



## Randy Ray Wiseman

January 27, 1953 - November 12, 2022

Randy Ray Wiseman, 69, "the dancing man," of Wilmington, formerly of Braceville passed away unexpectedly in his home on Nov. 12.

He was born Jan. 27, 1953 in Joliet to Harry and Geraldine Wiseman. Randy was a polite child, a good student who excelled academically, often receiving honors as valedictorian. He was nick-named "the tooth" in high school due to his wisdom in history, science and many other subjects and topics. He was also into sports, especially baseball, which, as a young adult, he coached the Braceville Little League team, umpired and coached the GSW High School baseball team. He also took the opportunity to do sports announcing on Morris radio, briefly, and was an avid fan of the Chicago White Sox and Blackhawks. At age 20, Randy took custody of his brother and sister when they were just 6 and 8 years old and enthusiastically raised them into adulthood as if they were his very own, although he never married or had children of his own.

In later years, his sister, Meri referred to him as "brother-dad." Randy worked many jobs in his life. First, at Daniels Auto Supply in Braceville and his favorite job was at Diamond Gas, where he made many friends. In 1994, he became caregiver to his disabled mother until she passed in 2015. Randy was also a lover of animals, reading and music. From the age of 10, he danced in his room, playing his 45 records and he carried that passion with him for the rest of his life. Eventually, he began dancing at carnivals, bars, benefits, and other local events. Where the bands played, Randy followed, and was dubbed "the dancing man." Several years ago, the Free Press did an article about him

titled "The dancing man entertains at festival." He recently danced at the Stumble Inn and Wicked Cricket. Even at home, he both danced and read books about history, politics and biographies every single day. Randy was a very generous person and gave of himself always to help his parents, siblings and others, without expecting anything in return. With his passing, his family suffers the loss of a true friend and a generous soul.

Survivors include his sister and her fiance' Meri "Alilah" Cunning and Colin Miller; nephews: Ronald (Liz) Wren, Ryan (Jessica) Wren, Justin Wiseman and Josh (Amanda) Wiseman; niece, Jillian Wren; cousins, Cricket Bean and Lucille Strohm; former sister-in-law, Lori Libby; his best friend, Patrick Harvey; his pet cat, Cinnamon, and numerous extended family.

Randy was preceded in death by his parents, Geraldine Gutzman-Wiseman and Harry "Bunky" Wiseman; sister, Geri Lee Wren; brother, Jonathon Wiseman and niece, Memory Hope Wren.

Cremation rights are being accorded and handled by R. W. Patterson Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall

JU

“ *Josh and I loved Uncle Randy, may he be at peace.* ”

**Justy** - April 22, 2023 at 06:42 PM

MC

“ *You did right, Randy, you did right. It was Dad that did wrong !!* ”



**Meri "Alilah" Cunning** - December 05, 2022 at 11:43 AM

WE

“ *I love you Uncle Randy!* ”



**Wes** - November 24, 2022 at 05:33 PM

MC

“ *Randy at his high graduation day, 1970, or 71.* ”



**Meri "Alilah" Cunning** - November 21, 2022 at 09:17 PM

DP

*Meri, I am going to email you. Please look for it. Love from Diane Proffitt*

Diane Proffitt - November 23, 2022 at 06:33 AM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Meri "Alilah" Cunning - November 21, 2022 at 09:08 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Meri "Alilah" Cunning - November 20, 2022 at 05:13 PM

DP

*Thank you for sharing all these lovely memories of him. I am checking. I truly feel sadness for the loss of this wonderful person. My husband even liked him.*

Diane Proffitt - November 21, 2022 at 02:09 PM

MC



Meri "Alilah" Cunning - November 21, 2022 at 06:32 PM

MC

“ His cat, Cinnamon, aka Mr Simmons is with me now, he is eating his cat food with Randy's urn next to him.



Meri "Alilah" Cunning - November 20, 2022 at 12:27 PM

MC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Meri "Alilah" Cunning - November 20, 2022 at 12:22 PM

MC

I goofed on this one. Randy was born in 1953, the 1954 is a typographical error.

Meri "Alilah" Cunning - November 20, 2022 at 05:15 PM

DP

Thank you for this Meri. I am glad you have his cat too.

Diane Proffitt - November 21, 2022 at 07:55 AM

DP

That is wonderful Meri. I would like to be able to read that.

Diane Proffitt - November 21, 2022 at 12:50 PM

MC

Diane, I don't have the article anymore, just that screenshot.

Meri "Alilah" Cunning - November 21, 2022 at 02:05 PM

MC

*Diane Proffitt. We will soon have a memorial dinner for him. You are welcome there, only a small number of people will be there. And planning something for his memory at Summerfest next year. Please call if you want to be involved in this, or the memorial dinner.  
My # 815 325 7475*

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**Meri "Alilah" Cunning** - November 21, 2022 at 02:15 PM

MC

“ *Meri Cunning lit a candle in memory of Randy Wiseman*



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**Meri "Alilah" Cunning** - November 20, 2022 at 12:20 PM

MC

“ *High school football & then working at Savon gas in early 80s. Savon is currently Circle K in Braidwood.*



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**Meri "Alilah" Cunning** - November 20, 2022 at 12:18 PM

MC

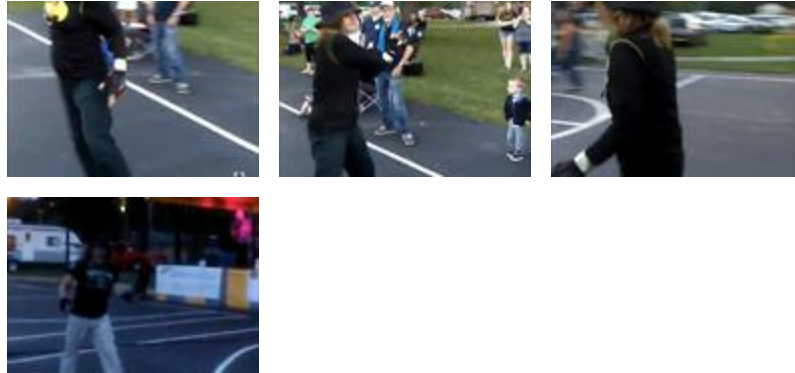
“ *<https://youtu.be/FMV1weISla8>*

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**Meri "Alilah" Cunning** - November 20, 2022 at 08:28 AM

MC

“ *Come Dancing*



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**Meri "Alilah" Cunning** - November 20, 2022 at 08:10 AM

DP

“ *I just opened the paper and saw that my carnival, dancing friend for the last five years has died. We didn't talk much, but what we both did share was that when we were little we would both dance alone in our bedrooms to music and still as adults we both would dance alone in our houses. Then we found each other on the dance floor. I thought he was an angel. He was kind to everyone. He would go up to the disabled and dance with them. I have lost a friend. The carnivals will never be the same. I have talked to you, his dear sister, a few times at the carnivals and you would tell me about a video you posted of us dancing together, that I could never find. I know you are hurting.. I am so sorry for your loss. There is nothing more I can say. I am grateful I was blessed by God to meet him. I hope he is at peace. I will never forget him and I will always miss him.*

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**Diane Proffitt** - November 17, 2022 at 04:47 PM

MC

*Thank you, Diane. It was totally unexpected. You're correct, the carnivals will never be the same. Hit me on facebook for the video. On fb, I am "Alilah Peapickinbillygoat", or email me at : strawberryrain1965@gmail.com.*

Meri "Alilah" Cunning - November 20, 2022 at 07:13 AM

DP

*Thank you Meri. I found them. Thank God for that footage of him dancing. Boy, I feel the world is a little darker yet again from the loss of someone unique and special.*

Diane Proffitt - November 21, 2022 at 07:47 AM

MC

*It is devastating to me. All 3 of my siblings have now passed, 2 older & 1 younger.*

Meri "Alilah" Cunning - November 21, 2022 at 02:09 PM

CM

“ *I'm one of Randy's neighbors. We all loved him so much. He was always polite and respectful and ready to talk. He is gonna be missed so much. My condolences to Meri, Pat, and all his family.*



Cindy Mowers - November 16, 2022 at 07:03 PM

MC

*thank you !!*

Meri "Alilah" Cunning - November 20, 2022 at 07:15 AM

AN

“ I never knew his name but he always put a smile on my face. I enjoyed seeing him at the local festivals just dancing away. I often thought..... more people should do this.....Just dance.

Catfish days 2022 was my last sighting of him. And of course, he was dancing.

May God bless you Mr. Wiseman.

Keep Dancing!

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**anonymous** - November 16, 2022 at 02:33 PM

MB

Didn't know him personally but seen him dance armt different events and thought he was a great dancer who pit me in a good mood. Rest in peace and fly with the angels. 🙏

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**Mary Bell** - November 16, 2022 at 07:48 PM

MC

his dancing spirit will remain with us, always !!

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**Meri "Alilah" Cunning** - November 20, 2022 at 07:16 AM

KS

“ Back in the day Randy worked at the Savon gas station. I worked at Hickory Creek supermarket. After work on the weekend we would hop in his van go to straight way pizza with a 6 pack of mountain do and ride the back roads back to Braidwood. He had a yellow 70 boss 302 and I had my Torino and made many trips to Essex rd. To race. What a great time we had back then. RIP RANDY.

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**Kerry Sharp** - November 16, 2022 at 01:17 PM

MA

*Thank h for sharing that memory 🥺*

**margaret** - November 17, 2022 at 01:13 PM

MC

*Kerry, Straightway pizza was his favorite. I remember. Did not know you guys raced on Exxess road. Thanks for sharing.*

**Meri "Alilah" Cunning** - November 20, 2022 at 07:19 AM

MC

*I mean "Essex" road. Lol.*

**Meri "Alilah" Cunning** - November 20, 2022 at 07:20 AM