In response to the love of God, Methodist Hospital and Rehabilitation Center is dedicated to the restoration and enhancement of the lives of those we serve. We are committed to excellence and leadership in the delivery of comprehensive rehabilitation services.

On the Cover
Earl R. Wilson, one of the founders of Methodist Rehabilitation Center and chairman of its board of trustees for 25 years, died of a stroke on September 25, 2000. This issue of Ways & Means is dedicated to the lifelong commitment he made to the physically disabled.
I first met Earl Wilson in July of 1989. I had just started at Methodist Rehabilitation Center as the chief operating officer and was very excited about being associated with a hospital with such a great reputation.

At our first meeting, Earl explained to me that he expected me to be involved in the community. He told me how he and members of his family had served on the Goodwill board of directors and in other community service organizations around Jackson. I soon realized that Earl not only felt an obligation to serve his community, but he greatly enjoyed it as well.

In April of 1993, I was fortunate enough to be asked to serve MRC as chief executive officer. From that point on, I spent a lot of time getting to know Earl and learning from him.

Every Tuesday, we met for lunch. We talked about our families and I listened to him tell about his past and the history of MRC. He loved bragging about his children and grandchildren. He once told me about how he and Martha had introduced Tabasco hot sauce to health seekers at the Pritkin Longevity Center in California. He told me the story about how he and George W. Bush had been unsuccessful at putting together an oil deal in Britain in the ‘70s. It was always a joy to talk with Earl about anything because he made everything so interesting.

Our lunches usually started with small talk, but eventually turned to the business of running a hospital. While I was always concerned with specific issues we were facing, Earl always wanted to discuss the big picture and the future of MRC.

When we did talk about issues, he would give his insight and encouragement, but left the solutions up to others. I came to realize that was a virtue of his leadership. Earl Wilson didn’t have to deal with details up to others. I came to realize that was a virtue of his leadership. Earl Wilson didn’t have to deal with details up to others. I came to realize that was a virtue of his leadership. Earl Wilson didn’t have to deal with details up to others.

Two months before Earl’s death, we were recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of America’s best hospitals. It was one of the highlights of my career to be able to deliver the news to Earl. The day before he died, he fired the pistol to start the Reunion Race. After the race, he was carrying a mounted poster of the U.S. News magazine cover. Earl’s wife, Martha, joked to us that we needed to get him two posters so he could wear them as a sandwich board and walk around Jackson promoting MRC for our accomplishment.

Earl Wilson inspired many people to give their time, talent and treasures back to the community. MRC is certainly his most visible accomplishment and contribution to Mississippi and to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Every year, this hospital provides care and treatments to thousands of people who have suffered catastrophic injuries and illnesses. The Wilson Research Foundation continues to fund cutting edge research into ways to improve recovery from spinal cord and brain injuries. Apartments for the disabled are being built. Our services are constantly being improved. Lives are being touched.

And although Earl is no longer with us, his work and influence will be felt here in these halls always.

Mark A. Adams
President and CEO

After reviewing 6,247 hospitals nationwide, U.S. News & World Report ranked Methodist Rehabilitation Center as one of the best hospitals in the country for its rheumatology/arthritis services along with such hospitals as the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. The Center was the only hospital in Mississippi and one of only 173 in the nation to be named in the review of 17 medical specialties. "From the very beginning, we pledged to make this an exceptional facility and to be first in rehabilitative research, treatment and care," said Earl R. Wilson, chairman of the board of trustees at MRC, who died in September 2000.

"Being named as one of America’s best hospitals is truly an honor and is recognition of the commitment to excellence that has been interwoven throughout the hospital’s 25-year history," he added.

"We were very pleased to learn that we were ranked one of America’s best hospitals," said Mark A. Adams, MRC president and CEO.

"Unlike other hospitals, we are a specialty hospital dedicated to providing high quality health care for patients with neurological and musculoskeletal diseases and injuries. This allows us to focus our energies, talents and resources on being the very best in our field. We will continue to provide excellent services to the physically disabled and look forward to the Center being annually ranked as one of America’s best hospitals by U.S. News & World Report."

For more than 25 years MRC has treated patients with disabling rheumatoid arthritis and other neurological and orthopedic illnesses and injuries including spinal cord injury, brain injury and stroke. The Center is one of the few free-standing rehabilitation facilities in the country to offer surgical capabilities and was the fifth in the world to install a clean-air surgical suite.

"The rheumatology/arthritis services offered by Methodist Rehabilitation Center in conjunction with the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC) are superb," said Dr. Kenneth J. Hardy, professor of medicine and chief of the division of rheumatology/molecular immunology at UMC. "Patients can receive the finest medical care available in the country right here in Jackson. It is rewarding to know that, together, our work in rheumatology/arthritis medicine has obtained national prominence."
Earl Raymond Wilson

A Legacy of Hope

Earl R. Wilson, one of the founders of Methodist Rehabilitation Center and chairman of its board of trustees for 25 years, died of a stroke on September 25, 2000. His visionary leadership continues to inspire those who knew him and the legacy of hope he helped create lives on.

Earl Raymond Wilson was born in California, but when he was a child his family returned to their native Mississippi. “We had a lot of personal history in California,” Mr. Wilson said. “My parents went out there when they were quite young; in fact, one of our ancestors was the first mayor of Los Angeles. And Mount Wilson is named for my family. But my parents missed the Magnolia State.”

Mr. Wilson spent his early years in Oxford where he worked in a grocery store on the Square and walked to the Ole Miss campus from his house when he was in school. He received both his bachelor of science degree in commerce and his law degree from the University of Mississippi. During World War II he served in an Army anti-aircraft unit in Europe.

After the war, he married Martha Lyles, whom he had met in the fourth grade. At the time of his death in September 2000, they had been married for more than 52 years. The Wilsons were brought up in the Christian tradition of helping others, and they believed firmly that “to those whom much is given, much is expected.” Together they touched many lives and made significant contributions to the people of Mississippi.

Church has always been important to the Wilsons. “Right before we got married, Earl’s mother told me not to worry,” said Mrs. Wilson. “Earl would make a good Methodist because she’d given him such good training in the Baptist church. And he did indeed make a good Methodist.”

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were active in the United Methodist Conference and they helped found Briarwood United Methodist Church, where Mr. Wilson served as chairman emeritus. In 1994, the Wilsons received the Woodrow B. Seales Latty Award from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in recognition of their dedication to the church.

Family has also been an integral part of their lives. They have three daughters: Ann Wilson Holifield, Virginia Wilson Maunger and Amy Lyles Wilson. Ann worked with her father and is the mother of the Wilsons’ grandchildren: Wilson, Lyles and Martha Grace. Ginny is an administrative law judge with the Workers’ Compensation Commission of Mississippi and Amy Lyles, a writer, owns an editorial services firm in Nashville.

The tradition of “giving back” has been passed from one generation to the next, as the Wilson daughters devote their time and resources to various charitable and philanthropic endeavors, ranging from hospice to the Junior League.

“My sisters and I have good examples to follow when it comes to volunteering,” said Ann Wilson Holifield. Mr. Wilson also inspired others.

“Earl had a material impact on my life,” said Steve Sansom, a member of the board of governors of the Wilson Research Foundation and a vice president in the investment management division at Goldman Sachs in Memphis. “He and I spent hours discussing Mississippi and business around the world. Our topics ranged from goat farming to the oil business and the days of raising money in New York. But the most important thing I learned from Mr. Wilson is the sheer joy of devoting one’s time and resources to worthy causes. He encouraged me to step back from a busy career and focus some of that energy on making a difference, in my community and in the world at large. Mr. Wilson had an incredible ability to lead by example and captivate very successful people. I will always view him as a lifelong mentor.”

For more than 30 years, Mr. Wilson dedicated his life to helping Mississippians through his leadership in business and in his philanthropic work. In addition to his legal practice, he was also an oil and gas developer and an entrepreneur.

Throughout his career, which took him from Kansas to the North Sea, he was an ambassador for Mississippi, helping further the state’s economy through his successful business ventures. As chairman of the Jackson International Airport, Mr. Wilson was instrumental in the airport’s expansion into new national and international markets. He served on many professional, church and educational boards while contributing to the efforts of various civic and charitable organizations. He served on the board of trustees of Millsaps College and was past president of Goodwill Industries, the Capital Club and the board of trustees of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

He was a member of the advisory board of the Governor’s Office of Handicapped Services and was formerly on the board of directors of Citizens Bank and Trust Co., Sunburst Bank, South Mississippi Bank and Mount Olive Bank. Mr. Wilson belonged to legal and oil industry associations as well.

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—Steve Sansom

Goldman Sachs, Memphis

Groundbreaking ceremonies for Methodist Rehabilitation Center were held on December 8, 1970.

Martha and Earl Wilson with daughters Virginia, Ann and Amy.
“Mr. Wilson was a tremendous community leader, a dynamic force. It will be a long time before we see another person of his character pass this way.”

-Dr. Julius Cruse
University of Mississippi Medical Center

In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson received numerous honors and awards. They were honored by Prevention of Blindness/Mississippi as “People of Vision” and Humanitarians of the Year by the Epilepsy Foundation. He was awarded the Circle of Honor by Methodist Rehabilitation Center and the Volunteer activist Award by Goodwill Industries. He supported the Mississippi Opera, Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and the Mississippi Museum of Art.

According to his family, it was his affiliation with Methodist Rehabilitation Center and the Wilson Research Foundation that gave Mr. Wilson the most profound joy and satisfaction. He served on the board of governors of the Foundation and also was chairman of the board of trustees of Methodist Rehab for more than 25 years.

When Mr. Wilson was a young attorney working in the oil and gas industry, he traveled the back roads of Mississippi on a daily basis. “Primarily in rural areas, you’d see people with disabilities who didn’t have access to any kind of medical assistance,” he said. “There was always someone who had to care for the disabled person, so the disability was taking two people out of the workforce. Not only did we need to help the disabled person regain a sense of self-reliance and dignity, we also needed to get that caretaker back in the workplace.”

“I think the fact that our father suffered a stroke at a relatively young age also motivated Earl,” said his brother, Bob Wilson, of Oxford. “He wanted to be able to help people in that situation so they wouldn’t have to deal with what we faced: a father who could no longer speak to us, a man who was not able to reach his full potential.”

Many people credit Mr. Wilson for making the dream of a rehabilitation center in Mississippi a reality and answering the question “Why not here in our state?” with a positive response.

“Earl had an amazing ability to gauge the future and to think creatively about how to approach it,” said Rev. Jerry Mitchell, executive director of the Methodist Foundation. “He has been called a dreamer and a doer, and it’s true. He could get things accomplished and he was gifted at recruiting and inspiring the right people to work with him.”

After years of planning, research and groundwork performed by Mr. Wilson and the other MRC founders—Frank Hart Sr., Hilton Ladner and Dr. Jesse Wofford—the Center took hold. Although Mr. Wilson insisted that the efforts of many people were necessary to bring the facility to fruition, it’s fair to say that he was the catalyst for making it come together.

Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Center broke ground on December 8, 1970 and opened its doors to patients in 1975. Since then the state-of-the-art facility has provided comprehensive medical rehabilitation programs for people with spinal cord and brain injuries, stroke and other neurological and orthopedic disorders. It is the only free-standing rehabilitation center in the state.

U.S. News & World Report named Methodist Rehab one of America’s best hospitals in 2000 after reviewing 6,247 hospitals nationwide. The Center joins such hospitals as the Mayo Clinic and Johns Hopkins on the prestigious list and is the first hospital in Mississippi to be recognized by the magazine.

One of Mr. Wilson’s most vivid dreams was for the Center to receive this honor. “Don’t wait until I’m up in heaven to make this happen,” he’d tell the Center staff. The fact that he knew about this designation before his death brings great comfort to his family.

In 1998, MRC was named by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research as a Traumatic Brain Injury Model System. one of only 17 sites in the United States. In 1999, the first Martha Lyles Wilson Brain Injury Fellowship was initiated, one of only five such programs in the United States.

Another dream, which became a reality in 1989, was the establishment of the Wilson Research Foundation through a generous contribution by the H. F. McCarty Jr. Family Foundation to honor Mr. and Mrs. Wilson’s service to the physically disabled. The Foundation provides grants for research into spinal cord and brain injuries, stroke and other related illnesses and injuries.

The generosity of the McCarty family continues today and Marsha McCarty Wells serves on the board of trustees of the Center and the board of governors of the Wilson Foundation.

In 1998, Methodist Rehab opened the Center for Neuroscience and Neurological Recovery (CNNR) to expand the scope and intensity of related research. The CNNR is partially funded by the Wilson Research Foundation.

“Mr. Wilson was a tremendous community leader, a dynamic force.” said Dr. Julius Cruse, a professor of pathology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center who received a grant from the Wilson Research Foundation to conduct spinal cord injury research. “It will be a long time before we see another person of his character pass this way.”

The stories of people who have been affected by the Center and the Foundation are ones of inspiration, fortitude and, most certainly, hope. All are qualities that Mr. Wilson tried to emulate in his daily walk.

Certainly, for his friends, family and his fellow man, it’s fortunate that Mr. Wilson’s parents came home to Mississippi from California all those years ago.

Rev. Jerry Mitchell
The Methodist Foundation

In 1984, construction began on an additional four hospital floors, expanding the facility’s capacity from 60 to 124 beds.

Chairman of the Board, the late Earl R. Wilson, left; Board Member Dr. Jesse L. Wofford, right; former Vice Chairman, the late Hilton L. Ladner, seated; and the late Frank Hart, not pictured, were instrumental in developing MRC from a dream to a reality.

The Atrium Mall at MRC opened in 1994.

Methodist Rehabilitation Center’s east campus opened in 1992.
When Cory Hunter first sat in therapy two years ago, he set a goal and made up his mind nothing would stop him from achieving it. The goal was to be able to lift his head and hold it up without support for 15 minutes.

But Cory, who walked into his Petal home four months after arriving at Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson and danced his way to the junior prom that next spring, underestimated his determination in a big way.

In July 1998, Cory was competing in the National High School Rodeo Championships in Gillette, Wyoming. Two days later, Cory was back home having fun canoeing with friends. The 17-year-old and his buddies were playing with a rope that swung out over the water. Cory lost his grip, fell and landed on his head on the soapstone rocks 20 feet below.

Help wasn’t able to get there quickly, said Cory’s mother, Ann. “The boys knew they were the last group out in the water. One of them ran through the woods and flagged a car down. It was a pretty long time before they got to us,” she said.

Cory was placed in a canoe and medics had to walk him down the creek to canoe and medics had to travel out-of-state to distant cities for treatment, if they sought treatment at all. The story that follows is an example of Earl Wilson’s legacy of hope and the difference it made in one family’s life.

“Edie hunt first told me about the hospitals that we were told about were out-of-state. We would have been across the country and it would have been awful.”

Ann Hunter
Cory’s mother

For more than 25 years Methodist Rehabilitation Center has treated people with spinal cord and brain injuries, stroke and other neurological and orthopedic disorders. They’ve come from all of Mississippi’s 82 counties, from neighboring states and from across the country. Before the Center was built, they had to travel out-of-state to distant cities for treatment, if they sought treatment at all. The story that follows is an example of Earl Wilson’s legacy of hope and the difference it made in one family’s life.

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Ann Hunter
Cory’s mother
Foundation Scientists Take Research from the Laboratory to the Bedside

The Wilson Research Foundation was formed in 1989 after the H.F. McCarty Jr. Family Foundation and McCarty Farms donated $500,000 to honor the contributions Earl and Martha Wilson have made to the physically disabled in Mississippi.

Established to improve the lives of the physically disabled through research, education and clinical applications, the Foundation complements the mission of Methodist Rehabilitation Center, which is dedicated to the restoration and enhancement of the physically disabled and committed to excellence and leadership in the delivery of comprehensive rehabilitation services.

The Foundation offers grants to research faculty at MRC and at the University of Mississippi Medical Center who are working to improve treatment options for patients who have suffered a stroke, brain or spinal cord injury.

The Foundation, which has funded more than $800,000 in grants for rehabilitation research, supports applied research that can be taken from the laboratory to the patient’s bedside or outpatient setting. Since the formation of the Center for Neuroscience and Neurological Recovery at MRC in 1998, a nucleus of talented research faculty has been formed to apply cutting edge research findings to those patients who can benefit the most from this work.

It is estimated that each year in Mississippi there are 2,000 strokes, 3,000 brain injuries and 141 spinal cord injuries that require some type of rehabilitation.

Advances are being made nationwide in three major areas of research—recovery of sensory function, regeneration of nerve cells and nerve cell replacement. Currently, MRC is engaged in spinal cord injury research through its treadmill gait therapy program, which is helping some patients with spinal cord injuries regain the ability to walk.

In the field of brain injury research, MRC was named a Traumatic Brain Injury Model System, one of only 17 sites in the nation. Through collaboration and research with other model systems, improved treatments for traumatic brain injury will be achieved. The model system’s lead researchers are internationally recognized for their work and have presented and published their research findings.

Isabelle Williamson White, the former vice president of marketing and public relations at Methodist Rehabilitation Center and the first executive director of the Wilson Research Foundation, died of cancer at her home in Dunwoody, Ga., on November 15. She was 74.

“Isabelle was a wonderful woman who cared deeply about the Center, its patients and the hope that the Wilson Research Foundation offers,” said Mark Adams, MRC president and CEO. “She will be deeply missed.”

Mrs. White was the widow of Robert White. A native of Atlanta, she moved to Jackson in 1971 where she served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations and donated her time and energy to many charitable events.

Survivors include: daughter, Susan Farnham of Woodstock, Ga.; son, Robert White Jr. of Decatur, Ga.; brother, James Williamson Jr. of Tiger, Ga.; and three grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Wilson Research Foundation, c/o Methodist Rehabilitation Center, 1350 East Woodrow Wilson, Jackson, MS 39216.

Close Friends Work Together to Give Back to the Community

By Marsha McCarty Wells

My father, H. F. “Mac” McCarty Jr., became friends with Earl Wilson when they were at the University of Mississippi School of Law in the 1940s. They were both involved in YMCA and campus activities. Later they served together on various committees related to the Methodist church. Through the years, my father and Mr. Wilson strengthened their friendship and forged similar philosophies about helping others.

Dean Guess told Daddy when he left Ole Miss Law School that he had a debt to repay society in general and Mississippi in particular. So my father, like Mr. Wilson, spent his life repaying that debt not only with leadership and civic responsibility, but also with philanthropy.

After visiting with Mr. Wilson about improving the lives of people with disabilities, my parents moved to establish the Wilson Research Foundation in honor of their close friends Earl and Martha Wilson. It was my father’s privilege to serve on the boards of the Foundation and the Center, acts that he felt allowed him to give back to the community. I’m happy to say that my family is carrying on those legacies of outreach and friendship today.

Marsha McCarty Wells, daughter of Mary Ann and the late H. F. McCarty Jr., is on the board of trustees of Methodist Rehabilitation Center and the board of governors of the Wilson Research Foundation.
Mr. Wilson was a man of great vision and benevolence. By supporting the Wilson Research Foundation, we can continue in his honor, to keep his dreams alive.

Derek Crowover
Nashville Attorney

Memorials for Earl R. Wilson

Earl Wilson dedicated much of his life to helping the physically disabled. It was this commitment that inspired the creation of the Wilson Research Foundation. Listed below are the names of those who have made donations in his memory (as of December 1, 2000) to support research that will improve the lives of those with brain or spinal cord injuries or other physical disabilities.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Adams
Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Acker
Mr. Wallace Alfred
Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Anderson
BankPlus
Ms. Jane A. Barnett
Dr. Blake A. Bass
Dr. and Mrs. C. F. Beisel
Mrs. Thomas A. Bell
Mr. Thomas Bell Jr.
Mrs. Thomas A. Bell
Ms. Ethel Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene T. Clark
Mr. Ron J. Cockayne Jr.
Mrs. Sam Coggin
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Corby Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew M. Costlikin
Mrs. P. W. Cowser
Mr. Sam Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Roihe B. Crayon
Ms. Baven Crawford
Mrs. Betsy S. Creekmore
Mr. Derek C. Crowmoor
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Collett
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dale
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Dallas
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Davis Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Dean
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. DeMillier Jr.
Mrs. Christine Dickinson
Ms. Melba Dixon
Mrs. Robert V. Donley
Ms. Suzanne Eaton
Mrs. James P. Evans
Mr. Carl G. Eyers
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Farnham
Ms. Nancy Lynne Farns
Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Pitts Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Nan H. Fyrt
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas S. Fugel
Mr. Chester R. Force
Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Foster Jr.
Mr. Richard M. Fouts
Mrs. Nancy Furkow
Graystone Properties, Inc.
Mr. James E. Grier
Ms. Ashley Hagg
Ms. Nancy Haggard
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hattston
Mrs. Robert V. M. Harrison
Mrs. Tammy G. Hartcock
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. "Bill" Hawkins
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Heard Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hedeman
Mr. and Mrs. Zach T. Hedeman
Mr. and Mrs. Georgia Hewes III
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Higginsboro
Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Hines Jr.
Mr. J. Herman Hines
Ms. Jean E. Hoffman
Mr. and Mrs. Alec Hogan
Mrs. Ruth S. Holcombe
Ms. Ann Holland
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Humphreys
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jack Hunt
Ms. Dorothy Irving
Ms. Luth N. Jackson
Mr. James E. Jenkins
Ms. Alekia Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Bennett J. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Johnson Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Roy B. Johnson
Mrs. Walter G. Johnson Jr.
Mr. B. Bryan Jones III
Mr. and Mrs. Earl F. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Jones Jr.
Mrs. Ruth B. Kendrick
Mr. and Mrs. Bill King
Mr. and Mrs. Julius W. King
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kissman
Mrs. Milton L. Laddner
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Lange
Mrs. Nell G. Langle
Ms. Denise Turrer Lott
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Love
Mrs. Tessa K. Love
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Lyles
Mr. Charlie Magee
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Malley
Mrs. Phyllis Y. Mashburn
Mrs. A. E. May
Ms. Lee Ann Mayo
Mr. and Mrs. Dalton McBeth Jr.
Mrs. H. F. McCarty Jr.
Mr. John R. McCarty
Mrs. Katie Rose McGloven
Mr. and Mrs. Gary McGee
Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Mayes McGehee
Mrs. Margaret McGowan
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. McRae
Mr. Murl McSweeney
Ms. Martha McElvain
Mr. and Mrs. David L. McMillen
Mr. and Mrs. Richard McRae
Ms. Donna McWilliams
Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Meadows
Methodist Rehab Biomedical Engineering
Mr. and Mrs. David Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Miller
Mrs. Pats Miller
Mr. Ray Minor
Mississippi United Methodist Foundation
Rev. and Mrs. Elizabeth H. Mitchell
Rev. and Mrs. T. Jerry Mitchell
MMJ Dining Systems
Ms. Cindy Montgomery
Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Morrison Jr.
MS Club Track, Inc.
MSS Workers Compensation Commission
Mr. Jane C. Moyer
Ms. George O. Newman
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Nickles
Mrs. Camilla H. Noblin
Mrs. Carolyn Nuckolls
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Pace
Mrs. Margaret Parker
Mr. Joel Peeler
Mr. and Mrs. Roland D. Peets Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. James Frank Perry Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Phillips III
Ms. G. S. Pope
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Puckett
Ms. Paulynn Rayley
Mr. and Mrs. Fred G. Ray
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Ray
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Redpath
Mrs. Margaret Redmond
Rehabilitation Review, Inc. & Staff
Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Ridgeway III
Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Ridgway
Mr. James L. Robertson
Mr. E. B. Robinson Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Wilhelmina Robinson Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Rodgers
Mr. and Mrs. Nat S. Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. Carmen R. Sabat
Mrs. Kit McClendon Salbe
Ms. Tessa Scallop
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy T. Schuck
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Schummler
Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Scott
Mr. and Mrs. Tom R. Scott Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William Shanko Jr.
Dr. Kenneth B. Slaughter
Mr. Ben B. Smith
Ms. Katrina Smith
Mrs. Ruth Guyton Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Sneed
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Sneed
The James Spain Family
Mr. and Mrs. John Carter Stamm
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Steel
Mr. and Mrs. John Carter Stamm
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Steel
Steele, Chadwick and McDaniel, PLLC
Mr. and Mrs. Norman G. Stevens Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Joe S. Stumbo
Mr. and Mrs. O. Edward Wall
Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Walters
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Webb Jr.
Mamba and Terry Wells
Mrs. Elizabeth M. White
Mr. and Mrs. Roger E. White Jr.
Mr. Emmett J. Williams
Mr. and Mrs. James Mack Willis
The Earl R. Wilson Family
Mr. and Mrs. Don Winchell
Mrs. Olive G. Winellus
Mr. and Mrs. Alon E. Windsor Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood W. Wise
Mr. Robert Womack Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Wooten
Mr. Robert Womack Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood W. Wise
Mr. and Mrs. James Mack Willis
The Earl R. Wilson Family
Mr. and Mrs. Don Winchell
Mrs. Olive G. Winellus
Mr. and Mrs. Alon E. Windsor Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood W. Wise
Mr. Robert Womack Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Wooten
Mrs. Thomas L. Wright

This list includes memorials made for Mr. Earl R. Wilson as of December 1, 2000. An inclusive listing of all contributions made in the year 2000 will appear in the Spring 2001 issue of Ways & Means. If you would like to make a memorial to Earl Wilson or to someone else, or if you note an error or omission, please contact Bettye V. Sullivan, executive director of the Wilson Research Foundation at (601) 364-5398.

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Methodist Rehabilitation Center Volunteers Donate $17,500 to Wilson Research Foundation

Whenever a visitor makes a purchase at the Methodist Rehabilitation Center gift shop in the Atrium Mall, that person is contributing to the Wilson Research Foundation and Earl R. Wilson’s legacy of hope.

In 2000, the volunteer-led gift shop turned a profit of more than $17,500. All of it is being donated to the Wilson Research Foundation to help fund research into ways to improve recovery from spinal cord injury, brain injury and stroke.

“With the many ways MRC benefits from the hard work of volunteers,” said Sandra Walker, director of volunteer services. “Of the nearly 100 volunteers that help around the hospital, about 20 work in the gift shop.”

Gift shop customers come from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. “In business since October 1995, it’s been a place where patients, visitors and employees can feel like they’re not in a hospital for a little while,” said the store manager, Terri McKie.

While McKie is the full staff member, all of her “employees” are unpaid volunteers who run the cash registers, store shelves, fix displays and assist customers with their purchases. “They’re the greatest people in the world,” Walker said of the volunteers. “They’re here because they want to be and they have the time and the desire to do it.”

Volunteers range from former patients to homemakers to people who balance volunteering with careers,” Walker said. “We have CPAs, a former bomber pilot, former CEOs, you name it.”

Grace Houston has volunteered in the MRC gift shop for about three years. When she was preparing for retirement, she knew she wanted to be involved in the community, so she “kept thinking, ‘What am I going to do when I retire?’”

Mary Ann Magruder, a friend who was already volunteering, suggested MRC to her. “She said I would love it here and she was right,” Houston said. “I came down one rainy morning and met with Terri. Everyone was so nice to me.”

Houston said she didn’t feel she would be good working directly with patients themselves, so the gift shop became a great opportunity for her to contribute. “Since the gift shop proceeds go towards research, the work I’m doing here does benefit the patients,” she said.

“The donation and the hard work are both greatly appreciated,” said Bettie Sullivan, executive director of the Wilson Research Foundation. “Volunteers are a vital part of the work that goes on here at MRC. A donation like this proves what a huge role they have in contributing to the research foundation. Every dollar helps.”

The good cause makes the gift shop an even more attractive place for guests of the hospital to spend their money,” McKie said. “I think people want to shop here because they know the proceeds go to the Wilson Research Foundation. People know how important research is and that it can’t be stressed enough.”

“Sorrow fully accepted brings its own gifts.”

—Pearl S. Buck, Author

Amy Lyles Wilson is a writer based in Nashville. A version of this essay served as her eulogy for her father at his funeral on September 28, 2000.
In 1998, Earl R. Wilson, chairman of Methodist Rehabilitation Center’s board of trustees for more than 25 years and one of its founders, wrote the following epilogue to The First Twenty-Five Years: Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Center, celebrating the Center’s 25th anniversary. In the aftermath of his death, it seems fitting to read these words again, in appreciation of their timelessness.

The pages of this book have attempted to do the impossible—to record the warmth, the devotion to the cause, the success, the failure, the talent, the professionalism, the vision and the reality of the mission of the first twenty-five years of this great institution.

The team approach has always been our motto at MRC. It took a team to create the concept, a team to build this one-of-a-kind facility, a team to deliver rehabilitation services to the severely disabled and it will take a dedicated, talented team to continue the dream and keep us one-of-kind. That’s the reward you get. I can’t think of anything more satisfying than being a part of this team.

As we pause to savor the joy of participation in those years, let us also move forward toward the next twenty-five years with the same vision, mission, enthusiasm and compassion that have brought us this far.

There are no limits.

Methodist Rehabilitation Center Named “One of America’s Best Hospitals.”
— U.S. News & World Report, July 17, 2000

One Of “America’s Best Hospitals” Is Here In Mississippi.

After reviewing 6,247 hospitals nationwide, Methodist Rehabilitation Center was ranked among the best hospitals in the country for its rheumatology/arthritis services—along with such hospitals as the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota and Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland.

In fact, among the many fine hospitals in Mississippi, Methodist Rehabilitation Center was the only hospital in the state to be named in the review of 17 medical specialties nationwide. Only 173 hospitals nationally were named to the list.

Now the nation knows what we’ve known for years—one of the best hospitals in America is here in Mississippi.
In the Next Issue of *Ways & Means*

**New technology aids in spinal cord injured patient’s recovery**

A Petal teenager who suffered a spinal cord injury in a bicycle accident is walking short distances with crutches and a cane, thanks in part to Methodist Rehabilitation Center’s treadmill gait training program. After a thorough evaluation, physicians on the treadmill team began working with the teen and have seen steady improvement in his gait cycle. Researchers at the Center for Neuroscience and Neurological Recovery at MRC believe he stands a good chance of walking without assistance when his therapy ends.

**Former brain injury patient earns degree from Mississippi College**

After a car accident on a rainy night two years ago, the outlook for 21-year-old Mandy McGehee seemed pretty bleak. The Brandon resident and Mississippi College student sustained a severe brain injury and was admitted to MRC’s brain injury floor two weeks later. She couldn’t talk or sit up by herself, but with therapy, determination and prayers, she made an unbelievably fast recovery. In December 2000, the dean’s list student donned cap and gown to receive her degree in public relations from MC.

**MRC’s quad rugby team prepares to host number-one team in nation**

Quad rugby, the fastest growing sport on two wheels, is taking hold in Jackson as Mississippi’s only quad rugby team, the Jackson Jags, prepares to host the nation’s number-one team, Birmingham’s Lakeshore Demolition. The Jags, sponsored by Methodist Rehabilitation Center, consist of seven players with quadriplegia. In the game, which is played with a volleyball on a basketball court, four players pass, throw, bat, roll, dribble or carry the ball in any direction. Points are scored by crossing the opponent’s goal line while maintaining possession of the ball.