



Leonard Lee Wilson

September 22, 1961 - November 19, 2020

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Rocklin, California

Born in Bakersfield, CA to Frank and Jacqueline Wilson

Leonard served in the U. S. Air Force for 4 years, stationed at Travis Air Force Base, with an Honorable Discharge.

He worked for the Salinas, CA Police Force for 20 years; he was the Sergeant of the Gang Unit for several years.

He worked very hard and became Captain in the Salinas Police Department, at a young age for such a high rank

Leonard attended and graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, he also earned his Master's Degree in Behavioral Science while working full time as a Police Officer.

Leonard played baseball for many, many years from high school and on the Police City League as an adult. He also coached the PAL (Police Activity League) baseball in Salinas for a few years, he loved baseball and was an avid LA Dodgers fan

He was also a huge fan of the Oakland (now Las Vegas) Raiders.

Leonard enjoyed a friendly game of poker at home with his Buddies - he had a great poker face!

He moved to Rocklin and was most recently the Executive Director of Thunder Valley Casino Resort, for 9 years

He taught Administration of Justice at Sierra College here in Rocklin for several years

Leonard was well-liked and respected by anyone who crossed his path. He was known for his quick-wit, his infectious smile, and his kind and compassionate spirit.

Leonard was preceded in death by his father, Frank, his mother, Jacqueline, and his sister, Leah.

He is survived by his loving wife, Asa, in-laws John and Hazel, sisters-in-law Teri, Jamie (Rick), and Rose, brother-in-law, Adam, and his sister, Lydia.

He will be deeply missed and will live forever locked safe within our hearts.

The family is holding a private Service in Rocklin, CA on December 5, 2020.

Tribute Wall

GW

“ Hello Friends of Leonard . I'm Gary Leonard Wilson. I am his sole surviving brother from our Dads's first Wife. If you know of any family number still alive please contact me. The last time I saw Leonard was sept. 1963 . I did speak to him after he retired sometime around 2005. I was playing golf in Redding, Ca. and a golfer said" He was retired from the Salinas Police Department". I said " I think my brother was also a Police Officer there. I told him his name and he said" " you mean Captain Leonard Wilson". He had the Police Department give my phone number to Leonard and that's how I got to talk to him. We did talk a few times but lost contact. I only found out by Facebook that he had died. call 530-351 -2015

gary Wilson - January 08, 2025 at 04:01 PM

JO

“ There are not enough words to describe Leonard, or who he was. Leonard was truly one of a kind! He was a simple, yet complex, man and none of us will ever meet anyone like him...and no one, I mean no one, could ever hold a candle to him, in fact, no one would ever even try.

Leonard was non-judgmental, even when he could have been, especially as a Sergeant of the Gang Unit in Salinas....I think I would have judged some of the criminals he came in contact with, or arrested, but Leonard did not. He showed respect to everyone and treated him or her fairly. He did not let his authority command who he was, or what he did – his ego did not overpower him. We should all take note and learn from him. If only there were more people like Leonard, this world would be a better place.

Leonard left us way too soon, but he left us so much; our hearts will always be heavy and will always have a void, but we must cherish the moments and memories we shared with him...no one can ever take those away from us. We shared so many great family times together, at our homes, in Lake Tahoe, San Francisco, or Hawaii - I will forever hold those memories close to my heart.

Leonard could be so serious, but yet so fun! He took care of business when he had to, but he also knew how to cut loose and have a good time!

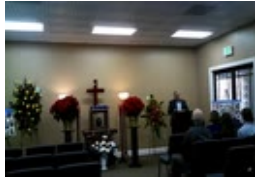
He had everything one could ask for, a beautiful, loving wife, and a family who thought the world of him....we all held him in a very high regard! He never asked for anything, and he worked hard for, and appreciated, everything he had, taking nothing for granted.

Leonard, we love you and miss you, and you will live forever, locked safe within our hearts. Rest in peace...until we meet again!

Jamie Oswald - December 13, 2020 at 12:53 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memorial Service



Murray Family Funeral Chapel - December 09, 2020 at 08:08 PM

MD

“ *The first thing anyone can see is Leonard pictured in his Salinas P.D. uniform. Professionally, Leonard was a good listener, pragmatic, and a person who could be counted upon to make correct decisions. Leonard was trusted, and that promoted a smoother work environment.*

Personally, Leonard was friendly, had a great sense of humor, and loved to laugh. He was an original member of our P.D. poker group. Leonard was good player winning more than losing. To We all missed him the past few years.

Regardless of rank or assignment, Leonard took the field, and he will always be a brother.

*Mike Dominici
Salinas P.D.
Sergeant, Retired*

Mike Dominici - December 04, 2020 at 04:00 PM

SH

“ I met Leonard the day he showed up at Salinas PD. I was just a few years ahead of him, but he showed up to the patrol briefing like he owned the place. We worked the same area and I figured out real quick he was wicked smart, had a strong work ethic and was a great beat partner.

We crossed a lot of paths during our time there, but I think his calling, despite all his promotions, was the Gang Unit. He took the entire unit to the next level and set a standard we had not seen before, it was fun to watch.

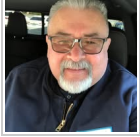
Unfortunately, maybe fortunately, I'm not a poker player so I didn't make it into that circle, probably for the best as he would have taken me to the cleaners.

Leonard was one of the best, back when we all did it together the old school way, no tasers, beanbags and all the tools we have today. Just cops coming together to look out for each other and take care of business. That's the Leonard I remember.

Asa, and the rest of Leonard's family I'm so sorry for your loss, but he will never be forgotten.

Steve Hood
Petaluma PD, retired

Steve Hood - December 02, 2020 at 03:40 PM



“ *Asa and the rest of the Wilson family. I am at a loss for words for the loss of my lifelong friend Leonard. Leonard and I met in High school in 1975. We became the best of friends And shared many memories together. After high school I went to college and Leonard went into the Air Force. Although we did not keep in close touch during that time our lives with cross paths again when we worked together at The Salinas Police Department. It's funny because in high school I would have ever thought of either of us getting into law-enforcement. That being said we enjoyed great times working together on the graveyard shift and throughout other assignments. Leonard promoted to several ranks and no one was more proud of him than I was. He was well liked by everyone including members of the gang community. He knew how to treat people with respect and always maintain a high level of professionalism. I am shocked and saddened by the loss of my friend. I only hope that because of God's will he is in a better place now. Again my deepest condolences to Asa.*

*Robert Soratos
Former SPD and GHS class of 79*

Rob Anthony - December 01, 2020 at 06:00 PM

MP

“ I met Leonard in July of 1986, when I started at the Department. We quickly became friends. Leonard was one of the smartest, funniest, and hardest working guys I've ever known. Leonard transferred to gang intel, and I to juvenile detectives, and we worked together on a daily basis. You could trust your life to Leonard and I literally did, I was in good hands. There was a group of us that started around the same time, with Leonard being the first to promote up through the ranks. When he made Captain, I remember thinking "One of us finally made it to the top." Working at the Department with Leonard we all went through a lot, in the 80's and 90's. No Tasers, no leg restraints, no computers in the cars...it was down and dirty police work. Leonard was one of the best. There were a couple of movies that came out back then, around the time we we young and working the streets. The movies were "Young Guns" and "Young Guns 2" and there is a few lines in that movie that describe Leonard and our group of guys back then. We were more than friends...we were "Pals." That is how I remember Leonard, with much respect.

Asa, and the rest of Leonard's family, my heart goes out to you. I am so sorry for your loss. Leonard was one of a kind.

Manny Perrien
Salinas PD
Deputy Chief, retired

Manny Perrien - December 01, 2020 at 05:02 PM

DB

I met Leonard in 1984 when he started with the Salinas Police Department. Leonard is one of those guys that everyone liked. He knew how to talk and relate to fellow employees and even with gang members. I have never met anyone who could work in the gang unit and have the gift of having the gang members respect, even when he arrested them. I had the privilege of working with and for him over the years. He had a great sense of humor and I remember how calm he would be even during stressful incidents.

Asa and family, I am very sorry for your loss. Leonard, rest well my friend, you are truly missed.

*Dino Bardoni
Salinas PD
Commander, retired.*

Dino Bardoni - December 01, 2020 at 05:23 PM

BO

Leonard was a great Officer in all phases, but a greater human being. I will always remember working with him in the Streets of Salinas, and going to baseball games with him. We would talk about the strategy and science of baseball. We both loved the Dodgers and I will miss him on sharing our great wins and heart breaking losses. Above all Leonard, you will always be in my prayers. R.I.P. my friend

Bernard Mraz, Retired Officer - December 01, 2020 at 09:29 PM

RS

Asa, what can I say? I was so shocked and saddened to hear the news of the passing of my longtime friend Leonard. It is still hard to wrap my head around it. I met Leonard in 1975 along with my brother. We hit it off right from the get go. Probably our love of sports, particularly baseball, was a big reason. Even though he loved the Dodgers, and my brother and I the Giants. Nonetheless, we became great friends all through high school and shared many great times. We played summer baseball together and hung out almost every day during the summer. After high school he went into the Air Force, my brother went to college up north and I went down south. Eventually, we all returned home. I got a call from Leonard one day urging me to apply for a career with Salinas PD. He had been there about a year and was loving his new job. Leonard not only got me into law enforcement, but he taught me so much as he did with many others. He had an amazing memory and a knack for getting intel. He also had a pretty good sense of humor. He was never short on pulling pranks. Throughout our years of working together, we also played a ton of softball and coached a lot fo baseball. We coached Colt league in Salinas and also the tournament baseball team for Salinas PAL. Leonard was one of a kind and I will miss him dearly, but I will never forget him. May he rest in the hands of our Good Lord. Asa my deepest condolences to you and the family. Just know that he was loved and respected by many, me included.

*Richard Soratos
Salinas PD
Sergeant, Ret.*

GUHS class of '80

Richard Soratos - December 01, 2020 at 11:21 PM

ML

*My Executive Director at the UAIC Tribal Gaming Regulatory Agency.
My Co-Retired law Enforcement friend and most of all,. my personal
friend. I am heartbroken and offer my deepest condolences to Asa.
God Bless him.*

*Michael Luttrell
Director of Licensing & Professional Standards
Tribal Gaming Regulatory Agency
Thunder Valley Casino Resort*

michael luttrell - December 02, 2020 at 11:29 AM

BE

I met Leonard in 1984 when he was hired by the Salinas Police Department and I too was extremely fortunate to have become his friend.

Like Leonard I joined the United States Air Force after high school and learned from him that we both chose military police as our career field. He was very proud to have served our Country and we had some great conversations about our time in the military.

It's funny, but through my 30 years at the police department many officers came and went. Like high school there were quite a few you could never remember, some that you could if you tried real hard, and then there were those who left an impression on you for life, and for me that was definitely Leonard. To say he was a special guy would be an understatement. I truly admired him both as a person and a police officer. I served many a nights with him on patrol and what separated him from the heard was the professionalism, kindness and respect he displayed for everyone (including bad guys). In the entire time I worked with Leonard I could never recall him speaking ill of anyone.

The best times I ever shared with him was playing poker. We had a crew and after getting off a swing shift at 3:00 am we would all meet at another officer's apartment and play to well past sun up. He was a hell of a poker player too. It took me years to figure out his playing style, but beyond the game it was the unique comradery we shared that was special. It was a kind of "Band of Brothers" thing that only other officers understood.

I missed my friend Leonard after he retired, but was eternally grateful for the friendship we had.

To Asa and family, please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. I can only imagine the pain and grief you and your family are experiencing and will keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers.

*Bob Eggers
Salinas PD Retired*

Bob Eggers - December 02, 2020 at 12:07 PM

DO

I met Leonard in 1999 when I joined the Salinas Police Department. I felt like I already knew him though, because when I left the San Jose Police Department to go to Salinas, there were a number of officers and detectives from San Jose PD who wanted to tell me about a great officer from Salinas PD they had worked cases with. The cases referred to were usually gang and/or narcotic cases and Leonard was praised for his work ethic, his professionalism and for just being a good guy.

After meeting Leonard, I found that he lived up to and surpassed his reputation. He was already an identified leader in the agency, not because of his rank but because of who he was. He treated everyone with respect and courtesy, regardless of their position on the department. He was a hard worker who did his job professionally and with integrity and it was my honor to promote him to the rank of Captain.

Asa, Donna and I offer our deepest condolences to you and family. May God grant you His peace and comfort during this difficult time.

*Dan Ortega
Salinas Police Department (Retired)*

Daniel M. Ortega - December 02, 2020 at 02:54 PM

DC

Captain Wilson, Lieutenant Wilson, Sergeant Wilson, Detective Wilson, Officer, Leonard, and of course, Len. Whatever the title you got the same person through and through. As a co worker you could not find better. As a supervisor he was commanding, set the bar high, and always had your back. As a friend, none more loyal. I'm proud to have called him my friend.

Asa, God's spirit comfort you. Len, journey well, brother. Not goodbye, but until we meet again.

*Don Cline
Salinas PD Retired*

Donald Cline - December 05, 2020 at 10:38 AM