



IN MEMORY OF
WILBUR WILSON



1909 - 1972

**THE SAYINGS
OF
WILBUR WILSON**

**A Memorial Booklet
prepared by the
Ofc. of the DEPCORDS
HQ/CORDS/MR 4, Can Tho
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Letter from BG James A. Herbert, USA, to Mr.
George D. Jacobson, DEPCORDS/MACV:

Andrews AFB
22 December 1972

Dear Jake:

We buried Wilbur Wilson in Arlington Cemetery this morning. It was a sad day for us all, and the weather reflected our mood. Mitch Hazam arranged for Wilbur to be side by side with John Vann. I think that both would like it that way. Wilbur was buried with full military honors and the ceremony was attended by many star and award wearers. Amb. Whitehouse was there. Amb. Colby, Amb. Komer, Bob Nooter, Clay McManaway and Tom Bowen were with me as honorary pall bearers.

Mrs. Evans, Wilbur's sister, along with her husband, represented his only relatives. The Army did itself proud. General Palmer, Lt. General DePuy, many other one and two star, lots of retired and mostly airborne guys were there.

Brick Krause, C/S of XVIII Airborne Corps, and I brought up a group from Bragg for the occasion. I paid your respects to Wilbur's sister and to the occasion itself. CORDS, as you can readily see, was very well represented--as was AID/Wash.

The Army's Old Guard (3rd Inf) really does it in style. Wilbur would have been proud. I was.

Our regards and best wishes to you and CORDS.

Sincerely,

Jim /s/

BG James A. Herbert

SAYINGS OF WILBUR WILSON

If you're not in the planning business, you're not in the advisory business.

Don't do what I say--do what's right!

Of course we'll just muddle through--but we've GOT to raise the level of muddling.

There you go, thinking again--weakening the team!

This illustrates the utter bankruptcy of the system...

The first thing we've got to do is to abolish STUPIDITY!

Why, that silly bastard...

When you get something from these provinces, Jesus Christ, don't just copy it down. Some of these goddam guys are semi-literate.

He's the world's greatest lame duck.

We've got to get these little guys out from under the shade trees...

Leadin' lieutenants is easy: Keep 'em so goddam busy they can't think about what they are always thinking about--which is girls.

Nein, nein, nein, you knucklehead!

Don't think, dammit--just do what I tell you!

We can only tolerate a certain level of incompetence around here.

He doesn't have his head screwed on right.

DON'T ration knowledge!

I agree. Targeting the enemy units is a great idea! But nobody's ever been able to do it.

I know how to improve communications in the Delta. Take the goddam Signal Officer out and shoot him.

Not only no, but hell no!

He's only got a month left in country? Hell, in a month he won't even be able to find his way to the latrine!

Shoot 'em in the ass with a glory gun!

Harmony hell! I'll show 'em how to harmonize!

Those goddam cops sure do have an exalted opinion of themselves.

He's a goddam neophyte!

Re civilians: If I made their kind of money I couldn't in good conscience take that kind of leave.

Of course I chew out captains--that's what captains are for, f'gawdsake!

That man's just an embryo.

I am the best goddam man for this job--all I have to do is convince those fuzzy-heads in Washington of that.

* * * *

Wilbur Wilson died on 19 December 1972 of a heart attack while on home leave in Washington, D.C.