



Gary W. Gilbert

August 2, 1943 - June 30, 2025

Gary Wayne Gilbert, 81, of Manito passed away peacefully at the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home on June 30, 2025. He was born on August 2, 1943 in Bonnie, Illinois to Gene and Geraldine (Curlock) Gilbert. After graduating from Mt. Vernon High School, he proudly served his country in the United States Air Force, completing his service overseas in 1964. Following his military service, Gary settled in Peoria where he worked for Caterpillar at the Mapleton plant. There he worked in security and served on the hazmat, EMT and volunteer fire teams. He was known for his bravery and commitment to others, most notably when he risked his life to save two coworkers in the foundry, an act for which he received a commendation. He retired in 1998 after 34 years.

On April 1, 1965 Gary married Vickey Weimer, Together, they raised 3 children: Jeff (Vengilene), Kristi (Doug) Whitaker and Julie Pokorny. In addition to their family life Gary and Vickey became beloved members of the Manito community when they purchased the Blacktop Tavern, which they operated together for 30 years where they're most notably known for their cheeseburgers.

Gary is survived by his longtime companion Brenda Hamman who enjoyed traveling and spending time together. He is also survived by his 3 children, 15 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother Larry Gilbert, and his dear friend Alice Marie Fuller.

A visitation will be held on Monday, July 7, 2025 from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM at

Maas-Hurley Funeral Home in Manito. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Shriners Children's. Online condolences can be left at www.hurleyfh.com. Hurley Funeral Home in Manito is in charge of the arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (cst)

Maas Hurley Funeral Home - Manito

301 S. Washington St.

P.O. Box #442

Manito, IL 61546

(309) 968-6157

<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary W. Gilbert



Hurley Funeral Home - July 07, 2025 at 11:10 AM

KB

“ Brenda, My thoughts & prayers are with you! Even tho we knew it was coming, it still is never easy. I'm thankful I got to see & talk with him a couple times before his passing. Always loved his awnry smile & his mischievness. Boss Man, as I have always called him, was a good man with a good heart & soul! Fly high Boss Man, I will always remember you & Brenda, let the memories you & Boss Man created carry you through. I'm here for you!❤️👍



Karen Bowman - July 06, 2025 at 05:20 AM

SS

“ Steve and Kim Singley sent a virtual gift in memory of Gary Gilbert



Steve and Kim Singley - July 02, 2025 at 03:37 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of Gary W. Gilbert.



July 02, 2025 at 01:38 PM