



Charles Priester Wilgus

November 24, 2002 - May 30, 2025

Charles Priester Wilgus passed away peacefully at his home in Serenbe, lying comfortably beside both his parents, on May 30, 2025.

Charles was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 24, 2002, to his loving parents Leonora Davis Wilgus and Paul Charles "Charlie" Wilgus, Jr. He was the proud older brother of Henry Butler Wilgus and Leonora "Cole" Wilgus.

From the moment Charles entered this world, he embraced life with a glowing spirit and a genuine love that radiated and captivated everyone he encountered. Despite living with Cockayne Syndrome, an extremely rare degenerative disease, he lived every day with optimism, joy, and a curiosity that was truly inspirational. His unique blend of honesty, humor, and spirituality made him a true treasure to us all.

Charles had a servant's heart and an adventurous soul. He loved the outdoors, rock climbing, horseback riding, football games, music, selling firewood, and working various jobs throughout his community. He always wanted to help, serve, love, and laugh without judgment or agenda with anyone who would let him in. His body was small and fragile, but his God-loving heart was bigger than life itself.

Charles was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Paul Charles Wilgus and

William A. Davis.

He had a very special bond with his adoring grandmother, Sallie French Wilgus, who provided comfort and care to him all the way through his final hours.

Other survivors include his grandmother, Leonora Simpson Davis; his Aunt Margaret Wilgus Lesley, Uncle Alec Lesley, and cousins Alec Jr., Butler, and William; Uncles Bradley Davis, James D'Elcio, and Glen Davis; Aunt Kim Davis and cousins Georgia and Priester; his grandmother Jane Wilgus, Uncle Travis and Aunt Michelle Robinson, and cousins Davis, Brooks, and Crosby- as well as the countless friends and caregivers who loved and cared for Charles in extraordinary ways throughout his life.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 6, 2025, at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, GA, with a reception to follow at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Catalyst Sports, or Corral (www.corraltrc.org). Condolences may also be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 6. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

The Cathedral of St. Phillip
2744 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, GA 30305

Tribute Wall

LT

“ *Lebby and Scott Thompson purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Charles Priester Wilgus.*



Lebby and Scott Thompson - June 06, 2025 at 09:59 AM

LT

“ *Lebby and Scott Thompson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Priester Wilgus.*

Lebby and Scott Thompson - June 06, 2025 at 09:59 AM

SD

“ *We met sweet Charles years ago while visiting Rob & Merry, Cole & Georgia. Our heartfelt condolences. May he Rest in Peace.*
Sharon Dorion & Bruce Cohoon

Sharon Dorion - June 06, 2025 at 09:36 AM

MF

“ *Thank you for your beautifully written obituary of Charles. It was a privilege to have known him. He was fortunate to have such a loving and supportive family. We send our sincere sympathy, Mary Louise, Ed, & Spencer Floyd*

Mary Louise Floyd - June 05, 2025 at 03:36 PM

CR

“ Christopher Rautner purchased the Country Basket et Blooms for the family of Charles Priester Wilgus.



Christopher Rautner - June 05, 2025 at 01:50 PM

CR

“ Christopher Rautner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Priester Wilgus.

Christopher Rautner - June 05, 2025 at 01:50 PM

BH

“ Bill and Diane Haggard purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Charles Priester Wilgus.



Bill and Diane Haggard - June 05, 2025 at 12:38 PM

ZM

“ Zach Morris purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Charles Priester Wilgus.



Zach Morris - June 05, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“ Zach Morris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Priester Wilgus.

Zach Morris - June 05, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“ Jon C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Priester Wilgus.

Jon C. - June 05, 2025 at 09:20 AM



“ I remember so many great stories of Charles when I work for his dad. How he was easy to talk with and loved the story of when he was talking to Reese Witherspoon at the pool. Sending love and peace to you all.

Glenna Sikanowicz - June 04, 2025 at 09:02 PM

AF

“ *Leonora and Charlie-*

I used to teach at the Atlanta Speech School with Danielle Garrett many moons ago, and I always remember sweet Charles walking down the hallway with the biggest smile on his face. He was an angel on earth who brightened everyone's day.

When I opened the newspaper this morning and found his obituary, tears filled my eyes thinking of that sweet 3-year-old boy I met decades ago. I am covering you and your family with prayers during this difficult time. I feel honored to have known Charles, even if only for a short while.

Love, Anne (Hadow) Freeman (aka Ms. Hadow)

Anne Freeman - June 04, 2025 at 07:19 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Charles Priester Wilgus.*



June 04, 2025 at 05:37 PM

LE

“ *Lucie T. Bryant, Thomas E. Bryant Jr, and Evelyn Bryant Evans planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Priester Wilgus.*

Lucie T. Bryant, Thomas E. Bryant Jr, and Evelyn Bryant Evans - June 04, 2025 at 01:40 PM

NB

“ To The Wilgus Family: John and I are broken hearted for you all in the passing of your precious Charles. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We would be at the service for him, but we will be in Lansing, Michigan, for a memorial service for Kathryn's husband's grandfather. Charlie, you and your sister may remember me from Westminster. I had to smile when it said that Charles had a special bond with Sally. You were Kathryn's first teacher at the Cathedral Preschool--you adored her, and she adored you, so I'm sure you provided lots of special love for Charles. He clearly was an amazing person, and his obituary captured just how special he was and how much joy he brought to all of you and to all others who knew him. Blessings and love, Nancy Beane

Nancy Beane - June 04, 2025 at 08:58 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Charles Priester Wilgus.

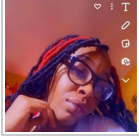


June 03, 2025 at 02:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles Priester Wilgus.

June 03, 2025 at 02:20 PM



“ My “Boss Man” Charles. Words can’t explain the joy, happiness, and love you gave me. From pranking your parents, uno challenges, Chinese food, confiscation of my phone for Snapchat, spying on Cole lol, and all the secrets you’ve trusted me with. I miss you real bad already. And I’m so grateful I had the chance to comfort you and be there for you, when needed. Somehow God seems to know exactly what’s needed and is always on time. I needed all the love and support you’ve always given me. The strength, the hope, the love, the happiness...My Buddy, My Pal, My “Boss Man” Charles... I love you always



Maquea Robinson - June 03, 2025 at 01:38 PM

JZ

“ I have so many fond memories of Charles, my most recent favorite is when he made me a cup of coffee when I was staying with him for a weekend. One simple gesture that showed his beautiful, caring, thoughtful spirit. He was so smart, witty, loving and beyond funny. I loved hearing all the wonderful Charles stories over the years and seeing him in action. Wrapping my arms around the Wilgus family.

Jill Zimmerman - June 03, 2025 at 12:54 PM



“ Charles was everyone’s buddy. It wasn’t that he needed the extra attention, one just could not help but be amused, intrigued and find joy hanging around him. He LIVED a full life in his 22 years!



Frank Green - June 03, 2025 at 09:28 AM

RO

Axis bold as love. Charles shines on.

Rob - June 03, 2025 at 10:43 AM

TK

“ The brothers of KA purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Charles Priester Wilgus.



The brothers of KA - June 03, 2025 at 08:55 AM

TK

“ The brothers of KA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Charles Priester Wilgus.

The brothers of KA - June 03, 2025 at 08:55 AM

NI

“ I used to work at the Hil until around 2016. I remember Charles fondly as he was the sweetest boy. I've often wondered how he is doing and I'm so sorry to hear of his loss. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

Nicole - June 03, 2025 at 08:30 AM

LC

The memorial service for Charles was lovely. Thank you for sharing the memories of a special young man.

Linda Copeland

Linda Copeland - June 11, 2025 at 02:56 PM