



Johnny Charles "Buddy" Wachel

August 22, 1934 - June 2, 2022

Johnny Charles "Buddy" Wachel went home to be with the Lord on June 2, 2022. He was 87.

Buddy was born in Arp, Texas, on August 22, 1934, to Martin James Wachel, Sr., and Inez Eschberger Wachel. He grew up in Kilgore and graduated from Leverett's Chapel High School, where he was a member of the football team and played French horn in the band. He then attended Kilgore College and was elected President of the Engineering Club and President of the Band. He was also a member of the Phi Kappa Theta honor fraternity and graduated as Valedictorian.

In 1957, Buddy continued his education at The University of Texas at Austin (UT), which started his lifelong love of the Longhorns and any clothing item available in burnt orange. He earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

During his time at UT, Buddy was awarded the Hughes Tool Company Scholarship and held leadership positions in both Tau Beta Pi and Pi Tau Sigma. He was an active member of the Student Engineering Council, and he was voted President of the Student Chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He later received the ASME Hugh Scott Cameron Award for "Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Graduate."

Buddy frequently told people that his academic success paled in comparison to the greatest honor of his life: meeting Betty Jean Stone. They were married on February 20, 1960, and had a daughter named Susan. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in 2022.

Buddy started his career at Texas Instruments in Dallas, followed by 21 years at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. During that time, he developed a number of procedures and calculation methods still used in the industry today. His formula for accurately estimating the destabilizing forces in compressors became known as The Wachel Equation and is still part of the API Code.

In 1982, Buddy combined his engineering expertise with his entrepreneurial spirit and co-founded a consulting firm called Engineering Dynamics, Inc. He remained President and Manager of Engineering of the company until his retirement in 1997. He traveled all over the world to help solve equipment vibration and pulsation problems, but one of his favorite parts of the job was mentoring young engineering graduates.

He was a member of ASME, ASM, and the Vibration Institute, and he published dozens of technical papers throughout his career. In 1985, he was honored with the Eugene Jacobsen Award for the Best Technical Paper for all Petroleum Engineering Conferences and Workshops.

Buddy was a guest speaker and instructor at dozens of engineering seminars and conferences around the world. No matter what topic he was presenting, he always started by telling a joke. His sense of humor was legendary, and he never met a pun he didn't like.

Buddy was named a Life Fellow by ASME in 2003; a Distinguished

Engineering Graduate from UT's Cockrell School of Engineering in 2004; and a Distinguished Engineering Graduate from UT's Mechanical Engineering Department in 2005.

Buddy was active in the Baptist Church his entire life and was a proud member of Woodland Baptist Church in San Antonio. He loved studying the Bible and published a number of articles based on his historical research. Besides teaching Sunday School for over 50 years, he also served as a deacon and an usher in the churches he attended. By far, his favorite role was playing Santa for more than a decade at the church's annual gift-making workshop for children. He loved it as much as the kids did—maybe more.

Buddy was a proud member of the Longhorn Foundation and a Lifetime Member of the Texas Exes. His closet reflected that passion with an inordinate amount of burnt orange attire for any occasion.

As a loyal fan of UT football, he attended almost every home game from 1957 until 2013. Regardless of the weather conditions, he wanted to be there early to watch the players warm up. And no matter the final score, he always stayed to sing "The Eyes of Texas" at the end. One of his treasured memories came on his 70th birthday when he got to have lunch with former UT football coach and Longhorn legend Darrell Royal.

Throughout his life, Buddy loved playing ping pong, softball, and basketball. He even started an intramural sports program when he was working at Southwest Research. His favorite sport, though, was always golf. He played every chance he got and, over the years, he scored three hole-in-ones. And yes, he had his golf cart painted burnt orange.

Another highlight for him was gathering every month with lifelong friends to

play poker and bridge.

Buddy was a wonderful husband to B.J., an amazing father to Susan, a great friend to son-in-law (and fellow Longhorn enthusiast) Chuck, an incredible grandfather to Morgan, and a devoted dog owner to his precious pug Major. Nothing made him happier than driving around the neighborhood in his golf cart with Morgan and Major on board. He genuinely loved people and had a gift for talking to absolutely anyone, anywhere, any time.

Buddy is preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Martin James Wachel, Jr., and Samuel Boyd Wachel. He is survived by his wife B.J. Wachel; daughter Susan Priddy (Chuck); granddaughter Morgan Priddy; countless relatives, friends, and neighbors whom he adored; and all the strangers who instantly loved him after meeting him in an elevator or lobby.

The family would like to express sincere gratitude to the incredible staff at Embrace Hospice (Maria, Patrick, Oscar, and Lisa), as well as the loving caretakers at Golden Hearts Senior Living and Amada Senior Care.

A celebration of Buddy's life will be held at Woodland Baptist Church (15315 Huebner Road; San Antonio, TX 78248) on Saturday, July 16, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in Buddy's memory can be made to Woodland Baptist Church (woodlandbc.org).

Previous Events

Celebration of His Life

JUL **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Woodland Baptist Church
15315 Huebner Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78248

Tribute Wall

PD

“*Mr. Wahcel's piping vibration method I have used through out the world & have trained hundreds of engineers how to use it. His method to simplify Blevins' beam theory to solve piping vibration issues & address fitness for service concernns was a passionate display of his love to learn & teach. I shook hands with him one time in 1989 at EDI's week long piping vibration training in San Antonio Texas. I enjoyed every bit of his presentation which were prefected laced with jokes & smiles.*

Every time I train engineers in his methods, I give him tribute.

I am completely confident I will see Mr. Wachel again in heaven with the Creator of all things visible & invisible.

Sincerely;

*paul dowdican
Oklahoma State University BSME 1986*

*Chief Professional Engineer
Southern Services Incorporated
714 Wade Street
Clute Texas USA 77531*

*TXPE (current)
LAPELS (current)
PE in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
PE in the country of Equatorial Gunnie
Vibration Institute CAT4 (2004 - 2017)*

Paul T Dowdican - September 03, 2022 at 09:47 AM

PC

“Buddy and I were friends for 53 years. After all that time, what stands out to me was his positive attitude. Even in the past few years, when he experienced more serious health problems, he would talk about it, but never complain about it. "Poor me" was not in Buddy's vocabulary. He could put a positive spin on almost anything. Buddy was a good friend and I miss him very much.

P. A. Cox - June 15, 2022 at 10:44 PM

TG

“I met Buddy around 1963 at Southwest Research Institute (SwRI). As soon as I saw him I knew that I had met him before (how could you not remember a guy like Buddy!) when he was my instructor at UT Austin in a class called "Dynamics". It was a class designed for Electrical Engineering students to introduce us to principles of Mechanics. Buddy was working on his Masters in Mechanical Engineering and was my lab. instructor. I always kidded him later that my starting salary at SwRI might have been better if he hadn't given me a "B" in that lab course. He was always a friend in the best sense of the word; even when we didn't see each other for years he would greet me as if we were brothers. Buddy was incredibly smart and had a wonderfully inquisitive mind. When we reconnected at Woodland Baptist Church in 2005, Buddy was always trying out his new "theories" on me. The amount of background research he would put into some idea or theory was always mind boggling. We also shared the love of our dogs. "Major" was a very lucky, lucky dog to have Buddy as his master and friend and I know Buddy felt the same about having Major. I will miss Buddy, his friendship, his intellect, his humor, his witness and just being a wonderful person to be around. Terry Green

Terry Green - June 09, 2022 at 06:35 PM

SP

Thank you very much, Terry. So appreciate the stories you shared!
Susan Wachel Priddy

Susan Wachel Priddy - June 13, 2022 at 12:30 PM

FD

“ *I worked with Buddy for many years at Southwest Research Institute and played golf and poker with him also for many years. I remember once playing with him at a golf tournament in New Braunfels when unsolicited he told me what was wrong with my putting. This completely messed me up and I kidded him about it for years. Buddy and I had a lot of discussions about religion by email, and although we didn't see eye to eye on some aspects of his beliefs I appreciated his sincerity. Buddy was a great friend and I will miss him.*

Frank Dodge

Frank Dodge - June 07, 2022 at 08:24 PM

SP

Thanks very much, Frank! I know he treasured your friendship.
Susan Wachel Priddy

Susan Wachel Priddy - June 13, 2022 at 12:35 PM

RC

“ I was able to spend time with Buddy for a few months. He was such a joy to be around, I adored hearing him laugh!!! He was one that just made me smile from ear to ear, every time I saw him. He loved to tell me stories about when he first met his wife. He always said she was the most beautiful woman he ever saw! Oh, how I miss Buddy. But I can see him now - telling everyone in heaven - all the many many stories he loved to share!!!! RIP, Buddy. You will forever be loved and missed!!!

RoseMarie Crow

Franklin Park Sonterra Assisted Living

RoseMarie Crow - June 07, 2022 at 01:11 PM

SP

Hi Rose! We were so touched to see your sweet message. My dad adored you and really missed all of his Franklin Park friends when he had to move. Thanks for sharing your kind words and for always being a ray of sunshine to everyone around you. Hugs!

Susan Wachel Priddy

Susan Wachel Priddy - June 13, 2022 at 12:38 PM

MW

My deepest condolences to you Susan, Mrs. Wachel, and your family as well. Although he is with the good Lord, we are the ones that are left with the heartache and void . Let his laughter and memories fill that void in your hearts and celebrate the wonderful man your dad was and husband, grandpa, and friend . My heart grieves with you and you all are in my thoughts and prayers ! Luv ya !!! 🥺❤️

Mel Wilkinson - July 16, 2022 at 09:44 AM