

William A. Wilson Jr. (Bill)

Born the son of William A. Wilson, Sr. who himself spent over three decades on the local Santa Clara School Board and has the Wilson High School named after him.

Bill graduated in 1959 from University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science degree in Organic Chemistry.

After returning to Santa Clara, Bill worked in his father's bakery from 1959 to 1977, and served on the Santa Clara Library Board for several years. Bill enjoyed the bakery but really enjoyed working with at risk children. Bill went back to school at Santa Clara University in 1974, and earned his Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology.

In 1963 Bill was elected to the Santa Clara City Council, where he served the citizens of Santa Clara until 1971, served as the Mayor Pro Tem in 1964 and as the Mayor of Santa Clara in 1965.

Bill, along with Bob Morgan, were two prominent local Santa Clara citizens in support of moving the Triton Museum from San Jose to the City of Santa Clara in 1967. After the move, Bill served on the Triton's Board of Trustees for a few years.

In 1973 Bill collaborated with faculty at Santa Clara University on a proposal for a counseling center which would combine counseling of students in the local secondary schools with a family therapy program. Bill's credibility with both the counseling professionals and Santa Clara political and business leaders was an important factor in creating this community-based service.

Webster Center, as it was then called, opened its doors in the fall of 1973. Bill Wilson continued to be involved as an active member of its Board of Directors and volunteered as a counselor at the Center.

In May 1977, after a brief illness, Bill died at the age of 41. The staff and the Board of Directors made the unanimous decision to change the name of Webster Center to Bill Wilson Center in memory of this very special person and one of the founders of the Bill Wilson Center.