Laura Litchfield** - January 04, 2016 at 10:25 PM

DE

“ *Our condolences to the Hilst family.  
Darrin, Amy, and Kaitlyn Edwards*

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**Darrin Edwards** - January 04, 2016 at 09:20 PM



*Thank you so very much.*

*Gwen*

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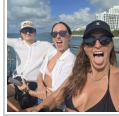
**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:08 AM

LL

“ *So sorry that your family is having to go through this. I do not begin to understand why just terrible illness strikes such wonderful families. Your family has been and will be in my thoughts and prayers. Laura Litchfield*

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**Laura Litchfield** - January 04, 2016 at 09:19 PM



*Laura, Amen girl! You nailed that right on the head baby. Thank you for the beautiful flowers. I have them here with me now in Wisconsin and enjoy them every day. Thank you for your kind words. Love you,*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:10 AM

LH

“ *What a great loss, terribly sorry to hear of this. My deepest sympathies and prayers for peace.*



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**Linda Helfers** - January 04, 2016 at 08:58 PM



*Thank you Linda.*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:10 AM

SH

“ My deepest condolences to the entire Family. My heart is saddened to hear of his passing. I have many fond memories of Wes as I spent alot of time with him as a young child at his retirement home or cruzing in many of his classic cherished vehicles in local parades. He had a heart of Gold and a smile that was so welcoming and vibrant. He opened my heart to the elderly community that all started with singing with my Brownie troop as a kid during the holidays in Manito. He welcomed me back with open arms as I loved to visit with the residents. I also had the pleasure of tagging along with him on side jobs as his business flourished. His heart was full of love. May he rest beyond the Golden Gates and gain his Golden wings. May God be with his loved ones to comfort them today and the days ahead.



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**Sharnelle** - January 04, 2016 at 05:14 PM



*Sharnelle, what a wonderful tribute to my father. Trying so hard to remember your face or if we may have met?! Regardless, I am so glad you and my dad did. Sounds like he made an incredible impression and impact on your life. It warms my heart when I read stories like this where dad met and/or talked with people putting either a spark in their day or even their life; makes me smile each and every time.*

*I am continually amazed by how many people his bright spirit and warm personality touched on a personal basis. Your story touched my heart and I thank you for sharing it with me and my family.*

*Fondly,*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:40 AM

MR

“ I'm so sorry to here Wes has passed. I work at Ace Hardware for several years and he was one of my favorite customers. Always so sweet. He would bring me tons of produce. One of the kindest people I have had the pleasure of knowing. I know he will be missed my many.  
Megan Ruschmeyer

megan ruschmeyer - January 04, 2016 at 01:27 PM

HM

I'm so sad to hear that Wes passed. He was a great man. I feel richer for having the privilege of knowing him. I worked at several Mason county businesses and Wes was always one of my favorite customers. He will be missed.

Heather McGlothlin - January 04, 2016 at 05:58 PM



Megan and Heather,

Thank you both so very much for the kind words. My father always enjoyed visiting with everyone at local businesses and knowing that he had friends everywhere he went.

Heather, I am so happy so have had the pleasure to have met you while I was in town with dad and for his visitation. Thank you.for

Gwen Lutz - January 17, 2016 at 01:44 AM



Heather, oops, accidentally pushed post, thank you as well for your help during the difficult time I had while making copies of photos. You were a blessing.

Regards,

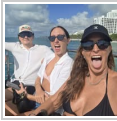
Gwen

Gwen Lutz - January 17, 2016 at 01:46 AM

TG

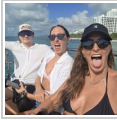
“ So sorry. I just wish soybeans and corn were in season so I could make the perfect bouquet for his memory. The memories we made driving the old railroad truck and station wagon during planting season, walking beans and getting stuck in irrigation ditches and Wes yelling at us, then laughing with us, and days in the hunting shed... Will always treasure them and the man we called Rudy. A true gem that will not be duplicated. My condolences to you all.

Terry Graff - January 04, 2016 at 07:40 AM



Station wagon with no flood boards....

Gwen Lutz - January 04, 2016 at 12:20 PM



Floor

Gwen Lutz - January 04, 2016 at 12:20 PM

RB

“ Dear Dixie, we extend our deepest condolences to you and your family. Thinking of you and sending hugs.  
Dave and Rita Badger

Rita Badger - January 04, 2016 at 05:11 AM



Dave and Rita,

Thank you so very much.

Gwen

Gwen Lutz - January 17, 2016 at 01:48 AM



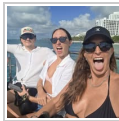
“ *Dixie and family we are so sorry for your loss and our prayers are with the family at this time.*



*Patricia, Derek, Cheryl, Stephanie, Brittany, and Ivie Hilst and Loretta Taylor.*

*(Derek and I (Patricia) are Ralph and Violet Hilst grandchildren and Gene Hilst was our dad. We know names of relatives, but haven't really don't know them since we live in Wisconsin.)*

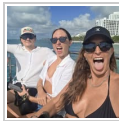
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**Trisha Hilst** - January 03, 2016 at 11:13 PM



*Thank you so very much.*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 04, 2016 at 12:14 PM



*I live in Wisconsin as well. Union Grove*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 04, 2016 at 12:16 PM

AT

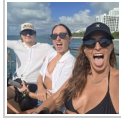
*I'm so sorry for your loss, Dixie. and condolences to the rest of your family. I am Wes's first cousin, daughter of his Uncle Ralph. My brother Gene died in October at the same age.*

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**Audrey Thorson** - January 04, 2016 at 03:44 PM

AT

*Wes was called "Sonny" when we were kids. My brother Gene and I used to love to play with Wes and his siblings because we were so close in age. After my family moved away we didn't get to see them as often.*

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**Audrey Thorson** - January 05, 2016 at 12:45 PM



*Audrey, thank you so very much for your kind words. I plan am sorry for the loss of your brother, Gene.*

*My daughter, Lauren who is 15, is named Audra Lee after our Hilst relatives.*

*I appreciate you taking time to share your tributes.*

*Fondly,*

*Gwen  
Wes' Daughter*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:53 AM

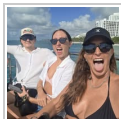


“ *Dixie and Family. You are in thoughts and hearts today. Please accept our condolences and know we will be holding you dear today and always. Mike and Linda Schwindenhammer and families*



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**Mike & Linda Schwindenhammer** - January 03, 2016 at 10:11 PM



*Mike and Linda,*

*Thank you so much for the kind words. Appreciate it so very much*

*Love,*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:54 AM

MA

“ *Mary Jo Alessi lit a candle in memory of Wesley H. Hilst*



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**Mary Jo Alessi** - January 03, 2016 at 05:40 PM

MA

*DIXIE. MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN YOUR LOSS OF WES. DID NOT REALLY KNOW HIM ALL THAT WELL, BUT WHAT I DID KNOW, "I LIKED." I KNIW HE MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT GUY.*

*Again, My Sympathy,*

*Mary Jo*

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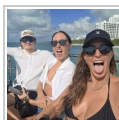
**Mary Jo Alessi** - January 03, 2016 at 05:45 PM

AL

*Dixie, We do miss our Manito friends and relatives. Cousin Wes was always ready to help out no matter who had a need. We are proud to call him a cousin and dear friend. May God bless you and your family today and in the days ahead with the reassurance that heaven awaits all believers. We will meet again.*

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**Al & Kay Llimback** - January 03, 2016 at 06:14 PM



*Thank you so very much for taking time to express your kind words and tributes to dad.*

*Fondly,*

*Gwen*

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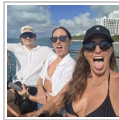
**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:56 AM

JH

“ *Pete and Tabby,  
Our heart goes out to you in your time of sorrow .Thinking of you  
Pete and how close you were to your father- may you find comfort in  
the great memories you shared Prayers sent to you and your family.  
Jan and Stan Hickle*

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**Jan Hickle** - January 03, 2016 at 03:28 PM



*Jan, thank you so much for your kind words. I will forward this onto to  
Peter and Tabby.*

*Regards,*

*Gwen*

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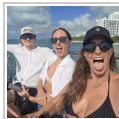
**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:57 AM

NE

“ *Dixie and family-my thoughts and prayers are with you. Sending  
hugs.*

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**Nancy Elliott** - January 03, 2016 at 09:09 AM



*Nancy, thank you so very much.*

*Regards,*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:58 AM

DK

“ *Dan & Jenny Kraft lit a candle in memory of Wesley H. Hilst*



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**Dan & Jenny Kraft** - January 02, 2016 at 11:07 PM



*Thank you.*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 01:58 AM

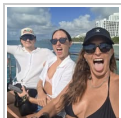
BO

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Dixie, Eric, Gwen, Peter and all their families. Bonnie & Greg Sheppard*



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**Bonnie** - January 02, 2016 at 10:38 PM



*Bonnie and Greg,*

*Thank you so very much.*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 02:00 AM

LT

“ *We loved seeing Wes at the Riverfront. He always had a good word of advice. He was a very nice person and always had good advice to give us. Very nice to have known him! Roger and Lisa Thompson*

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**lisa thompson** - January 02, 2016 at 10:06 PM



*Roger and Lisa,*

*Thank you so very much. I have enjoyed so much reading all the wonderful tributes of how much my dad lit up other people's lives.*

*Gwen*

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**Gwen Lutz** - January 17, 2016 at 02:02 AM

CM

“ *We extend our deepest sympathy to your family in the passing of Wes. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Curtis and Becky Meyer*

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**CURTIS MEYER** - January 02, 2016 at 09:37 PM

TM

“ *Sorry to hear about your grandpa Joshua. Thinking of you during this hard time. Dixie, Wes was a very nice man, I remember him well. Sorry for your loss.*



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**Tonya Mont** - January 02, 2016 at 09:31 PM

KK

“ *Kraig Krause lit a candle in memory of Wesley H. Hilst*



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**Kraig Krause** - January 02, 2016 at 09:09 PM

JU

“ *Though there are no words to ease your pain, remember that he is now in heaven, in Gods loving arms where he is now at peace. My prayers and sympathy to you and your family. The Flood's*

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**julie** - January 02, 2016 at 06:49 PM