



*A 2014 Message about Mrs. Emma L. Wilson King*

The basics of a solid education for her children and giving back to the community were important aspects of Mrs. Emma L. Wilson King's life. It is for this reason The Emma L. Wilson King Foundation was created. To carry on those simple aspects characteristic of Mrs. King's life in the year 2014 is wherein the Foundation in her name is synonymous with the ripple in the water effect; ***passing on by giving to others.***

Some may ask why all the work to restore an old fountain in her name? Why provide for educational assistance and outreach in her memory? Why in a place such as East St. Louis create a Foundation?

***Who was Mrs. Emma L. Wilson King?*** Ladies and gentleman, Mrs. Emma L. Wilson King was and continues to be through her children a humble mom who fought to beat the odds that teaching, and maintaining fundamental values to her children and those she met are important aspects of life. This in turn enables you to persevere when you do not have the funds to buy for your children's needs when the school year begins. You either update an old dress for the girls that once you've added your special touches to it, the dress in her daughter's eyes was as nice as those in the windows at Famous & Barr, Seidel's or Stanley's department stores downtown.

The son who worked at various jobs as a kid because he had to, she would continually encourage to go on to university. And the boy when he would become a man would teach in the public schools. Four of those daughters would eventually become public school teachers because of her steady presence and guidance. Her ever present moral compass is what in effect parents over the generations have sought. It is what in 2014 cannot be reinvented on reality television. It is this compass like the ripple in the pond her children were taught some of life's most valuable lessons from a parent. "Opportunity and the ability to dream."

Nothing complex about Mrs. King. That charming smile. Despite the odds that statistically stated she would not be successful rearing a family under her circumstance in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Her latitude allowed her to fundamentally achieve true success. The act of simply organizing a group of mothers into their neighborhood social club, she too was at the time showing mothers they too can be empowered.

This is the answer to why we today restore, provide, and create in her memory. Because her compass passed on those important life's lessons. To make a difference in life and truly value your community. East St. Louis, Illinois is our community for which Mrs. King cherished as did so many other mothers working to raise families in mid-America. Herein her legacy continues.