



Gilbert Olson

November 23, 1921 - May 23, 2011

Gilbert Olson, 89, died May 23, 2011, at Medcenter One Hospital, Bismarck. Services will be held at 11:00 am Saturday, June 4, 2011, at First Lutheran Church, Bismarck, with Rev. Allen Wagner and Rev. Robert Lynne officiating. The family will be greeting visitors from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Friday, June 3, at Eastgate Funeral Service, Bismarck. Gilbert was born November 23, 1921, in Bismarck, ND, the son of John and Bertha Nysten Olson. He graduated from Bismarck High School in 1939 and from the University of North Dakota in 1943. Gil played basketball at both Bismarck High School and UND and played with the Bismarck Phantoms Basketball team following his return from the war. He joined the US Marine Corp Reserve in 1942 and was called to active duty in 1943. He completed boot camp at Parris Island and then was assigned to Officers Candidate School at Quantico, VA. This was followed by Reserve Officers Class. His first and only active duty was Commanding Officer of Marine Detachment aboard the troop transport U.S.S. Wakefield. He served aboard this ship until being honorably discharged in 1946. The ship made 22 trips to various ports in Europe and to the Mediterranean Sea. The last trip was in the Pacific Ocean carrying Marines for the landing in Japan. Upon his return to Bismarck, Gil became associated with Quain & Ramstad Clinic in the administration department. He retired in 1986. Gil was active in civic affairs of the city; he served on the Civil Service Commission, Parking Authority, the Civic Center Committee and School Board Committees. He was a member of the Medical Group Management

Association in North Dakota and a national member of the Exchange Club. Gil was also active in the American Legion, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Bismarck-Mandan Elks Club, and past-president of the Chamber of Commerce. He served on the board of the Tom & Francis Leach Foundation from November 1981 until 2006, with distributions to charities since 1981 in excess of 8 million dollars. Gil was also a member of the UND Alumni Association and Foundation Board of Directors. He was chairman of committee for development of Hillside Park and Swimming Pool after WWII. Gil was a member of First Lutheran Church.

He married Carolyn Rooth, of Mandan, in Minneapolis, MN, on November 13, 1948. She passed away on December 1, 1992. Gil is survived by his sons, Marc Renee, Grand Forks, ND, and Greg Paulette, White Bear Lake, MN; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn; his parents, John and Bertha Olson; and his sister, Christine Jarvis, Kalamazoo, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to First Lutheran Church or the Medcenter One Foundation.

Tribute Wall

CG

“ *My thoughts are with the Olson family during this sad time. My memories of Mr Olson are from Quain & Ramstead Clinic and First Lutheran. Mr Olson I was too young to call him Gil hired me as a file clerk at Quain & Ramstad Clinic. This was my first job, only part-time, when I was a senior in high school in 1961. I continued to work at Q&R for 5 years that school year and every summer all through college. I have used the office skills, work habits and business ethics I learned there throughout my careers in the healthcare field. I fondly remember Mr Olson cheerfully greeting us as he walked through the office. He was a gracious and honest man. I also remember him as a dedicated member of First Lutheran. I sang in the choir and recall the Olson family usually sat on the right side in the first or second row and Mr Olson seemed to serve as an usher very often! My sympathy to the family for their loss. Carol Senzek Grande*

Carol Senzek Grande - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Gilbert Olson family. Our hearts and prayers are with each and every one of you. Gilbert was a very special person and a friend to the Dr. Leonard W. Larson family. Grandpa Larson and my Dad, Tony Maas, both had great respect for Gilbert. Gilbert loved his family and friends so very much. Carol and Kory Mitchell Helen Maas Hoff Carrie, Jim, and Angie Erhardt*

Carol Mitchell - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Marc and Greg, Gilbert and Carolyn provided a second home to this farm boy. Back in the 60's, while walking out of an 11 a.m. service at First Lutheran, Gilbert slipped me a dollar and told me to get a haircut. I'm sure I had some smart remark in response, but he always had a twinkle in his eye when we'd go back and forth.

Dave Bliss - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Dear Greg and Marc - your Dad was a true treasure, and I feel honored to have known him while I was in Bismarck - a wonderful neighbor, with a quick wit, and a ready smile. He was always my "go-to" guy - could fix whatever when the need arose. This could be the snow-blower, stitches in fingers, plugged plumbing, or an extra hand-out of Halloween candy for a cute son! Be proud of your heritage - it is special. Gigi Cawood

Gigi Cawood - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Gil and Carolyn were friends from their time on the UND Alumni Association Board. We have stayed in touch with Gil since his loss of Carolyn. When we returned to Bismarck in 2002 Gil, Frank Bavendick often had lunch together to usually discuss UND issues as well as the "good old times". Gil was a good and loyal friend. Both Marilyn and I will miss him greatly.

Jerry & Marilyn Skogley - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I love Gil & will miss him. He was my Father's best friend and my Mother's favorite lunch date. Our families were close. I introduced everyone as a 4 year old when they moved in the house in back of our's on 2nd st. I invited Gil & Carolyn for cocktails and the rest was history. Gil was a wit, he loved parades, he was so proud of the Marines. We will miss him very much. Jane

jane romanov - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Dear Marc, I am so sorry to read about your Dad's passing. I enjoyed running into him occassionally and he always talked about my Dad, Bob Petersen and how they played for the Phantoms. He was a great man who gave so much to others. You and your family are in my prayers.

Kay Schlosser - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ Gil & Caroline were like my second set of parents growing up in the same neighborhood with Marc & Greg. I probably spent as much time in their house as at home during the summer months! Gil had a great sense of humor that everbody enjoyed. He will be sorely missed.

Erik Lips - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Dear Mark and Greg and families, I am so sad to hear about the passing of your dad. What a remarkable man he was and so important in the community. He was a wonderful neighbor for those years we grew up in the Casey subdivision and always quick with a joke or prank. Gil was a dear friend to both my parents and a comfort to my mom after Dad died. We always enjoyed sitting at a dinner table with him. It didn't matter how many times we heard an Olie and Lena joke, it was always funny when your dad told it! Losing our parents is so hard and losing that generation is such a loss to our society, no matter how irritated we might have gotten at them at times. My family wishes your family comfort in your grief. Both your parents are in my thoughts and remembrances. Sincerely, Barb Fleck Boyce

Barbara Fleck Boyce - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Gil has always been a good friend and neighbor. The entire family will miss him very much. My mother always looked forward to her weekly lunch or dinner outing with Gil. I am glad that I got to visit with him this spring.

Joel Fleck - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

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