



Gordon H. Gilchrist

January 26, 1933 - February 25, 2025

Gordon Harold Gilchrist was born on 26 January 1933, living over 92 years until 25 February 2025. Gordon is preceded in death by his wife Judith Jensen Gilchrist, 1933-1973, (mother of his 4 biological children), his parents, Russell L. Gilchrist, 1905-1978, Geneva Helen Jefts Gilchrist, 1911-1996, sisters Marcella Gilchrist Cady, 1935-2011, Pauline Luella (Polly) Gilchrist Montague, 1937-1977, Plyna (Pug) Gilchrist Hardwiche, 1943-1986, very close uncle Harry B. (Burt) Marble, 1901-1996, and aunt June H. Marble, unknown-1992, and childhood friend (like a brother) Fritz (Frederick Thomas) Kehr, 1931-2023. Surviving family members include his brother Jack Gilchrist, Gordon's current wife, M. Gayle Gilchrist, biological daughters, Jan Thomas, Gail Gilchrist, and Leslie Gilchrist, and son Jon Peter Jensen Gilchrist, Gayle's (James Cornelius Simpson's biological) daughters, Jeri Simpson Braun (stepdaughter), and Rebecca J. Simpson Gilchrist Marquardt (Gordon Adopted), grandchildren, Jan's line, Dr. Leighton Thomas, her children Graeme Thomas Jones and Emery Thomas Jones, and Jordan Thomas, daughter Henri Rutherford, Leslie's line daughters Cassiday and Abigail Altierie, and son Cory DiNoia and his children Crystal Altieri and CJ DiNoia, Jeri's line, daughter Emily Rector, and sons James Braun, his son James Braun, and Derek Braun, his daughters Kylie Griffith (step), and Maci-Lynn Braun, Jon's line, Alexandra Gilchrist, twins Amber Autumn Faebrooke, and Ellie Gilchrist, Izaak Gilchrist, and Rebecca's line, husband Fred Marquardt, their son Grant Marquardt and daughter Jeana Marquardt.

Gordon married Judith (Judy) Jensen (1953-1973), prior to joining the Army in 1954. She tragically died after a courageous cancer battle, leaving Gordon widowed with 4 children (ages 8-17). In 1975 Gordon married M. Gayle Somerville Simpson, a widow, with two daughters. Gordon and Gayle celebrated their 50th anniversary, 3 January 2025. Gordon was an Army cook stationed in Germany (1955-1956). He often used his Army cooking skills for Methodist Church pancake fundraisers, Gordon taught in Marshall, MI. He also graduated from Central Michigan University (CMU), Mt. Pleasant, MI, with both a Bachelor of Science and a Master's Degree. He was a CMU Associate Professor for 29 years (Industrial Education and Technology Department). Gordon was CMU's 1st Facility Association President. Annually he led CMU students to construct CMU biology and dorm buildings at Beaver Island, MI. Designing and building were his passion. He built a house, barn and multiple sheds that stored his ever growing "treasure" stockpiles. He built "Bugs Ear", a small houseboat, which he and Gayle took down the Mississippi. He built a log cabin on his Stevenson Lake MI property, in exact dimensions of President Lincoln's childhood home. He enjoyed raising domesticated animals and bought his first chickens at age 6. He raised pigeons over 50 years and was a respected pigeon breeder and show judge. Gordon and Gayle enjoyed raising animals and night woodpecker watching (family joke), at their Mt. Pleasant, MI farm. Annually, on Palm Sunday, Gordon and his donkey "Ace" walked up the sanctuary aisle while the choir sang. No, Ace never made a mess! Gordon enjoyed traveling; he toured Germany and Europe with his wife Judy, while stationed in Germany, where their first daughter Jan was born. He and his wife Gayle also enjoyed traveling. Their trips included 49 states in the USA, often in a pickup truck camper he built. They traveled abroad to Canada, Scotland, Austria, Germany, and Africa. In lieu of flowers, you may choose to donate to the American Heart Association, or Woodand Hospice House, Mt. Pleasant, MI (<https://mymichigan.org/conditions-treatments/HomeCare/hospice-michigan/>) A Memorial Service will be held at the Farwell Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman

Funeral Home on Saturday, March 1, 2025. Visitation will begin at 12 noon with services led by Minister Kevin Smith to start at 1 P.M. A luncheon will follow at the Gilmore Church of Christ in Farwell. On-line condolences may be left at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Farwell)

165 South Hall St.

P.O. Box 231

Farwell, MI 48622

(989) 588-9630

wymanfh@chartermi.net

<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

Celebration of Life

MAR 1. 1:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Farwell)

165 South Hall St.

P.O. Box 231

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Tribute Wall

DL

“ *Mr. Gilchrist was my Metal Shop teacher at Marshall High School in 1963. I learned a lot about metal work in his class. I was especially interested in the school shop foundry where I cast a set of pillow block bearing supports out of aluminum. Mr. Gilchrist poured the molten metal into my sand pattern I built up (students were not allowed to pour molten metal). My raw casting earned a 2nd place in the American Foundry Society student competition. I still have them with the 2nd place yellow ribbon attached. Mr. Gilchrist was always willing to assist his students on their projects. I have found memories of being in Mr. Gilchrist's class.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Livingston

MHS Class of 1966

Dan Livingston - November 20, 2025 at 01:59 PM

EM

“ *On behalf of my mom Jean Mesler (my Dad Garry and Gordon were long time IET colleagues and friends), please accept our deepest condolences on your loss. He was such a nice man. With love, Elizabeth (Schultz) Sidaway and Jean Mesler and the rest of the Mesler/Schultz crew*

Elizabeth (Schultz) Sidaway, Jean Mesler - March 06, 2025 at 06:39 PM

SC

“ Gordon was my instructor at CMU for construction trades and a few others as I pursued my reaching career in Industrial Arts. He was a great guy, I used most of the material he gave in my own classes later on. We talked a lot because I was his assistant for a couple semesters so I spent a lot of time on campus. He was truly proud of the things he built. I'm retired now and think of him quite often. If it wasn't for him I would have never got through the interview process at the Education Dept. He went to bat for me and I will always be grateful. So my friend rest in piece and we will talk again some day. Steve Chapman of Harrison Mi.

Steve Chapman - March 02, 2025 at 05:37 PM

HH

“ Thinking of his daughters, and my friends, Leslie and Jeri. May Gordon rest peacefully.

Heather H Harris - February 28, 2025 at 09:41 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gordon H. Gilchrist.



February 27, 2025 at 09:16 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gordon H. Gilchrist.

February 27, 2025 at 09:16 PM

KB

“ Chief, you will always be remembered for all of your great contributions as a friend, a professor, and for the great gift of introducing me to my lifelong best friend Leslie. We have shared an awful lot of memories while I house sat for you and all of your animals as well as spending time with so much of your family. As I think back as a student of yours I learned so very much from you about so very many things in life. Thank you for all you have given me in my life. You will always be my chief. Be at peace.

kelly belew - February 27, 2025 at 10:11 AM

KB

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Gilchrist's passing. He had a HUGE impact on me during my time at CMU, guiding me to a second major in Industrial Technology, in addition to my Interior Design degree. I was honored to join him and others during two summers, building cabins on Beaver Island. His influence is felt even today and my memories of him are of great fondness. Sending condolences to friends and family.

Kimberly Buchanan - February 27, 2025 at 02:28 AM

JG

“ Gordon was a generous, talented man. A wonderful Christian friend and neighbor. It was a pleasure to spend time with them at their home on Stephenson Lake. Sending love and prayers to Gayle and the family.



Jan Graham - February 26, 2025 at 08:58 PM

BM

“ Leslie, we are so sorry for your loss. Prayers and Love for all. Barbara {Lovejoy} and Jim Mason. Rowlett, Texas.

Barbara (Lovejoy) and Jim Mason - February 26, 2025 at 08:50 PM