



Gerald Chester Gilmer

January 9, 1948 - April 10, 2014

Gerald Chester Gilmer, age 66, of Dassel, died Thursday, April 10, 2014, at the St. Cloud Hospital. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 2:00 pm, at the Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel. An interment will be held at the Howard Lake Cemetery following the service.

A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel

Memorials are suggested to be made in his honor to the Dassel History Center, St. Cloud Hospital Surgical Center, and any environmental preservation organization or to the donor's choice.

Gerald Chester Gilmer was born January 9, 1948 in Litchfield, MN. He was the fifth bouncing baby boy born to Wesley and Ida Gilmer of Dassel, MN. He is remembered fondly by older cousins as a happy well behaved child, a true "good, sweet, little boy."

In high school he enjoyed band playing the trumpet and bugle as his primary instruments. He also played the tuba in the marching band because there was no one else strong enough to carry the tuba. Gerry helped start the very first Dassel golf team and played on it. He was a pretty good golfer with his lefty swing. Besides family, music was perhaps his greatest love. He had favorite

songs from every type of music; rock and roll, gospel, classical, country; he liked something from all.

He went to college in Minneapolis at the U of MN and remained a lifelong Gopher fan. Finishing his degree was diverted by a family emergency need, which call he did not hesitate to answer. He never wished to return to college, he had found that his calling was to care for others in his family and in his village for the rest of his life. Gerald supplemented that caregiving with delivering the news of the world to the doorstep of his town for decades; faithfully in rain, snow, cold, heat, he delivered on time the major newspaper, Minneapolis Star Tribune.

He never married but had 14 children; Jeffrey (Mary), Carrie (Phillip), Jonathan (Diane), David (Pam), Victoria, Gregory, James (Janet), Jennifer (Kurt), Marcienne, Leah (Marc), Barbara (Peter), Erik (Summer), Jenna (Trent), and Malia (Peter). These were actually his nieces and nephews and he also had 27 great nieces and nephews with another on the way and one great-great nephew. He loved them each as if they were his own. Until his death he kept up with the news on each one, including the youngest 3 year old great great nephew. He had concern over, encouraged and cheered on each one continually throughout their lives. He was known for making sure each one had a birthday card in the mailbox every year and perfectly timed to arrive on the day. In fact any living relative out to third cousins got birthday cards every year on time, from Gerald C. Gilmer. He was a deeply loving and fun Uncle, and is deeply loved in return.

He has one brother, John, the oldest of the five, waiting to greet him across the river of life along with his parents, Wesley Gilmer and Ida Eddy Gilmer, former sister-in-law, Ardyce Greenley Gilmer, beloved Grandmother Christena Gilmer, and many aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins; family he deeply missed and longed to see again. He has three surviving brothers, Norman

(Judith), Roger (Katee) and Don (MaryBeth) and sister-in-law, Gloria Gilmer, who will miss and long to see him now. As will all his nieces and nephews and surviving cousins, especially Polly Eddy O'Brien, Betty Eddy Koenig and John Paul Eddy.

Gerry kept up with everyone in the family and enjoyed still communicating with that wonderful old thing called a card or letter. He was also keenly interested in family ancestry and history. He discovered the Gilmers have royal blood through the Scottish royal clan of Bruce.

Gerry was a true winner! Entering sweepstakes and drawings was his favorite hobby. He won two cars over the years and also a trip with his brothers to the Daytona 500 where they met and had lunch with Richard Petty! He won games, TVs, t-shirts, hats, sunglasses, tools, snowboards and almost anything one can think of. He really loved the excitement of "You have won a!!!!!"

He loved gardening and had even grown a lemon and an orange tree from seed that produced fruit in his Minnesota living room! He was a committed environmentalist decades before it was popular or faddish. He was a hippie without the drugs, a Love and Peace without the phoniness kind of guy. He was above average gentle and kind. He said he was a "Christian without the dogma" kind of a human being.

He enjoyed sports very much; football and the Vikings were his favorite. He had played himself for the Dassel High School Vikings as a starting center his senior year. He also loved everything about the Twins except the manager Ron Gardenhire. In his last days Gerry joked it should be Gardenfired. He enjoyed basketball alot too but his favorite BB game was in the driveway playing with nieces and nephews and his brothers.

He had always said he wished to die by floating away across the water on an ice floe. Gerry spent his last week in the St. Cloud hospital with a view overlooking the Mississippi River. The first days he was there the river was frozen over; incredibly, 30 minutes before he died the late afternoon of April 10, the last large chunk of river ice, about the size of a football field, suddenly broke loose and flowed away south. Two of his nieces, Carrie and Barbara, said the Lord's Prayer holding his hands and he passed immediately after, very peacefully. Gerald never stopped caregiving, even after his death he donated tissue and organs to give health and life to others.

His ship has sailed past the horizon, and we wish him calm seas and colorful skies and familiar loved ones greeting him on the other shore. The family

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2

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thanks the unbelievably kind, professional, knowledgeable, super-human staff of St. Cloud Hospital.

Previous

Tribute Wall

GT

“ I am so sorry for your family to hear of Gerald's death. I have many memories of Gerald since we grew up together in Dassel from the "cradle roll" at the Dassel Church of Christ & the Kindergarten at the old Covenant Church in Dassel. One memory I have was when Gerald & I were husband & wife in our senior class play "The Hiding Place"; we were Peter's parents. For the 3 times we did the play & rehearsals, I had to slap Gerald in the face. Hopefully I didn't do it very hard any of those times! You all are correct in saying that Gerald was kind & gentle. I don't believe I ever saw him angry; he was a tender guy. May you all feel the Lord's tender & loving arms around all of you comforting you & carrying you as you mourn your loss.

Gayle Tomlinson/Medcalfe - May 03, 2018 at 06:06 PM

RI

“ I attended school with Gerry from 7th through 12th grade. He was a quiet, kind, gentle-natured person. I recall that when something funny would occur, Gerry would get this slow smile and his eyes would light-up. I am so sorry for your loss and will keep you in my thoughts and prayers as you cherish all the wonderful memories you have of life here on earth with him. Now God's set him free from all the burdens and he and his body are once again restored to wholeness. God's blessings!

Renee Maikkula Isaacson - May 03, 2018 at 06:06 PM

DT

“ I send my condolences to Gerald's family. May he rest in peace.

Deanna (Johnson) Tisserand - May 03, 2018 at 06:06 PM

CD

“ Our sympathies go out to all the family and friends of Gerry. We remember him mostly from school days and always thought of him as a kind soul. He was certainly one of the best deliverers of the paper everyday. Always put right where it was asked and on time.

Charly & Eileen (Tomlinson) Dye - May 03, 2018 at 06:06 PM

DA

“ Don I remember the time You and Gerry took me along with you to the Gopher basketball game and we saw the great Lou Hudson play. I played football with Gerry and rode the school bus with for 5 years and really enjoyed his attitude and friendship. Uncle Sam took me away from Minnesota a long time ago except for an occasional visit I never made it back. Haven't seen you guys since school, but have fond memories of our friendship. I don't have any magic words, however I know he will me missed by many people.

Daniel Abbott - May 03, 2018 at 06:06 PM

JB

“ I am friends with Don and MaryBeth Gilmer. I want to give my condolences to the entire Gilmer family on the passing of Gerald. I am impressed by the beautifully written obituary. It makes me feel like I knew Gerald. He sounds like he was very much loved in the family. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this sad, difficult time.

Judy Backlund

Judy Backlund - March 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM