

## Paul L. Wilson Sr. and Yvonne Williams Wilson Biographical Sketch



Paul L. Wilson Sr., 97 and Yvonne Williams Wilson, 95, married Oct. 6, 1947. They live in Siracusa Subdivision near Morgan City, LA. They have lived in the same house for over 57 years. Yvonne Wilson is a Morgan City native, while Paul Wilson was raised in Patterson, LA. The Wilsons have eight children: two daughters and six sons. Of the eight, five are living. They also have 20 grandchildren, over 63 great-grandchildren and over 16 great-great-grandchildren.

Yvonne Wilson shared the noteworthy key to their over 75 years of marriage. “Understanding is the best thing in the world. That’s my motto,” Yvonne Wilson said. “The sun don’t shine every day, might get a drizzle of rain. That’s the way life is.” As part of their 70th wedding anniversary celebration in 2017, they received a proclamation and key to the city of Morgan City from the mayor. For their 71st wedding anniversary, they were given a small dinner party at the Clarion, where immediate family members attended. As a surprise, two of Yvonne's DNA cousins from Baton Rouge, LA came to meet them and other family members. For their 72<sup>nd</sup> through 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, they celebrated with cake, well wishes from family and friends, cards, FaceBook expressions and gifts. Also, given the pandemic and the limitations of social gatherings, neighbors waved from a distance for their 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Most recently, the couple was honored by Loving Hearts, a local organization, and Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church.



The Wilsons are members of the Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Morgan City, a church that Yvonne Wilson has attended her entire life. The Wilsons met in 1946 during Yvonne Wilson’s senior year of high school at her prom. Prior to their meeting, Paul Wilson served in the Navy after being drafted during World War II. He spent time stationed in Europe during the war as Steward Mate 1st Class on the USS 357. He was part of the operation commonly known as D-Day, when Allied forces invaded Normandy, France, at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. He also was involved in the occupation of Licada, Sicily, on July 10, 1943, and Salerno, Italy, landings Sept. 9, 1943. He received his GED thru the GI Bill.

The Wilsons share a mutual love for music. Paul Wilson plays the keyboard, and Yvonne Wilson plays the piano. He plays music by ear, while she reads sheet music. Their favorite hymn, “Through It All,” sums up their bond of over seven decades.



Paul Wilson worked as a crane operator for many years in Morgan City. Yvonne Wilson worked as a substitute teacher and later completed correspondence training at a nursing school in Chicago. She has served as the President of the Colored American Legion Women’s Division in Morgan City and several times as President of the Pokeno Club, a social club that provided student scholarships to their community.

