



## Mr Robert Gilray

August 19, 2016

Robert C. Gilray 1931-2016

Robert C. 'Bob' Gilray, 85, went to have a conversation with his Lord on August 19, 2016 in Foley, Alabama. He was the youngest son born in Lily, Wisconsin to Robert P. Gilray and Harrietta Hermanson Gilray, while the rest of the family was out milking the cows and freezing their britches off. He was preceded in death by Bernadine (Clyde) Truttman, Russell (Marie) Gilray, Maurice (Marianne) Gilray, Mildred (William) Burke, Oliver (Alinda) Gilray, Katherine (Dale) Krull and Virginia Mae Gilray. Mrs. Alinda Gilray survives. Bob graduated Birnamwood, Wisconsin in 1948. The caption under his class picture says 100% hot air! At school, he met Donna Mae Narlow. She caught his eye and captured his heart. Upon his return from Korea, they were married. History records the day as June 26, 1953. They 'eloped' and came back to Harrott and Helen Narlows' home for cake and coffee, before setting out on their grand adventure. They had three children, Randall C Gilray, Lori Jo (Thomas) Schmitz, and David (Kathy) Gilray, and Salli Jean Gilray. Salli passed at birth, and his Donna preceded him in death on October 21, 2000. Bob was a teacher and a coach of many sports in their early years. They made their home near to the schools in Oshkosh, Richland Center, Bagley, Black Earth, Montfort, Prairie du Chien, Elroy, and Union Grove until he became a WPS insurance agent. That led to living in Campbellsport, where all their children graduated and launched their own lives. In 1976, Bob and Donna moved to Appleton, and opened the R & C Agency. Bob became active

in politics at that time, advocating for legislation that affected their industry. Because of this, the Robert C. Gilray Service Award was established, and continues to this day.

Upon retirement in 1996, Bob and Donna continued the fun times by 'sno-birding' in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The Wisconsin Sno-Bird club became an outlet for Bob's unending commitment to community service and responsibility to neighbors. Following the passing of Donna, Bob stayed in Alabama longer, danced and golfed more, and enjoyed strong friendships. One day, he met a charmer by the name of Darlene Styron, and he asked her to dance. They continued dancing, laughing and loving until the minute he passed. Together, they made another happy home for these children: Sonia (Michael) McCluskey, Eric (Erica) Styron, Lori (Denise) Styron, and Damon (Amy) Styron. They all survive.

The American Legion Post 44 will be holding a tribute for Bob on August 28, from 3-5 pm, with music to follow. Darlene and friends will be there to reminisce and enjoy telling stories on Bob.

Cremation has taken place, and after a 'flight of honor' with the U.S.P.S., Bob will be interred in Forest Cemetery, township of Birnamwood, Wisconsin. Interment will take place September 24 at 11:00 a.m. There will be a happy meeting in heaven this week, when we see the face of Jesus, the Savior we seek.

Honorariums can be made to Gulf Shores Fire and Rescue Association as follows: P O Box 299, Gulf Shores, AL 36527, or a charity of your choice. The family was assisted by the Community Hospice Organization, and are grateful especially to Robin and the staff. We are grateful, as well to Dr. Eslava for his compassionate response to our Bob's wishes.

When you do recall Bob, picture him when he was light on his feet, laughing and in good humor. You know, he was a leader to the final moment. Thanks, Bob!

Other comments to enter:

From the Wisconsin sno-birds:

One of our long time and hard working members has passed away. Bob Gilray became a member in 1996 and was always there for former president Irv De motts and myself when ever we needed help. Bob was a regular attendee at all events until his mini stroke in 2013. Members will remember that whenever Bob gave a report or got his hands on the microphone he had a joke or two. This became know as levity and Bob became known as Mr. Levity. The "Brat Fest" was Bob's idea and he headed it up for many years . He also had the foresight to involve all the other snowbird clubs. Bob also became the commander of the Gulf Shores American Legion for a while. Bob claimed to be the only Yankee Legion Commander south of the Mason Dixon Line.

#### Gulf Shores Fire Rescue

It is with a heavy heart we share that Bob Gilray has passed away. I always called Bob the "Chief Snowbird" because he was so active with the Winter Clubs and our department. Bob had the idea of the Brat Fest and was active with the American Legion. Bob was a great mentor, friend and Patriot. (Not New England Patriots -he was a Packer to the core ) He will be missed, but his legacy will live on in all of the programs he was part of in our community. He will be having a Memorial Service at the American Legion Post #44 Gulf Shores, Al. on August 28, 2016 from 3PM until 5PM.

The family will have the internment of Robert Gilray at Forrest Cemetery in Birnamwood, WI on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at 11 AM. Following the ceremony, there will be a luncheon for family & friends at Noon at Chet & Emils in Birnamwood.

Arrangements by Cason Funeral Service, Foley, Alabama

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 28. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

American Legion Post #44 Gulf Shores, Al.  
6781 AL-59  
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Bob. I so looked forward to the Wisconsin Club Meetings when Bob would share his levities. He was a hoot! He always put a smile on everyone's face because of his humor and friendliness. He was missed at meetings. Bob knows how much he was loved and admired. Sending since condolences to the family.  
Sincerely,  
Jean Hobart  
Spooner, WI



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**Jean Hobart** - September 06, 2016 at 05:38 PM

RG

“ 1 file added to the album *Four Generations of Gilray*



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**Randall C Gilray** - August 30, 2016 at 09:12 AM

LK

“ 1 file added to the album *Bob & Darlene*



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**Lora & Kenn Krouse** - August 30, 2016 at 06:53 AM

LS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Lori Jo Scmitz** - August 28, 2016 at 09:56 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Lori Jo Scmitz** - August 28, 2016 at 09:53 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Lori Jo Scmitz** - August 28, 2016 at 09:46 PM

SS

“ Bob and I shared many ideas about the legions purpose and future. The American Legion is the most prestige's veterans organization we are fortunate to have in this country. Honorable veterans share memories of our military experiences. Bob definitely fit the bill. I will miss those times when we agreed and agreed to disagree. Until we meet again in post everlasting, you will be missed my friend.



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**sharon sprowls** - August 28, 2016 at 10:22 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr Robert Gilray .



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August 28, 2016 at 12:41 AM

DF

“ Great memories of fishing with Bob on Seven Island Lake, so many tips on how to catch the big bass. Also, we enjoyed reconnecting down in Alabama. He was a special friend. Darrold (Butch) and Nancy Folz



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**Darrold and Nancy Folz** - August 27, 2016 at 03:51 PM

LG

“ *Larry & Judy Geurink lit a candle in memory of Mr Robert Gilray*



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**Larry & Judy Geurink** - August 27, 2016 at 01:57 PM

DH

“ *Unfortunately I did not know Bob as long as some, however, I did get to know him as a past Commander and past Sgt, at Arms of American Legion Post 44, Gulf Shores, Alabama. His dedication to the Post never waivered and it' s success, and his commitment to Veterans was ever present. While he was in the hospital he had some information sent to me and asked me to follow up on it, which I did, and sent the answer back to his family. Soon after he was told the results of his request he knew he could rest, and soon after passed away knowing his task was done, his final contribution to the Post completed. His dedication and commitment will be greatly missed, and we have all lost a friend. Rest in peace my friend knowing you completed your watch.*

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**Doug Harmon** - August 27, 2016 at 01:04 PM

LS

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Lori Jo Schmitz** - August 24, 2016 at 06:58 PM

LS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lori Jo Schmitz - August 24, 2016 at 06:56 PM

LS

“ Lori Jo Schmitz lit a candle in memory of Mr Robert Gilray



Lori Jo Schmitz - August 24, 2016 at 06:44 PM

LS

*I was the one who liked the fragrance, Dad was always worried that we would forget and burn the house down. Well, Dad...no more worries.*

Lori Jo Schmitz - August 24, 2016 at 06:45 PM

KK

*one thing I remember about Bob, He would say I will pick you up. When he got there he would give the keys to you to drive and he would take a nap*

*Kenn Krouse*

Kenn Krouse - August 26, 2016 at 08:34 AM

KK

*Bob was always there to help you, weather you asked or needed help or not, he just felt he need to get involved.*

Kenn Krouse - August 26, 2016 at 08:37 AM

LK

*The first time I met him was at the grocery store and he remembered me because we had been at Pappa Rocco's watching the football game. I was drinking beer and had to get up (commercials only) to go to the bathroom a lot. He says to me "I remember you because you kept getting up in front of me." Only Bob before he even knew ya.*  
*Lora Krouse*

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**Lora Krouse** - August 26, 2016 at 11:39 AM

HA

*Never has Gulf Shores Fire Rescue had a supporter like Bob Gilray. He was affectionately known by the "Guys" as "The Head Snow Bird". I lost my Dad at an early age, I think Bob was sent into my life because he was exactly what I would have pictured my Dad as being like if he had stayed with us longer. I'm going to really miss him coming by the station and giving Keith and I those "classes" on Life. Miss you you second Dad.*

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**Hartly** - August 27, 2016 at 09:48 AM

RW

*We met Bob through our Aunt Audrey and Uncle Irv and had only known him & Darlene the past few years. Getting to know him he being a good judge of people and had a way to value whom ever he was sharing with. He spoke his mind. We could tell he never forgot a thing. And also found out we were related to the same area he grew up in. (that Booming Birnamwood/Ringle area). It was great kibitzing with him. He was a prankster, joker, storyteller, and everyone's friend. Quite the character! We were sitting at a function and someone came along and I over heard that person tell Bob " he was looking pretty good". His reply was " You know quality when you see it". We will remember his great outlook and compassion for people and especially for this country. Truly a man that had that golden touch. And of course Levity!*

*Rob & Charlene Wichmann*

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**Rob & Charlene Wichmann** - August 28, 2016 at 12:11 PM

JN

*As a friend Bob was special! He helped us move from Orange Beach to Foley, he helped the Wisconsin club, he helped many cities with his volunteering.*

*One day at our house he looked at the paintings I had done. He loved a Blue Jay. It was immediately his to enjoy! So when his family see it, just know it was talked about several times by him, sharing his enjoyment!*

*Jim worked with him on community projects. He enjoyed that work!*

*Bob was a long time friend we will miss!*

*Lorna and Jim*

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**Jim & Lorna Nader** - August 29, 2016 at 04:43 AM

BG

*I had so many great times at Seven Island with Bob and Donna as neighbors. There was always times for conversation, pontoon rides and fun times around the campfire. Bob was always there to help (or watch) with projects. He was truly a good guy.*

*Barb Garske*

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**Barb GARSKE** - September 01, 2016 at 09:55 AM

MF

*Sincere condolences to the Gilray family.*

*Reading memories of Bob reminds me of my Dad, a Korean war veteran with a generous heart and a good sense of humor.*

*Mark Poster (Tovah's Dad)*

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**Mark F.Poster** - September 16, 2016 at 01:34 PM