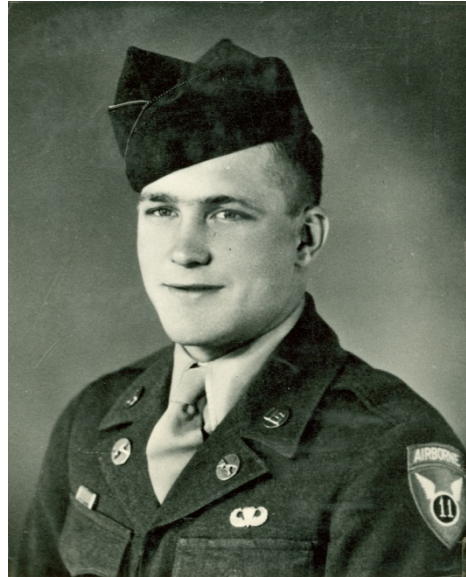


Guide to the PFC Richard G. Wilson Scrapbook

Circa 1937-2008

0.25 linear feet

2006.112



Abstract

Photographs, correspondence, and news clippings concerning PFC Richard G. Wilson, who earned a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor for service during the Korean War. The majority of the materials deal with memorials that were dedicated in Wilson's honor in the period immediately following his death and in later years.

Processed by: Amber Miranda, October, 2008

Special Collections and Archives
Kent Library
One University Plaza, MS 4600
Southeast Missouri State University
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Phone: (573) 651-2245; Fax: (573) 651-2666; Email: semoarchives@semo.edu

Descriptive Overview

Provenance: Richard G. Wilson's sister, Jo Anne (Wilson) Duncan, created the scrapbook, and donated it to Special Collections and Archives in October of 2008.

Citation: Richard G. Wilson Scrapbook, Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University

Restrictions: a DVD player is required to view the footage in Series VII and XI. Please call ahead to make sure this equipment is available.

Related Collections:

[River Tales: Pvt. Richard G. Wilson, 2012.](#) 1 item. 2012.008.

Biographical Note

Richard G. Wilson was born on August 31, 1931, to Bert and Alice Wilson in Marion, Illinois. Wilson grew up in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where he boxed in the Golden Gloves and played football at Central High School. Before beginning his service Wilson married Yvonna Lea Fowler. Wilson joined the US Army on August 20, 1948, and was deployed to South Korea on September 7, 1950. On October 21, 1950, Wilson died in the course of duty in a battle near Opari, Korea. Wilson, serving as a medic, exposed himself to enemy fire while attempting to save the life of a wounded man. Because of this, and other acts of bravery on that day, Wilson was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on June 21, 1951.¹

Scope and Content Note

The scrapbook contains photographs, correspondence, and news clippings concerning the life and death of Richard G. Wilson. The majority of the materials deal with memorials that were dedicated in Wilson's honor in the period immediately following his death and in later years.

The materials are organized chronologically. They are segregated into series by the events to which the materials pertain.

Archivist Note: The rank of PFC stands for Private First Class

Rules or Conventions: Finding Aid prepared using DACS

¹ Informational Bulletin: Missouri Military District, September 1951.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Civilian Life

Photographs of Wilson growing up, news clippings about him, and pages from his high school yearbook.

Series II: Congressional Medal of Honor

Includes correspondence, programs, news clippings, and photographs pertaining to Wilson's death and his posthumous receipt of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Includes photographs of the ceremony where Wilson's widow accepted the award.

Series III: Memorial Service

Includes the letter releasing Wilson's remains for burial, photographs and news clippings from the November 3, 1955 memorial service held for Wilson. Includes pictures of the memorial procession in Cape Girardeau, Mo., and the Wilson memorial originally located in Memorial Park in Cape Girardeau, Mo., and later moved to Cape County Park, also in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Series IV: Richard G. Wilson Memorial Gymnasium

Photographs and a news clipping about the Richard G. Wilson Memorial Gymnasium in the Kanoka Barracks near Osaka, Japan.

Series V: Wilson Theater

Photocopies of photographs from the 1959 dedication of the Wilson Theater in Fort Campbell, Ky.

Series VI: Richard G. Wilson US Army Reserve Center

Invitation, program and photographs of the 1962 dedication of the Richard G. Wilson US Army Reserve Center in Marion, Il. Also includes a photocopied chapter on Wilson from Medic: America's Medical Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen in Peace and War by Eloise Engle, 1967.

Series VII: PFC Richard G. Wilson Training Barracks

News clippings, press releases, and a letter pertaining to the opening of the PFC Richard G. Wilson Training Barracks at Fort Sam Houston, Texas in 1986. Also includes DVD recording of the dedications ceremony and a copy of a painting of Wilson depicting his heroic act that won him the Congressional Medal of Honor. The original painting is on display in the Barracks.

Series VIII: Richard G. Wilson Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic

News clippings, invitation, and photographs of the 1995 dedication ceremony for the Richard G. Wilson Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Series IX: Cape County Park Memorial Rededication

Articles and photographs of the rededication of a memorial to Wilson, after it was moved to Cape County Park in 1988.

Series X: Rakkasan, 1987

Photographs of Wilson's mother attending the 1987 reunion of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Series XI: Richard G. Wilson Elementary School

News clippings, press releases, invitations, programs, and a DVD of the dedication of the Richard G. Wilson Elementary School in Fort Benning, Ga. Also includes 1996-1997 school yearbook dedicated to Wilson.

Series XII: Polar Bluff [Mo] VA Medical Center Wall of Honor

Letter and news clipping about Wilson's selection for the wall of honor in 2002.

Series XIII: Richard G. Wilson Processing and Distribution Facility

Includes invitations, programs, photographs, and a DVD of the 2004 dedication ceremony of the postal distribution center in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Also includes Representative Jo Ann Emerson's speech endorsing the bill for dedicating the facility to Wilson.