



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

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Statement from National President and CEO of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Celebrating the Life of Member Nancy Wilson

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. joins with the family and loved ones of Nancy Wilson in grieving the loss of this singing sensation. We extend our sincere condolences to the Wilson family. We remember her life and celebrate her legacy as the songstress with the rich, soulful voice. She died on Thursday, December 13 at the age of 81.

Soror Wilson was born in Chillicothe, Ohio on February 20, 1937, and began singing early on in church choirs. After winning a local talent competition, she made her public debut at the age of 15 on a television program called “Skyline Melody.” She was initiated as an Honorary Member into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in June 1974 during the Southwest Regional Conference in El Paso, Texas.

Her career began in 1960 with the release of “Guess Who I Saw Today” and was followed up by the 1964 hit “(You Don’t Know) How Glad I Am,” which demonstrated her ability to cross genres. For more than five decades Soror Wilson’s exquisite voice graced the music scene with more than 70 albums and performances on small and large stages around the world. Whether singing an original piece or singing a cover, she was renowned for her ability to interpret the lyrics of a song. Later in her career, her vast talents garnered her stints as an actress on television and as a television and radio personality, specifically as host of the “The Nancy Wilson Show” and NPR’s “Jazz Profiles.”

A multiple Grammy Award-winner, Soror Wilson received numerous other awards and honors for her accomplishments in music, including induction into the Big Band and Jazz Hall of Fame, the National Endowment for the Arts NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship award and the NAACP Image Award for “Best Recording Jazz Artist.”

Soror Wilson was also socially conscious. She participated in the 1965 protest in Selma, Alabama, and remained an advocate for civil rights throughout her life.

She was a true diva, exemplifying grace, talent and substance, and her music will live on in the hearts of us all.

In Sisterhood,

Beverly E. Smith

Beverly E. Smith
National President and CEO