



Donald Roy Gilchrist

July 7, 1935 - September 10, 2020

Donald R. Gilchrist, a lifelong resident of Van Buren County, passed away Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 85 years of age. He is survived by his son, Roger Gilchrist, and daughter Pamela Gilchrist Corson, her husband Glenn Corson, as well as Don's partner of several years, Billi Cobb.

Don was a well-known figure in Southwestern Michigan, given his 6-foot 7-inch frame, giant cowboy hat, and a wide array of lasting friendships. As an athlete, he and his team won the 1954 State Basketball Championship for Gobles High School.

Don was a professional land surveyor all of his life. Remarkably, he was the Van Buren County Surveyor for 46 years! Most recently the owner of Don R. Gilchrist & Associates, he started surveying when he was 16 years old and continued this work until the final weeks of his life. His engagements include being City Surveyor for the City of Kalamazoo, Smith and Smith, Gove Engineering, and Alpha Engineering. Career achievements include core involvement in the Michigan remonumentation program.

Also a deputy in the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Mounted Division, and a long-time Boy Scout troop leader, Don had a strong commitment to civic involvement and making contributions to his immediate community.

With a deep interest in late 1800s cowboy life, Don's hobby was participating in the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS), where he has many close friends. He was also a member of the Paw Paw Conservation Club. One of Don's most loved adventures was traveling across the country with his horses to attend a cowboy sporting event in Edgewood, NM called the End of the Trail.

Don's family wants to acknowledge the compassionate care provided by Bronson Hospital and Southwest Michigan Hospice Services. They were amazing and incredible, and we could not have wished for anything better.

Well-wishes may be sent to the family at Billi Cobb / the Gilchrist Family, 612 W. Van Buren St., Gobles, MI 49055.

Those who knew Don Gilchrist well will understand that, finishing his life in the community, he is now a cowboy that has ridden off into the sunset.

Don's Celebration of Life Memorial Service will take place on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. at Freshwater Church in Paw Paw, Michigan (on Red Arrow Highway). The service will be held under a tent in the front parking lot and will be led by Pastor Gary Napp of Journey Family Church. Optional dress code is "Cowboy Casual." The family suggests memorial contributions be made to either Journey Family Church Donations, PO Box 132 Gobles, MI 49055 or Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan, 222 N. Kalamazoo Mall #100, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

Cemetery Details

Cremation

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **14**. 2:30 PM (ET)

Freshwater Church
600 E. Michigan Ave.
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Tribute Wall

WH

“ Wayne And Sue Hammond lit a candle in memory of Donald Roy Gilchrist



Wayne and Sue Hammond - September 21, 2020 at 11:00 AM

MB

“ Don was a great man and I was very blessed at how he invested in my life as I was growing up. I am saddened to hear of his passing.

Mick Bricker - September 13, 2020 at 12:59 PM

VN

“ Vicky Norman lit a candle in memory of Donald Roy Gilchrist



Vicky Norman - September 13, 2020 at 07:55 AM