



Wilson Rawlings

April 7, 1940 - November 26, 2025

Augustus Wilson Rawlings Jr, passed away on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at the age of 85.

Wilson was born on April 7, 1940, in London, Kentucky, to the late A.W. “Gus” Rawlings and Marjorie Smith Rawlings. He was the grandson of the late Dr. J.I. Smith, one of the first medical doctors in this region. His father, Gus, opened Rawlings Funeral Home in the late 1930s, and his mother, Marjorie, was a retired teacher from the London City School system. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Linda Horn of Radcliff, Kentucky.

Wilson is survived by his devoted wife of 53 years, June Parrett Rawlings. He is also lovingly remembered by his sister, Charlotte Sizemore of East Bernstadt, Kentucky. In addition to his family, Wilson leaves behind countless friends, colleagues, and community members who admired and respected him. Many looked to him as a mentor, a leader, and a steady guiding presence. Those who had the privilege of knowing him—whether through his work, his service, or his friendships—will forever cherish the memories, the laughter, and the time they shared with him. His influence reaches far beyond his home and into the heart of the community he helped shape.

A lifelong resident of London, Wilson attended Sue Bennett College Training School from 1946 to 1949; London Elementary School from 1949 to 1954; London High School from 1954 to 1958; and Sue Bennett College from 1958 to 1960. He went on to attend the Kentucky College of Mortuary Science in Louisville, KY from 1960 to 1961, earning his Kentucky funeral director and embalmer license that same year. Wilson was also in the first class of Emergency Medical Technicians at the University of Kentucky, receiving his EMT license in 1969.

Wilson began working alongside his father at Rawlings Funeral Home located on West 5th Street in 1954. When his father’s health declined in 1959, Wilson essentially took over the operation of the funeral home—often running across the street to the Sue Bennett campus

to attend classes and then returning to his duties at the funeral home.

In 1978, Rawlings Funeral Home merged with House Funeral Home, forming House–Rawlings Funeral Home on East 4th Street in London. Wilson served as manager of the firm until his partial retirement in 2005 and fully retired in 2012.

Deeply committed to his community, Wilson devoted countless hours to public service and civic involvement. His contributions included:

- Member of the London Fire Department since 1955, rising through the ranks to serve as fire chief from 1989 to 1994 before retiring from that position
- Co-founder of the London–Laurel County Rescue Squad in 1969, serving as a member until his retirement in 2010
- Former Lt. Colonel of the Civil Air Patrol
- Former board member of the London–Laurel County Communications (E-911) Center
- Past board member of the American Red Cross
- Selected by the London Jaycees as the Outstanding Young Man in Laurel County in 1960
- Member of the Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky, serving through the chairs and ultimately as President from 1992 to 1993 and Chairman of the Board from 1993 to 1994
- Past board member of the Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky Scholarship Board and Convention Board
- Past board member of the Kentucky Funeral Directors Burial Association
- Past member of the National Funeral Directors Association Policy Board
- Member by invitation of the National Selected Morticians and the Order of the Golden Rule
- 2023 Laurel County Homecoming Man of the Year
- Active member of Freedom Christian Fellowship Church

Wilson was honored for his remarkable 70 years of service to London, Kentucky—beginning as a firefighter at age 15 and later as the founder of the London–Laurel County Rescue Squad. He became one of the oldest active and longest-serving firefighters in the state of Kentucky.

In addition to his work in emergency services, Wilson was a respected funeral director and embalmer who compassionately served the families of Laurel County for nearly 60 years. His integrity, leadership, and forward-thinking vision made him an invaluable asset to the community. His influence helped shape Laurel County, and his legacy will continue for generations.

A funeral service honoring Wilson Rawlings will be held on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of House–Rawlings Funeral Home with Jerry Lewis & Dennis Gibbs officiating. Interment will follow at A.R. Dyche Memorial Park in London, Kentucky. The family will receive friends on Monday, December 1, 2025, beginning at 11:00 a.m. until the funeral hour. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests that donations be made to any of our local first responder organizations or the church of your choice. The family has entrusted House-Rawlings Funeral Home with the arrangements.

Funeral Services will be Livestreamed:

Click here to view Livestream of Funeral Service (<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTc2NDU5OTc0MTM5MDk4NSZvbmVyb29tLWFkbWluJmNvcHlfbGI>)

Cemetery Details

A.R. Dyche Memorial Park

London, KY

Previous Events

Receive Friends

DEC 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

House-Rawlings Funeral Home
510 East 4th Street
London, KY 40741
(606) 864-2158
info@houserawlings.com
<https://houserawlings.com>

Funeral Service

DEC 1. 2:00 PM.

Chapel Of House–Rawlings Funeral Home

Tribute Wall

KW

“ So sorry to hear of Wilson’s passing. Many years ago I worked with June’s Mom at Laurel Heights before moving to Missouri. June I will be remembering you in my prayers as you get through today and the days ahead. My sincere condolences to you.



Kathy Wright - December 02, 2025 at 02:18 PM

LD

“ I’m so very sorry for your loss, June, Charlotte and family. I knew Wilson as far back as I can remember; he and Daddy served in the fire department together and he was always around. He was one of the very few people in London who still called me “Pup”! He was duly honored yesterday. Praying for God’s peace and presence during these difficult days. Lois (Pup) Phelps Davis

Lois Davis - December 02, 2025 at 01:52 PM

JL

“ Beautiful service for a beautiful soul. RIP my friend, my brother in Christ.

Joyce Lewis - December 01, 2025 at 08:54 PM

JG

“ Our thoughts & prayers are with you June & family!!

Jeanette Gant - December 01, 2025 at 12:35 PM

BC

“ So Sorry for your Loss . 🙏❤️



Barbara Caudill - December 01, 2025 at 10:03 AM

JM

“ Joe & Trudy Mcknight lit a candle in memory of Wilson Rawlings



Joe & Trudy Mcknight - November 30, 2025 at 09:56 PM



“ 61 files added to the album LifeTributes



House-Rawlings Funeral Home - November 30, 2025 at 04:28 PM

KM

“ My sincere sympathy for your loss, June. Your friends and families are in my thoughts and prayers. May the Lord comfort you your heart as only He can. 🙏🕊️



Kawnee Million - November 29, 2025 at 06:16 PM

NT

“ Naomi Thomas lit a candle in memory of Wilson Rawlings



Naomi Thomas - November 29, 2025 at 12:07 PM

NT

Sending prayers and condolences to Family members . Special prayers for June during this difficult time. 🙏❤️

Naomi Thomas - November 29, 2025 at 12:21 PM

NT

You were a pillar of our community and we will continue to support your work. Rest Easy Sir

Naomi Thomas - November 29, 2025 at 12:37 PM

LS

Wilson was President of Funeral Directors Association and I was his Vice. We traveled together to several locations in the United States. We would rent a car and share it. Sometimes June and Jo my wife were available to travel with us. I could write a book on my memories. We were at the National Funeral Directors Convention when he received the call of his Dad's death. I helped him pack to go back to London. I know his last few years have had challenges. Wilson thanks for your advice, friendship and all the events we attended!

Larry Sanders - November 29, 2025 at 08:17 PM

DF

“ No individual has ever served a community as Wilson has. He worked countless hours volunteering his expertise for the fire department & rescue squad. Many lives were saved by his caring hands & heart. He was instrumental in sparking my interest in medicine.

Dr. William “Doug” Feltner

Doug Feltner - November 29, 2025 at 10:39 AM



“ Rest easy Mr. Rawlings. God bless you.



Chris Inman - November 29, 2025 at 03:52 AM

JC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Rawlings Family during this most difficult time.

Joe Clark, Funeral Service Colleague - November 28, 2025 at 08:52 PM

MY

“ Wilson will be missed by all. Prayers for comfort in the days ahead.



Mary Lou Young - November 28, 2025 at 06:35 PM

MM

“ Deepest sympathy to the family from the entire MOSLEY family.

Michael Dale Mosley - November 28, 2025 at 06:19 PM

CS

A great loss to all of London so sad

Carol Singleton - November 28, 2025 at 08:16 PM

GM

“ *Greg Mink lit a candle in memory of Wilson Rawlings*



Greg Mink - November 28, 2025 at 04:40 PM

KA

“ *Kentucky Funeral Directors Association purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Wilson Rawlings.*



Kentucky Funeral Directors Association - November 28, 2025 at 04:37 PM

KA

“ *Kentucky Funeral Directors Association planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wilson Rawlings.*

Kentucky Funeral Directors Association - November 28, 2025 at 04:37 PM

JF

“ *SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT WILSON RAWLINGS HE WAS ONE GREAT MAN GONE BUT NEVER EVER FORGOTTEN R.I.P. WILSON MY FRIEND YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED*



JEFFREY FAMILY - November 28, 2025 at 03:41 PM

CS

Missing Wilson a great man and serving London and Laurel Country knew him and family many years sad Carol singleton

Carol Singleton - November 29, 2025 at 08:52 AM

CW

June, my heart and love goes out to you and family. Wilson was a good man and friend.

Charles Wells - January 06 at 10:04 AM