



Willard "Wil" Dunlap

January 25, 1933 - January 6, 2022

Willard Dunlap, affectionately known as Wil to many, was born on January 25, 1933 and passed away peacefully on January 6, 2022 at the age of 88. Prior to his retirement, Wil worked for the Fresno Bee for many years as the Obituary editor.

Entombment will take place at the Chapel of the Light Mausoleum.

Tribute Wall

AG

“ I'm not sure why i thought about him today, well I guess because I was thinking about how he loved decorating Christmas trees at work and making them look so beautiful and something told me to Google him and than seen he passed away early this year, he was a great supervisor and person to work with, he trained me in obituaries as well as other areas of the advertising department, my late condolences to his wife Rita and family

Ann Garcia - November 26, 2022 at 02:04 PM



“ Willard "Wil" Dunlap

September 15, 2022 at 09:34 PM

SA

“ I too worked with Wil in Classified Advertising in the lobby of The Fresno Bee and he always had interesting stories and always protected me when things got out of order. I think he and Rita were quite a combination of interesting stories that I loved to hear. He enjoyed his family and was quite proud of all of them. He handled his office in a very professional way and always had good suggestions to the people who needed his help to complete their notices.

Sandy Avakian January 31, 2022

Sandy Avakian - January 31, 2022 at 03:22 PM

PT

“ Our most heartfelt sympathies on Wil's passing. He was truly a "felicitous phrasemaker" and gifted editor whose skills enabled thousands of San Joaquin Valley residents share cherished memories of their departed loved ones with Bee readers throughout the Golden State.

*Philip Tavlian
Fresno*

Philip Tavlian - January 29, 2022 at 11:32 PM

CP

“ I worked with Wil for many years at The Fresno Bee, several of those under his tutelage at the obituary desk. Although the work could be sad, he was always a positive presence and his wry sense of humor and flair for story-telling always made the days enjoyable. Wil was a true gentleman, one of a kind. I will miss him and always remember him with fondness. My heart goes out to Rita and his family, and I wish them comfort and peace for the days ahead.

Carey Parra - January 25, 2022 at 01:19 PM

GS

“ *Very sorry to hear of Wil's passing. I noticed his obituary in today's (1-23-22) edition of The Fresno Bee. My sincerest condolences & all my heartfelt sympathy go out to his loved ones. I worked with Wil at the Bee from 2000 to 2008 (in the Classified Ad dept & also on the Obit desk). He was a real mentor to me, was extremely kind & provided me with wonderful advice (not only in regards to work but in regards to my personal life too). We had many heartfelt conversations & it was especially enjoyable to help him decorate the Christmas tree for the Bee's lobby a couple of years in a row. It would take us a couple of hours on a Saturday (with Wil doing the creative work & me mostly just putting decorations on under his direction). Afterwards he'd always buy me lunch ! A wonderfully sweet, intelligent, funny, articulate, thoughtful & courtly gentleman with a wonderfully gentle soul. Bless his heart. May he rest in eternal bliss.*

Gary Songer - January 24, 2022 at 03:31 AM