



## Michael Wilimzig

March 31, 1947 - November 6, 2025

Michael Wilimzig, 78, of Centralia, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 6, 2025. Born in 1947, in Sachsenhausen, West Germany, Michael lived a life full of passion, dedication, and love. He was the son of Wilhelm Wilimzig and Erika Butzke. He married Eileen Byrne and she survives in Centralia.

After moving to the United States, Michael pursued higher education, earning his Bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1975 and a Master's degree from the University of Florida in 1977. His intellectual pursuits were matched by his proud commitment to serve his new country, joining the US Army in 1970, serving 3 years and completing his service with an honorable discharge.

Michael dedicated 32 years to shaping young minds as a high school teacher before retiring in 2011. Michael began his teaching career at Mascoutah High School in 1979 before joining Central Community High School in Breese, IL, where he taught German and Spanish. Known for his ability to connect with students, nieces, nephews, and especially his grandchildren, he left a lasting impact on all who knew him.

More than an educator, Michael was a man of diverse interests. He had a deep appreciation for music, often playing his guitar, and was fascinated by

Spanish and Mexican cultures. He was a lover of all things Apple, especially Apple computers. He was a video game aficionado since the dawn of Pong. He was also an avid reader of non-fictional political literature. But more than any other interest, Mike had an especially strong love for all animals, adopting many strays into his family over the years.

Michael is survived by his loving wife, Eileen Wilimzig of Centralia, daughter, Martina Frisbie, and her husband, Brandon, of Woodstock, IL; his cherished grandchildren, William, Emilie, and Samuel Frisbie, all of Woodstock, IL; his devoted siblings, Maria Gordon (Kirby) of Owensboro, KY, Katharina Morse (Steven) of Mt. Pleasant, SC, and Hans (Uta) Wilimzig of Osnabruck, Germany. He is also fondly remembered by his nephews and nieces, Joe Gordon (Chandra) of Covington, LA, (whom he shared a brother-like relationship with), Debbie Arvay (Gerald) of West Columbia, SC, Michael Dowell of Martinez, GA, and Brian Morse (LaDelle) of Boerne, TX, Marion Pilipp of Germany, Anja Wilimzig and family of Germany, and Christian Wilimzig (Thea) of Germany, along with several great-nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilhelm and Erika Wilimzig, and his brother, Thomas Wilimzig.

Family, friends, and former colleagues are invited to celebrate Michael's life at the funeral service, which will be held on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia. A Visitation will precede the service from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Funeral Home on Friday.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Centralia Humane Society and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home located at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618) 532-3523, who is honored to be of service to Michael's Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting <http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com>

and the Funeral Home's Facebook page.

Michael's quick wit, warmth, and wisdom will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched. His legacy lives on through his family, students, and countless others who had the privilege to know him.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **14.** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

## Celebration of Life

NOV **14.** 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael Wilimzig*



**Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services** - November 13, 2025 at 04:03 PM



“ *John, Emily, Molly, Megan, & Jeremy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Wilimzig.*

**John, Emily, Molly, Megan, & Jeremy** - November 13, 2025 at 07:07 PM



“ *John, Emily, Molly, Megan, & Jeremy purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Michael Wilimzig.*



**John, Emily, Molly, Megan, & Jeremy** - November 13, 2025 at 07:07 PM

LG

“ Lora Grose lit a candle in memory of Michael Wilimzig



Lora Grose - November 11, 2025 at 04:56 PM

SW

“ I had Mr. Wilimzig for Spanish at Central one of his first years. My sister and I still talk about him. He has left a lasting mark on many of his students. Condolences to his family. (CHS Class of 1984)  
Sharon Wieter

Sharon Wieter - November 11, 2025 at 03:07 PM

EC

“ Erin Witzel & Lindsey Coppeler purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael Wilimzig.



Erin Witzel & Lindsey Coppeler - November 09, 2025 at 10:49 PM

EC

“ Erin Witzel & Lindsey Coppeler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michael Wilimzig.

Erin Witzel & Lindsey Coppeler - November 09, 2025 at 10:49 PM

ST

“ I had just talked about “Zig” last night. I had him for Spanish during high school at Central. He made my years memorable for sure. Sending my deepest sympathy to you all.

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**Sheryl Tonnies** - November 09, 2025 at 12:44 PM

JC

“ Josie Cluck lit a candle in memory of Michael Wilimzig



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**josie cluck** - November 08, 2025 at 02:55 PM