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Wilkinson "Wick" Wright: 1922-1999 Engineers Club and Dayton Mourn Passing of Wright Family Spokesman

The Engineers Club of Dayton mourns the passing of one of its elder statesmen on December 9, 1999. Mr. Wilkinson Wright, affectionately known as "Wick" by those close to him, lost his valiant battle with cancer while at home, in the company of loved ones. Wilkinson Wright was 77.

Mr. Wright, the grand-nephew of Wilbur and Orville Wright, was a valued and loved Member of this Club since 1989. In recent years, Mr. Wright has represented the embodiment of the legacy of the Wright Brothers. He has appeared at several symposia, Club celebrations, and other events, representing the Wrights and our aviation heritage. On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the dedication of the building, Mr. Wright accepted the keys to the Club on behalf of the Membership, just as Orville Wright did in 1918. Mr. Wright was scheduled to be on-hand for the Wright Brothers Symposium in October at the Club; however, his health prevented him from attending. Most recently, Mr. Wright and his wife, Marion, were featured in the photo which accompanies a recently published article in *Profiles Magazine*. Club President Wade Adams, when asked about his experiences with

Mr. Wright, said, "Wick loved the Club ... even when not feeling well, he and Marion did not hesitate when asked to be in the *Profiles* article, but said, "When do you need us?" Mr. Wright served on the Inventing Flight/2003 Committee with Dr. Adams, who went on to state, "He believed in the 2003 project ... an amazing gentleman, scholar, and spokesman for the Club and flight."

Mr. Wright was the grandson of Lorin Wright, the elder brother of Orville, Wilbur, and sister Katharine. He is survived by his wife, Marion; son Stephen and his wife, Debra, of Oakwood; daughter Amanda Lane and her husband, Donald, of Cincinnati; stepdaughters Martha Sullivan and her husband, Ronald, of San Francisco; Barbara Cutillo and her husband, Daniel, of Perrysburg, Ohio; and Ann Kline and her husband, Steven, of Miamisburg; and several grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Saturday, December 18, at the First Baptist Church of Dayton. The Engineers Club was represented at the Memorial Service by Club President, Dr. Wade Adams; Vice President, John Bosch; Executive Director, Bill Selkirk; numerous members of the Barn Gang; and several individual Members.

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It is with heavy heart that our Club moves toward the next century leaving Mr. Wright, his persona, humor, and intelligence in the wake of history. We do not easily forget our past at the Engineers Club of Dayton, as is evidenced every day by those who walk its halls. Wilkinson "Wick" Wright departs our lives, but not our hearts or consciousness. This building stands as a memorial to those who have lived, loved, taught, learned, and contributed to the enrichment of our Club, and the Dayton community. So, goodbye, Wick, you will be missed, but not forgotten. We're better for having had you in our company, and we'll make every effort to emulate the qualities you exhibited daily.