



Mr. Matthew R. "Matt" Wilkinson

January 30, 1984 - September 19, 2020

UTICA - Matthew R. "Matt" Wilkinson was 36 years of age. Due to the devastating effects of clinical depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder, Matt put an end to his pain, sadness, and hopelessness when he ended his life on Saturday, September 19, 2020.

Born in Utica on January 30, 1984, Matthew was the son of Laurice (Poczatek) Wilkinson and the late Roger F. Wilkinson who passed at the age of 46, prior to his son's birth. Matt attended Donovan Jr. High School and was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 2002. He was a handsome man, memorable for his unique creativity reflected in his boldly-colored hair during his youth. Most recently, he developed a passion for various facial hair stylings...and was especially proud of his "infamous" handlebar mustache, while maintaining his unparalleled sense of humor.

Matt worked at WKTV and WUTR as a videographer and editor of on-the-spot field interviews, and he also recorded life events and video productions for the Amazing Gracie Gift Foundation. Their mission is to provide support to families of children with cancer or a terminal illness, and working with them was a responsibility he truly embraced. Matt saw life through a softer, diffused lens in his work and it was amazing what a sensitive and caring young man he was. His mother granted him permission to live life the way he saw it; he "moved to the beat of his own drum" and his creativity and excellence were unmatched. Although he struggled for years, and years, there was always a smile on his face, but his eyes told his true story. He did the best in life that he

could. He may not have reached all of his goals, but he respected his friends for obtaining their accomplishments. Matt was a musician and self-taught guitarist. He was influenced by several bands and their lead singers including: melodic rock The Offspring lead singer Dexter Holland and grunge hard rock Everclear's lead singer Art Alexakis. Matt personally met Art at Saranac Thursday and had the chance to tell his musical idol how much he personally admired him for his artistic talent. Several Pop-alternative bands inspired Matt to write his own song lyrics including Third Eye Blind, whose lead singer Stephan Jenkins was the most influential. His current favorite was the hard rock band Foo Fighters and lead singer/guitarist Dave Grohl. "The Foo" was his "band of bands." Matt was fortunate enough to see them in concert several times. He identified with each of these groups because they told "his" story. Matt wrote his own lyrics which were a culmination of his feelings, and he journaled his work because he, too, played in several area bands. Though his creativity was natural and vast, he worked hard to perfect his delivery. He was very humble, never realizing the extent of his earthly talents. He had an additional skill — performing magic and slight-of-hand; his aptitude was amazing to others! Local magician, Leon Etienne (Matthew's friend) was inspired by Matt at a young age. When "Magic Matt" (Matt's nickname) lived in Ithaca, he performed his magic in local taverns, and when he appeared on the stage with his guitar, his stage name was "Studio Sanchez". His talents as a musician and a magician were routinely acknowledged and acclaimed! Matt's skills earned him an opportunity to work with award winning actor Adrien Brody who was filming the movie "Clean" in Utica in 2018. Matt was set coordinator and boom operator and being part of this production with this actor/director made him so proud.

One of Matt's preferred pastimes was watching the American version of "The Office" and identifying with the character Dwight Schrute. He saw in this person a parallel with his own personality, in mundane facts, multiple eccentricities, and unusual characteristics. Matt also enjoyed the movies Back to the Future as well as its sequels: 2 and 3; and the Die Hard series of

movies 1-5. He was always able to find some common alliance with the movies' energy-filled adventure themes. Matt's favorite food was pizza and he loved eating out. This past week it was Monday night at Cavallo's, all-you-can-eat spaghetti; Wednesday, A Taste of Laos on Bank Place; Friday, Voss' for fish sandwiches, ...always accompanied by his mom or siblings. Matt never understood how grand his life really was. A man of few words, he was always understated by his compassionate heart. He was focused, but he never really saw the admiration of so many people. If he could have only understood how much he was loved. Matt grew up in an extremely accepting household, and his support system was in place. Mistakes were made, but if there were any better ways to handle situations, they may have changed some things. His family always wanted to be there for Matt, ...always!

Matt is survived by his Mom, Laurice G. Wilkinson; sister, Tracy R. Wilkinson; brother, Khiry J. Wilkinson; and his aunts and uncle, Holly McGovern, and Neil (Grace) Wilkinson. He also leaves numerous cousins including Chad, and Kevin Parker; Patrick (Maribeth) Wilkinson, David (Terry) Wilkinson, Michael (Eileen) Wilkinson, Richard (Barbara) Wilkinson, and their families; best childhood friend Shawn O'Toole and his wife Teresa, and along with Shawn comes his sisters in law and brothers in law, Katrina (Gary) Kozlowski, Regina (Richard) Baker and their Mother, Rose O'Toole. Each of the O'Toole family members has a special place in each of the Wilkinson's lives. He was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, John and Frances Poczatek; paternal grandmother, Peggy Wilkinson; and uncles, Howard "Howie" McGovern, and Gary Wilkinson.

Laurice and her children have known the blessing and friendship of Rose O'Toole, who has been a remarkable person, especially in their time of need. Rose has been a steadfast, loyal and most supportive friend since 1986. Laurice could not have gotten this far without her help and guidance. The Wilkinson's would also like to thank the Mental Health doctors and counselors who were of paramount importance, with special note of the gentleness of

Bonnie Melnick, NPP. Anyone who has lived with a family member afflicted by mental illness would understand the journey.

Memorial contributions in Matt's memory can be made to The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Their donation link can be found online at <https://afsp.donordrive.com/> or by mail to 199 Water Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10038.

Visitation will be held Friday from 4:00-6pm at the Eannace Funeral Home, 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Due to the current restrictions, we will be operating at a limited occupancy. We ask for your patience as we try to accommodate those coming to support the Wilkinson family. Face masks must be worn and contact tracing will be implemented. Matt's funeral service and Celebration of Life will commence on Friday evening at 6:00 at the funeral home upon conclusion of visitation. Interment will take place in St. Ann's Cemetery, Hinckley, at the convenience of the family.

Please take a moment to connect with Matt's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

"The most beautiful things in life are not things. They're people and places and memories and pictures. They're feelings and moments and smiles and laughter."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8J5PYzkzDQI>

"Walk" by Foo Fighters

Cemetery Details

St. Ann's Cemetery

Hinckley, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 25. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Celebration of Life

SEP 25. 6:00 PM (ET)

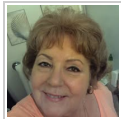
Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

Tribute Wall

CC

“ Laurice, Tracy, and Khiry,
I was saddened to learn of Matt's passing. My heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to all of you! I remember seeing Matt on my "home visits," and later on at events in the community..I will always remember his handsome face, and kind smile, and gentle demeanor! May he now rest in God's peace 🙏

Claudia Cardillo - September 27, 2020 at 06:15 PM



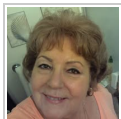
Thank you so much Claudia. It means so much to us to know people remember our dear Matthew. I miss him more than words can say.

Laurice Wilkinson - October 01, 2020 at 08:38 PM

AK

“ Laurie, Tracy, Khiry and family,
We are so sorry about the loss of Matt. Our hearts break for you and for all his friends especially Shawn O'Toole. Your tributes to him at Handshake City yesterday were beautiful. May he Rest In Peace knowing how much he was loved. Angela and Michael Keuerlaber

angela keuerlaber - September 27, 2020 at 07:00 AM



Thank you so much for attending the tribute at Handshake City. It helped us so very much to see how many people knew and liked our Mattie.

Laurice Wilkinson - October 01, 2020 at 08:39 PM

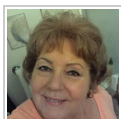
RG

“ I didn't know Matt well but we'd had a handful of conversations over the years when our paths crossed as fellow creatives, and I'd interviewed him for one of my photography projects. His sincerity and passion stood out to me. I'm so, so sorry for your deep loss.

Here's the project I photographed & interviewed him in:

<https://humansofutica.tumblr.com/post/128927480179/i-used-to-be-a-very-negative-person-about-a-lot>

Rebwcca Gleason - September 25, 2020 at 10:28 PM



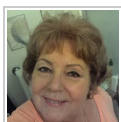
Thanks so much for sharing that interview and the pictures. It helps us so much.

Laurice Wilkinson - October 01, 2020 at 08:41 PM

DD

“ Laurice, Tracy, and Khiry, My deepest sympathy to all of you. Dona Dawes

Dona Dawes - September 25, 2020 at 11:07 AM



Thank you so much. Our hearts hurt so bad.

Laurice Wilkinson - October 01, 2020 at 08:42 PM

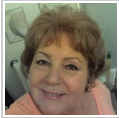
KF

“ Laurice, Tracy and Khiry,

We are deeply saddened by the news of Matt's passing. He was always ready with a wave and a smile whenever we saw him outside. Our deepest condolences to all of you. We are sending strength, love and prayers to all of you.

Kelly, Lisa, Brian and families

Kelly Fuller - September 25, 2020 at 10:02 AM



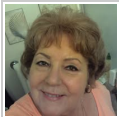
Thank you for your kind words. Our hearts are broken.

Laurice Wilkinson - October 01, 2020 at 08:43 PM

BR

“ *I do not know Matt, but the words of his obituary resonate with me. If we only all knew how we appear in the vision of others. He was unique and loved. May he rest in peace.*

Barbara Raulli - September 25, 2020 at 08:39 AM



Thank you for your kind words.

Laurice Wilkinson - October 01, 2020 at 08:44 PM

KH

“ *What a beautiful obituary. I am so proud of the man he became. Rest easy Matt. The struggle is over.*



Kathi Harrell - September 25, 2020 at 04:29 AM



“ I posted this on my Facebook page, but thought I'd share here for the family. ❤️

"Matthew Wilkinson was a high school crush of mine, but I never told him. He had come to school in a Tigger onesie on Pajama Day, walking around with the most welcoming smile on his face. That's when I thought to myself "This guy is amazing". I looked forward to passing by him in the hall between classes, but I was too chicken to carry on a convo beyond complimenting his hair or talking about "punk rock". There were days where I was depressed and seeing him smile in the halls lifted me up.

After high school and thanks to Nail Creek, our friendship blossomed. He was the one to tell me how he was born in the same hospital room and shared a bday with my now husband. Crazy how the world works.

*In 2015 he called me and told me he knew of an acting gig that he thought I was perfect for. He got me the hookup. Little did I know, it was a *huge* acting gig where Paul Sorvino was my dad! A few times every year since then, I made sure to always thank him for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime.*

I hope he knows how grateful I was."

Melissa Almas Peek - September 25, 2020 at 04:24 AM



“ S Bach lit a candle in memory of Mr. Matthew R. "Matt" Wilkinson



S Bach - September 25, 2020 at 01:17 AM

PL

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I didn't know him but he was a friend of my daughter. My prayers and thoughts are with you 🤍🙏.

Peggy LaBarge - September 24, 2020 at 09:47 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Matthew R. "Matt" Wilkinson.



September 24, 2020 at 09:32 PM

LB

“ So very sorry for your Loss.. You are in my thoughts & prayers..Although I didn't know Matthew..He sounds like a remarkable young man..Cherish all your precious memories..He lives forever in your heart.. love & Prayers of Comfort to you Maurice & all your family..

Linda Fancet t Bartling.. - September 24, 2020 at 08:55 PM

CC

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

Chuck Cady - September 24, 2020 at 07:09 PM



Giovanna Cavo

“ *Dear Laurie, Tracy and Khiry
We are heartbroken beyond words. Our hearts grieve for all of you. So many good memories of the summers spent at Trenton Town Park and helping out at the Boilermaker Volunteer Party. Matt was a wonderful, kind and caring person who was always willing to help others and was loved by so many people. May the love and support of family and friends be a source of comfort during this very difficult time. May his soul be at peace💔. Sending our love and hugs.
Joann and Brad Campbell*

Giovanna Cavo - September 23, 2020 at 11:03 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Matthew R. "Matt" Wilkinson.*



September 23, 2020 at 10:16 PM



“ *The band will never be the same without you Matt, we are devastated. It doesn't seem real. We're gonna miss you brother*



Sam LaPolla - September 23, 2020 at 09:13 PM

TW

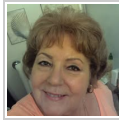
Sam, thank you so much for helping my brother Matt so much last year during one the hardest times for him. He told me so much about you ..From letting him crash on your couch and giving him some money and gift cards for meals.....and I believe not too long ago ... going to a concert together? This all means the world to me knowing he had a friend like you ... Thank you again.....

And to the rest of the bandmates-music was one of Matt's favorite past times. And I am so glad he was able to be a part of your band.

I'll be forever grateful <3

Tracy

tracy wilkinson - September 24, 2020 at 10:12 AM



Sam, I'm not sure if I ever met you in person, but I want to thank you for all the same things Tracy said. I know you helped Matt so much last year during his roughest time. We don't even know what happened, something just snapped. It was such a dark, horrible time for Matt. Thank you.

Laurice Wilkinson - September 24, 2020 at 02:49 PM

RB

“ *Laurie, Tracy and Khiry,
We are so sorry for this unfortunate devistating loss of such a wonderful person. There are no words that can express the heartache, sadness, and pain we feel for you all. Matt will live forever in our hearts and minds. We love you all so very much. - Regina, Richie, and family.*

Regina Baker - September 23, 2020 at 08:22 PM

DK

“ *My deepest thoughts and prayers to Family and Friends. Not only a huge loss to Family and Friends but society as a whole. Praying that comfort will be found in the special memories 🙏.*

Dorothy Keyes - September 23, 2020 at 08:16 PM

MS

“ Although I did not really know Matthew, your tribute to him was beautiful! I had no idea how talented he was. I cannot imagine the pain you all must feel in the loss of a wonderful son & brother. The world lost a sweet soul. I am so very sorry for what must be an unbearable loss. I will keep you all in my prayers. ❤️

Mary Specht - September 23, 2020 at 07:57 PM

LW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Laurice Wilkinson - September 23, 2020 at 07:51 PM

JO

This is the way I will remember Matt, his smile was contagious and by looking at him you would never know he had any mental health issues. I pray for you Laurice, Tracy and Khiry for peace and strength in the coming days and weeks as you struggle to get through life without this remarkable man..RIP Matt, you will be missed 🙏🏻

Joann owens - September 24, 2020 at 01:45 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Matthew R. "Matt" Wilkinson.



September 23, 2020 at 02:25 PM

KB

“ *Lori and family, I am so very sorry! My thoughts and prayers are with you! May he rest in peace. It is so hard to lose a child. Love Kay Bohn*

Kay Bohn - September 23, 2020 at 01:58 PM

YD

“ *Lori, Tracy, Cory and extended family,*

My thoughts and prayers are with you. I sincerely hope you can find some peace during this difficult time. Memories always remain in our hearts. I am lost for words. May Matt rest in peace.



Yolanda M Dischiavo - September 23, 2020 at 12:18 PM

MM

“ *Matthew will live forever in our hearts! He was part of our extended family and family get together especially many Sunday dinners where he referred to my Mom as “Grandma” and she LOVED it and him! RIP, dear Matthew and may your soul be at peace! 🙏❤️*

Maria Mrzlikar - September 23, 2020 at 11:05 AM

VF

“ *Matt, May God hold you in his arms and may you rest in peace*

Village Florals - September 23, 2020 at 10:26 AM

MS

“ *Matt was a wonderful friend to my son many years ago and I am thankful they rekindled that friendship. I'm sure they both helped each other through some tough times. Thank you Matt for caring and the time spent with John. May you Rest In Peace now💙*

Mary Ellen Sigbienny - September 23, 2020 at 07:14 AM

KR

“ *So sorry for your loss* ”



kristin - September 22, 2020 at 09:32 PM