



Wilber T. England

May 21, 1940 - January 14, 2021

It is with saddened hearts that we share that our beloved husband and father, Wilber England, passed away on Thursday, 14 January 2021. He was with his family and was peaceful and comfortable, and we know he is in a far better place now. We will have a small funeral in the coming days and are planning a larger celebration of life later this year when things get easier to plan. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Wilber was born in Wyandotte, Michigan on May 21, 1940 to Wilbur Joseph and Helen Moore England.

He leaves behind his wife of 53 years Marjorie Lee England of Bloomington; sons Brent England and his wife Katherine of Fishers, Indiana, Chris England and his wife Stacy of Bloomington and his beloved granddaughters Madeline and Liliana England. His sister, Victoria Wilton of Grand Rapids, Michigan also survives. He was predeceased by his parents.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 12:00PM Noon at St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church 2222 East Third Street, Bloomington. For those unable to attend the Mass will be live-streamed on the St. Charles Church YouTube channel. Visitation will also be held on Thursday at the church from 11:00AM until the time of the Mass at 12:00PM Noon. Wilber will be laid to rest in a private family ceremony following the Mass.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with family and friends at <http://www.allencares.com>

Cemetery

Events

Little Union Baptist Cemetery

IN,

JAN

21

Visitation

11:00AM - 12:00PM

St Charles Borromeo Church

2222 E 3rd St, Bloomington, IN, US, 47401-5385

JAN

21

Mass of Christian Burial 12:00PM - 01:00PM

St Charles Borromeo Church

2222 E 3rd St, Bloomington, IN, US, 47401-5385

Comments



“ I was saddened to learn of the passing of a true mentor, Mr. Wilber England. Beyond music there was many a life lesson to be learned and he taught them so well. We had great fun whether on the road to San Diego with football or Philadelphia with basketball. His memory will live on....Steve Roth/1979-1983

Steve Roth - February 19 at 11:17 AM



“ RIP Mr. England!
You were a true supporter of women's rights.
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to audition and become a member of the Marching 100 back in 1973 (the first year women were allowed to join)!
I send my most sincere condolences to your family.

Barbara Biancardi - February 02 at 12:06 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the England family. I have many fond memories of my time in the Marching Hundred, which was one of the highlights of my experiences at IU. Mr. England would toss out amazing one-liners in the middle of an intense rehearsal that would have us rolling in laughter. May he continue keeping the beat in heaven.

Ken Kudrak
Marching Hundred 1980-1985

Ken Kudrak - January 28 at 12:16 AM



“ Just hearing the news. Very saddened to hear. The memories of Professor England will always have a special place in my heart! 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏 🙏

Jim Davis, III - January 26 at 08:43 PM



“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Mr. England's passing. Mr. England and Mr. Cramer were the most important people in my life while I was in the Marching 100, Pep Band, and IU Jazz Band, fall 1977- fall 1981. They brought me endless joy through those years, joy that has resonated all my life. My time in the IU Band was unforgettable. Thank you, Mr. England and Mr. Cramer. I hope there is a band in Heaven. I will be in it! My condolences to all of Mr. England's family and friends, and to the IU community.

Sincerely,
Sandra Jean Kasting Mulders



Sandra J Mulders - January 26 at 04:48 PM



“ Feet on the Beat! I can still hear these and many other important learnings from Mr. England as Marching 100 Alum. Very sorry to hear of his passing. His passion for music, students, and education will live on well beyond his time on earth. Thank you and peace to his family.

Scott Verschoor - January 26 at 12:57 PM



“ I remember how excited he was to become a father, and how we (the drumline) teased him about Brent Michael England's initials (B.M.E) because many of us were working on a Bachelor of Music Education (B.M.E) degree. Wil was so helpful to me as my teacher and I was very happy to be chosen as the outstanding percussionist (1974 marching season). He is single handedly responsible for helping me get my B.M.E.

Rev. John W. Dyke
1971-75 at IU

John Dyke - January 26 at 12:50 PM



“ My sympathy to Marge and family. I was at IU from 1971 to 1975 and have very fond memories of my time in the drumline there. Wilber helped me get through the school of music with a music ed degree, and at the end of each marching band season, we were invited to his home for a party/picnic. I am saddened by his passing. He was a wonderful man.

Rev, John W. Dyke

1975 Outstanding Percussionist, Marching Hundred

John Dyke - January 26 at 12:43 PM



“ Dear Mrs. England, Brent, Chris and families,

I was sad to hear of the passing of Mr. England. He is a legend with our generation of M100 players, as well as anyone who took his amazing Perc. Techniques class. His class was memorable and I held onto my gong beater for decades, finally passing it to the perc section of the CG Band, knowing it would be used well and appreciated. Mr. England was a source of inspiration to many of us over the years and I always respected his decisions. Our condolences to you and your entire family as you grieve his loss.

Love,

Aimee Hoover Page and family

Aimee Page - January 26 at 11:50 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Will's passing. As a member of the Marching 100 (Lee Corso years) and basketball pep band (Bob Knight years), I will always remember how he could argue a call and immediately go into Indiana Fight. This act alone saved many bench fouls and penalties since the officials couldn't hear the coaches!

I will miss his uncommon kindness, demand for perfection and moving cadences that still resonate in my mind today. Thank you Will, for making the world a better place.

My thoughts and prayers are with Margie, Brent, Chris and family.

Dave Lynch

Evanston, IL

David Lynch - January 26 at 11:41 AM



“ Dear Margie and family -

I was shocked and saddened to hear of Wil's passing, but happy to know he had a wonderful family and a great life partner in you, Margie. Wil was always so very supportive of me as I struggled to harness my talents without letting my "outgoing" personality get in my own way!! Wil was a judge at ISMA's concert band contest in 1979 when he gave our band at Corydon Central a Superior Rating in Group I, which had never happened before in the history of the school. He hugged me and told me how very proud he was of me, a wonderful memory I have never forgotten to this day. Throughout my life as a band director, priest, attorney, et al, I will always remember the two of you and your love and support. You and your family surely know Wil is taking charge of every Heavenly task he's being assigned with the greatest of love and enthusiasm. I just hope God keeps him really busy, because there will be no limit on the wonderful things he will continue to do!!

Much love always,

Jon Hornlein, BME 1976

Jon M Hornlein - January 26 at 11:39 AM



“ What an IU icon! I remember Mr. England's percussion techniques class second semester of 1996. Although I got a C because the snare drum was too hard for this piano major, Mr. England complimented me on my pianistic style of playing the marimba. I also took to heart his story about why a judge should always give automatic full points for presentation when judging a soloist, even if the kid isn't wearing shoelaces. When my own son chose to play percussion in band, I made sure to teach him what Mr. England taught me about not bludgeoning the drums, not showing your armpits when you crash the cymbals, a figure 8 bass drum hold to keep steady time, and the proper way to select and hold drumsticks. Specifically for Brent: you may not remember me, but I remember how incredibly proud your dad was when talking about your drumming at IU! I'm deeply sorry for your loss, but be assured that his legacy carries on.

Lisbeth (Henry) López BME '97

Lisbeth (Henry) López - January 26 at 11:34 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of Mr. England's recent passing, and I am so grateful for the wonderful memories with him while in the Marching Hundred and IU Basketball Band. He had an uncanny way of teaching you something important without being obvious, and was so quick-witted that we awaited the next great Wilber-ism. I loved and respected everything about him, and now even more so.

My favorite memory is our playing football in the stadium before rehearsal on Saturday mornings, and he normally would play with us. I can remember him tackling one of my fellow trumpet players with a vicious hit, and he turned to me and said "he would be wise not to come this way again." He was one of us, and we knew that we had not only a teacher, but a friend and mentor rolled into one.

The IU School of Music has been eternally blessed with tremendous leadership, and Mr. England represented a love for music and endless pursuit for excellence at every opportunity. I am blessed with having him part of my life and I hope that as his next great chapter begins, he will revel in the great work he helped create down below. I will miss him greatly.

My heartfelt condolences to the entire England family, and may they be comforted to know that he changed the lives of so many of us, and for that, his legacy will endure.

Jason Brown
B.A. '87

Jason Brown - January 26 at 11:30 AM



“ Professor England was my Marching Hundred Director in 1984-85 and my percussion technique professor. He taught me so many percussion skills that I use to this day in my teaching. He was strict and I appreciated that. He made me work hard. He also had a great sense of humor as he would let us "Tackle" him at the end of some marching band rehearsals...ALL IN FUN. I would always enjoy running into him years later at Music Educators Conferences as we would always have great conversations.

I am sincerely sorry for your loss. I hope you can find peace in knowing he had a positive impact on so many people for many years.

Sincerely,

Tony Strebic
BME 1989

Anthony B Strebic - January 26 at 11:23 AM



“ Kevin Sipe is following this tribute.

Kevin Sipe - January 26 at 11:22 AM



“ Mr. England's dedication to the music and experience of bands was evident in his passion for band camp, practices and performances. I once traveled by car with him, when the pep band bus was full, to West Lafayette for a Purdue football game. From that point on I felt that I knew him much better. I was a tuba player with the Hundred for five seasons, all with Wil England. I'll never forget him and his enthusiasm and I can still hear his voice urging us on.

Kevin Sipe '77.

Kevin Sipe - January 26 at 11:17 AM



“ An amazing man who taught me much more than music. A strong influence in my daily life! He will be missed.

Cory O'Dell '85
Becky (Sinn) O'Dell '86

Cory O'Dell - January 26 at 11:10 AM



“ I was a member of the Marching 100 and of other bands at IU that Wilber directed during my years there - 1977 - 1981. He was such a wonderful teacher - I always learned so much from being in his bands and under his leadership. I have thought of him often over my years as a higher education professional. I don't think I ever had his "magic", but I worked for it.

Love to the family,

Nancy Mamlin, Ph.D.

Nancy Mamlin - January 26 at 11:07 AM



“ Dear Margie, Brent and Chris,

It was with great sadness that I received the news of Wil's passing. I have been blessed to have been Wil's student, colleague and friend for more than 50 years. From the very beginning in 1969 Margie and Wil always supported me in every phase of my life and career for which I will be eternally grateful. I so admired your family and am grateful for the warmth and friendship that you permitted me to enjoy when I was with you. May your family's love and faith provide the strength to help you during this time of sadness. But please also remember the lifetime of joy that you lived together and the memories you will have to relive forever.

With great affection,
Ben Miller

Ben Miller - January 22 at 01:03 PM



“ Margie,

My wife and I both have memories of Wilber helping us and other bass students with school instruments while we were students at the Jacobs school many years ago. I'm glad to have reconnected with him and you as part of the St. Charles family after we settled in Bloomington. We're saddened by the news of Wilber's passing and wish you and your family God's peace and the comfort of many blessed memories.

With every best wish,

Chris & Bridget Rund

Chris Rund - January 21 at 08:33 PM



“ I had the pleasure of Wilbur's friendship (w Margie too!) for 4 years in the U of M Bands and got to know him quite well as he was the main drummer on our 3 and a half month UM Jazz Band Tour of South America in 1965 (US State Dept. sponsored). There were only 17 of us sharing the many great moments but also hardships on that trip including being caught in the Dominican Republican revolution! Aside from his great drumming I succinctly remember "Todd" being a bit more mature and "cool" than most of us during challenges! Thankfully we all got together for a reunion in Ann Arbor 2009 and that memory will cushion our present sadness.

With Sincere Condolences,
Lanny and Kathy Austin



Lanny Kathy - January 21 at 06:32 PM



“ Dear Marjorie & Family,
Don & I were so saddened to read of Wilber's death. Please accept our condolences with heartfelt sympathy. Wilber was such a wonderful man, and did so much for so many. May your wonderful memories give you comfort at this difficult time,
Fondly, Sandra & Don Freund



Sandra Freund - January 21 at 10:43 AM



“ Marty Zyskowski purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Wilber T. England.



Marty Zyskowski - January 20 at 11:07 AM



“ Dear Margie, Brent, Chris and families,
We are praying for God's peace and comfort for all of you at this time of great loss. We know that at this time the memories of all you had together as a family is a gift and will help you through the great sense of loss you are feeling right now. What Will meant to so many many IU music Ed majors is such a wonderful tribute to the great skill he had as a teacher. (He would really laugh to know that Ray is teaching Cahaya mallets!). The family picture that Chris shared is much appreciated by all of us who knew Will and his whole family. Thank you.

With love and respect,

Ray and Molly Cramer

Ray & Molly Cramer - January 19 at 08:37 PM



“ Before the pandemic, several visits with Wilber at Meadowood Health made possible very rich sharing of our friendship of three decades. Our conversation, of course, included thoughts about his dear sons Brent and Chris and his beloved Margie. On one very special occasion, my son Pete — who had been a student of Wilber's at the Jacobs School — was present. Wilber played a pivotal role in Pete's earning his BM degree at the School. And a highlight of our visit was an opportunity for Pete to fully express what Professor England had meant to him. And it was clear that Wilber enjoyed the loving exchange as much as Pete. Teachers seldom get the praise they deserve, but on that day a great one did. May the family be comforted with all their wonderful memories of the fine man — husband, father and teacher — whose life has enriched many.

Cleve Wilhoit

Cleve Wilhoit - January 19 at 07:58 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wilber T. England.



January 19 at 02:41 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear of Wilber's passing. We were both students at IU in the 70's and had the good fortune to take his percussion techniques class, which was great, and was one of the best classes in our curriculum. Fast forward decades and our daughter took the same class in his last semester before retirement and loved the class. He was a special teacher and person. Our condolences to Margie, Brent, Chris, and the entire England family.

Darlene and Steve Pratt
Bloomington

Stephen Pratt - January 19 at 11:58 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear this news my thoughts and prayers go out to you With love.

ginger zyskowski - January 19 at 09:50 PM



“ Marge and the Boys, I was very saddened to hear of Wilber's passing. My college memories always include the M100 trips and his mentorship of so many MusEd students.

Mathew Krejci - January 26 at 01:48 PM



“ Professor England and Professor Cramer were the very 1st two men/musicians I met as a young 18 year old girl coming all the way to Indiana from New Jersey. How blessed I was to be in the Marching Hundred - learning so much from them both. I will never forget them and their amazing talents they shared with all!

Cynthia Bally Martens - January 28 at 03:21 PM



“ Chris,

I'm so sorry to hear about your Fathers passing, Sara and I were both deeply sadden to hear of his passing. Your Father was a stable at 10:00 mass every Sunday, and he will be sorely missed by myself, Sara and St. Charles.

Our deepest condolences to you and your family. We are Praying for Wilber and your family.

Doug & Sara Chambers

Doug Chambers - January 19 at 10:35 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Wilber T. England.



January 18 at 01:24 PM



“ We were so sorry to hear of Wilber's passing. As students in the 70's we both enjoyed one of the best classes in our curriculum, his percussion techniques class. Then, our daughter, several years later, also valued the class during his last semester before retirement. We always remembered his participation in the IU Festival Orchestras during the summers. His percussion playing, including the phenomenal cymbal crashes, was always professionally outstanding. Our most sincere condolences to Margie, Brent, Chris and the entire England family.

Darlene and Steve Pratt

Bloomington

Stephen Pratt - January 18 at 01:17 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Wilbur England's passing. He was a tremendous percussion teacher, as well as disciplinarian, which at the age of 7 when I started, could at times be intimidating! He was a generous man, who at the pleading of my mother, continued with me even though I began as a bad student. He worked with me through high school with solo instrumental competitions, and onward to the culmination of graduating from the IU school of music with a degree in music performance. He was always interested in my well-being and doings in adult life. My wife knew of him, due to my bringing him up in conversation, which is a testament to his significance in my life. He will be very much missed, and I am forever grateful to him.

Kent Pellerite

Kent Pellerite - January 18 at 11:54 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wilber T. England.



January 18 at 10:27 AM



“ As a young high school band director, and recent graduate of the University of Michigan, I pleaded for a specific student teacher to come to our school, and my wish came true. Todd England was a fellow UM music student, and brilliant percussionist. He came to our band camp a number of times before the school year started, and turned our percussion section into a gem. The percussionists respected him, and worked harder than ever before as he showed us the right way to do things.

Thank you Wilbur Todd England. Rest in Peace. Bruce Galbraith.

Bruce Galbraith - January 18 at 08:31 AM



“ Mr. England shaped many young lives, including mine, during his time as Associate Director and Director of the Marching Hundred. Many of us remember his clever sense of humor and the "Wilberisms" such as "Ja get enough to eat?", "Don't throw glass", and the ever-present "Egads!" Although he rarely pronounced my name correctly, I knew he mispronounced it with affection.

As Director of the Big Red Basketball Pep Band, Mr. England popularized what became known as "The Greatest Time-Out in College Basketball". His keen eye for bad calls by referees was apparent to all of us.

My hope, as I write this, is that Mr. England is not calling out "Wrong Notes!" as I compose. His appreciation for perfection was more valuable than I could ever have imagined.

--Ben Conarroe
Marching Hundred 1981-84
Vista, California

Ben Conarroe - January 17 at 05:44 PM



“ This is one of the best moments we had with dad a few years ago. Such a great image of our family with him right in the middle. Love you dad!



Chris England - January 17 at 03:26 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Wilber T. England.



January 17 at 11:59 AM



“ We were saddened to hear of Wilber's passing. We spent several enjoyable times together watching and listening to the BHSS Marching band in years gone by.

Our most sincere condolences to the England family.
Gary and Sheryl Alspaugh

Gary - January 17 at 11:22 AM



“ I was so sorry to hear about your loss. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Anne Fuson

Anne Fuson - January 17 at 10:16 AM



“ We didn't really know Mr. England very well....but he was the first, kind face we saw at St. Charles Mass in Bloomington each Sunday. We always had our 3 small boys in tow and Mr. England was our Usher/Collector/Greeter for the 10am mass each week. We remember him as a kind face, a friendly greeting each Sunday morning. Things could always be a bit crazy with small kids at mass, but Mr. England offered patience, kindness and help, all of which made St. Charles home for us. We're sorry for the loss of this kind gentleman and express our condolences.
Mike & Amy Weger and Boys

Mike Weger - January 17 at 09:51 AM



“ My heart goes out to Mrs. England, Chris and Brent. I worked with Chris and Brent at Mr. D's Foodmarket and got to know Mr. England through them. Prayers for peace and strength this week as you lay him to rest.

Martha Smith - January 17 at 09:24 AM



“ Remembering Wilbur with fondness. Wilbur always gave his all to every endeavor, worked hard to help others, cherished friendship, and was devoted to family. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.
Adrien Himm

Adrien B Himm - January 17 at 08:39 AM



“ Wilber was a kind and decent man.
I met him in 1974 when he was my instructor at IU Music School.
He was dedicated to his students and a great teacher.
He taught and showed us the benefit of hard work.
You could always trust what he said too.
I wish his family the best and all of his children and grandchildren.

Roy James Graham
JD 1991 IU
BA 1989 IU

Roy Graham - January 17 at 05:35 AM



“ The first time I met Wilber was after he retired and he walked into our St. Vincent de Paul warehouse and offered to help us out distributing furniture to those in need. I was impressed with his can-do attitude and instantly recognized his ability to organize and take command. Before long he became our warehouse intake supervisor and then also took over as treasurer of our entire organization. We still use many of the systems he set up in both positions. What a kind and good-hearted man he was and we will miss him dearly. - Scott Alber, President, Bloomington Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Scott Alber - January 16 at 03:43 PM



“ I remember Will from our times together in the Michigan Marching and Symphony Bands in the 60s. He was a great percussionist and a great classmate. My son got to know him at IU where he was drum captain of the marching band and percussion was his major instrument in his music degree there. We both send our condolences and sympathy to the family. Brian L. & Brian P. Bowman

Brian L. Bowman - January 16 at 01:16 PM



“ Love you dad!



Chris England - January 16 at 08:58 AM