



James Dennis "Chip" Wiles

September 30, 1946 - February 24, 2026

James Dennis "Chip" Wiles, 79, passed away peacefully on February 24, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

Born on September 30, 1946, to the late Wilbert and Jessie Wiles, Chip was a man of integrity and skill. He dedicated 35 years of his life to Starnes Trucking, where he served as an over-the-road driver, a career that reflected his steadfast work ethic.

Chip was a member of the Bloomfield American Legion Post #196, beyond his professional life, Chip was a lifelong learner and avid reader. He possessed an abundance of knowledge of automotive history and mechanics. He was passionate collector of unique items and memorabilia. His brilliant mind and gifted hands were best seen in his garage, where he specialized in building motors and restorations; his most recent pride and joy was the restoration of a 1937 Chevy, a final testament to his patience and craftsmanship.

Chip never met a stranger. Armed with a quick wit and a generous spirit, he was always the first to offer a helping hand to anyone in need. On March 2, 1987, he married his best friend, Bertha Wiles. Together they shared 39 wonderful years of partnership, laughter, and devotion.

Chip's legacy lives on through his loving family, he is survived by his wife,

Bertha Wiles, step-children, Amy Martin and Tom (Amy) Norris; his grandchildren, Christopher (April) Knootz, Stephen (Maddie) Martin, Rachel (Jordan) Walker, Johanna and Jonathan Martin and Carl, Henry, and Joe Norris, great-grandchildren, Lila and Nicolas Knootz, and nephew Brian Wiles.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbert "Wig" and Jesse (Linthicum) Wiles, his brother, Wilbert C. Wiles, step-daughter, Jodi Koontz, grandchild, Jarius Edward Knnotz, great-grandchild, Jarius Blaine Koontz and nephew, Bruce Wiles.

A private service will be held for the immediate family, with a Celebration of Life to be scheduled at a later date.

In gratitude for the exceptional care Chip received, the family wishes to thank the nurses and staff at the Infusion Center at IU Bloomington Hospital and the IU Hospice House in Bloomington. Their compassion provided great comfort during a difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Local Food Pantries or IU Health Hospice House (2810 S. Deborah Drive, Bloomington, In. 47403)

Cemetery Details

Grandview Cemetery

N. Washington Street
Bloomfield, IN 47424

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

AB

“ Chip was my neighbor and I am so thankful that I got to meet him. He was so interesting. I always liked to look at his collection of gas powered bicycles. I bought a Kia from him that he had rebuilt and that little car is still running today!!! He sure was a shining light in a dark world. Fly high Chip I am lucky to have met you.

April Breedlove - March 01 at 10:13 PM

GG

“ Bertha and Family, Sorry to hear this about Chip. Being a 1964 Classmate, went to Fort Knox same time for Basic and AIT Training (was in different companies tho). Went to a lot of swap meets, a "few" parties. Good person. Will miss looking to see if he is in the garage. Gene and Wanda Goad



Gene Goad - February 28 at 11:12 AM

BC

Chip was a good man and friend, I bought my first Harley from him. He was a talented man. I won't forget the day we were riding an old trike he was working on. I was riding in a home made box on the back and it blew up on us on an old country road. Rest easy Chip

Brad Collings - March 21 at 06:50 PM

JH

“ I never heard Chip say a bad word about anyone. I've known him for over forty years. I bought a triaxle dump truck back in the 80s and knew nothing about it and he gave me a lot of advice. I hope he rests in peace.

Jim Haldeman - February 27 at 12:12 PM

JB

“ *Bertha & Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Chip was a very special guy and a good friend. I am thinking of you. Judy Branstetter*

Judy Branstetter - February 26 at 02:47 PM

BR

“ *Bertha & Family,
So deeply sorry to hear about your loss of Chip. Thinking of you and sending loving energy. Much love, Brenda & Mick Renneisen*

brenda renneisen - February 26 at 08:55 AM

GJ

“ *So sorry for your loss. Lots of prayers to his family and friends.*

Gina Johnson - February 25 at 09:35 PM