



Carl W. Gilbert

October 9, 1933 - March 31, 2009

Carl W. Gilbert, age 75, of Gobles, went to be with the Lord with his family by his side at his home on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. Carl was born October 9, 1933, in Manchester, MI to Ile and Mable (Zentmyer) Gilbert. He lived his childhood in Cement City, MI. Carl served from 1953 to 1957 in the United States Air Force as an air traffic controller. It was while serving his country he fell in love with Virginia Gokey. Carl and Virginia were united in marriage on Feb. 11, 1956 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Unionville, MI. After leaving the service, he attended Western Michigan University and settled in Gobles. Carl worked his way through college at the Kalamazoo Creamery. After college, he went to work for the Michigan Milk Producers Association. He spent 20 years at the Kalamazoo Gazette as Display Advertising Manager and later Advertising Director. He spent time as Advertising Director as the Mansfield News Journal in Mansfield, OH. Carl retired in 1995 from the Amos Suburban Newspapers in Dayton, OH as their Advertising Director. It was after retiring from the newspaper business that Carl received his dream job, working spring training for the Texas Rangers in Port Charlotte, FL. Carl was an avid sports fan, especially when his children and grandchildren were involved. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Kalamazoo Lion's Club, served as a member of the Gobles Public School Board of Education, presently serving as a member of the Gobles City Council. He also served on the board of the Paw Paw Youth Baseball in the late 60's and early 70's. Carl's favorite service was to his 17 grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Virginia; 6 children, Larry (Jennifer) Gilbert, Maria (Mark) VanderMeer, Jeff (Lauren) Gilbert, Angela (Kevin) Killeen, Christine (Dave) Doxey, and Deborah (Tim) Fry; special honorary daughter from Japan, Kyoko; 17 grandchildren, Jesse, Jolene, Jarid, Andrea, Kyle, Jessica, Mallory, Lindsay, Erin, Adam, Caitlin, Ricky, Taylor, Judy, Ryan, Jeff and Joe; 6 great grandchildren; 3 brothers, Charles of Liberty, MI, Claire (Dolly) of Somerset, MI, Ray (Joan) of Cement City, MI; 2 sisters, Lois North of Hoover, AL, and Sharon (Bill) Tompkins of Clark Lake, MI. He was preceded in death by his parents; one grandchild, Nicole Gilbert; 2 sisters, Marjorie Choate and Marylou Wardwell. The family will meet friends Thursday 3-5 and 7-9 PM at the Gobles Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, where the rosary will be recited at 8 PM. Mass of Christian burial will take place 11:00 AM Friday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Paw Paw, with Fr. Stanley Witek

officiating. Interment will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery. The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society or St. Mary's School in Paw Paw.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Gobles Chapel
208 West Main Street
Gobles, MI

Visitation

APR 2. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Gobles Chapel
208 West Main Street
Gobles, MI

Service

APR 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
209 S. Brown
Paw Paw, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Over the years I've had the good fortune to work with many fine people and Carl is one of the foremost among them. I've not met a finer gentleman; and gentleman is the word that comes to mind first. Great values, great family man, great friend.

He worked with me in a very difficult environment and all of his fine qualities, skill, and his sense of humor made an enormous difference for me, the management team and his staff.##imported-begin##Mark Raymond##imported-end##

April 10, 2009 at 07:18 PM



“ Dear Family,

I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. What a great family you have. You have lost a great loved one however, he is in each and every one of you in the family values he instilled in you. Think of him and smile, what a great legacy he left behind.

With all my love.

Mary##imported-begin##Mary Lechman (Rimkus)##imported-end##

April 03, 2009 at 09:26 AM



“ Dear Maria, Jolene and families,

So sorry to hear of the loss of your father/grandfather. You and your families are in our prayers.

Take care & God bless,

Doug and Deb Hoffman##imported-begin##Doug and Deb Hoffman##imported-end##

April 02, 2009 at 10:22 AM



“ All of you are in our prayers, we know what a close family all of you are and what a blessing he is. In faith we know that he will continue to watch over all of you, and even amidst the grief of this time, we hope you draw upon the help of friends and all who loved him, and especially upon God who now holds him so close and will bring you peace and comfort.##imported-begin##Jeff and Sheila ##imported-end##

April 02, 2009 at 06:57 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family.##imported-begin##Melissa Smith##imported-end##

April 01, 2009 at 01:52 PM



“ WHAT WORDS TOO SAY ???GOD HAS GIVIN US WONDERFUL FRIEND ALL THESE YEARS ,HE LEFT BEHIND A GREAT & WONDERFUL FRIEND TOO REMEBER THE LOVE & SUPPORT TOO MANY OF US ,,, GODS STRENGHT TOO EACH & EVERYONE OF YOU ,,,, MEMORYS WILL CARRY YOU THUR THOSE TIMES OF SADNESS ,, WE WILL NEVER FORGET GODS CHILD HE HAS TAKEN ,JUST THINK OF THE WORK HE;S DOING IN HEAVEN ALREADY ...WITH LOVE THE CARE;S EVERETT & ROSE##imported-begin##ROSE & EVERETT CARE##imported-end##

April 01, 2009 at 01:35 PM



“ Aunt Ginny and cousins, I wish I could be there to give you all big hugs. I have always felt blessed through marriage that I gained such a wonderful family. Uncle Carl and Aunt Ginny were some of the first people, even before Troy and I married, that truly made me feel welcome. I will miss that wonderful belly laugh of his. He was truly a steward of God and exemplified what it meant to be a husband and father. Others would be served well to follow his loving example. Heaven got a gem. I love you all!

Sheryl##imported-begin##Sheryl North##imported-end##

April 01, 2009 at 09:27 AM



“ We're so sorry about your loss.
Carl will always be remembered. He was a great tribute to our community.

Our prayers go out to you, Jennie and your family.##imported-begin##Rod & Margie Burris##imported-end##

April 01, 2009 at 08:51 AM



“ Jenny We are sorry to hear about Carl. Please know our prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Terry & Connie Gokey##imported-end##

April 01, 2009 at 08:32 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
With Love##imported-begin##Arnold and Watha Gokey##imported-end##

March 31, 2009 at 10:41 PM



“ After the death of our mother, Carl was the glue that held us all together. He will be missed, more than words can say. And yes Dodie, he did make a mean pancake..... Ginny, Larry, Maria, Jeff, Angela, Christine and Debbie, may you find peace in knowing that he is in God's kingdom now, going for a walk with his mother, father and sisters.
I love you all so much.

Your sister and aunt.
Lois##imported-begin##Lois North##imported-end##

March 31, 2009 at 09:02 PM



“ Dear Ginny & Family:

Our Love and prayers go out to you, at this time. God Bless all of you and may he give you his strength. Lean on him and may he grant you peace, Cry to him and may he hold you close. Love him, surrender to him and he will bring you home with him.

God's Peace be with you. "All of our Love"

The Raymaker Family##imported-begin##Shelley Raymaker##imported-end##

March 31, 2009 at 08:32 PM



“ Aunt Ginny and Cousins~ I'm very sorry for your loss. Uncle Carl was such a sweet and loving man! I know space is a consideration in his obituary but I would like to respectfully submit that you neglected to mention his amazing skill at making pancakes. I remember every Sunday at your house, he was making pancakes! He had himself some mad pancake making skills. :-) His warm laughter and presence will sadly be missed but our true loss is still unfathomable. Hugs and Kisses, Dodie##imported-begin##Danielle Frazer##imported-end##

March 31, 2009 at 07:38 PM