



Donald Warren Gilchrest

March 19, 1931 - January 25, 2023

Donald Warren Gilchrest

Donald Warren Gilchrest (Sr.), of Bristow, Virginia, passed away on January 25, 2023, at the age of 91 at Prince William County Hospital.

He was born March 19, 1931, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the son of the late J. Warren and Ethel Gilchrest.

After graduating from Pittsfield High School, Don worked as a machinist very briefly before attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute under a Naval ROTC scholarship. Following graduation from RPI, Don served in the U.S. Navy from 1954 to 1957, attaining the rank of Lt. JG and serving as the electronics and combat information officer aboard the escort destroyer USS Norris. During his time in the service, he married the love of his life, Betty Bennett on September 22, 1956.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, he began a long career working for General Electric, eventually settling in Liverpool, New York, where Don and Betty raised their family. Following his retirement from GE, they moved to Virginia, where Don consulted with Newport News Shipbuilding for many years. Although very proud of his association with GE, he considered his time working on the Seawolf Submarine Project for Newport News to be the pinnacle of his career.

While living in Huntsville, Alabama, and working as the General Electric Representative at the Redstone Arsenal, Don encountered a new relationship

with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which changed the trajectory of his life and that of his family's. He was an avid student of the Bible and served in numerous ministries, including the Gideons and the Church Home League. He loved being a member of the North Syracuse Baptist Church while living in Liverpool and served for many years as the greeter who would welcome people to services with a big smile. He had a lifelong love of music and was known to sing loudly in church and was in various choirs.

Don was the devoted husband to Betty for 66 years. His other passions were backpacking, camping, and traveling. He took pictures wherever he went and was generous about sharing them with his family. He was a health and exercise enthusiast who at one point in his life ran 15 miles a day. He prioritized spending time with his family and passed on to his children a conviction to never hire somebody to do something that you could do yourself. This was even seen in his intense dislike of paying money to go to restaurants, since he knew that his wife could prepare something much better at home for free.

Don is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Bennett Gilchrest, his children, Catherine Tietjen (husband John Tietjen), Donna Phelan, Bette-lou O'Brien (husband Dennis O'Brien), Donald Gilchrest Jr. (wife Rhonda Gilchrest), Richard Gilchrest (wife Susan Gilchrest), and Roger Gilchrest (wife Diedre Gilchrest), as well as seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He is also survived by one sister Virginia G. Cooley. He was predeceased by brothers Richard, Lloyd, and Roger Gilchrest.

The family plans a private service to inter him at Quantico National Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

DA

“ Dear Gilcrest Family, I was so sorry to hear about Mr. Gilcrest's passing. I know how hard it is to lose someone you love so dearly, but also the the amazing joy of knowing you will be together again. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers in the days to come.

Denise Almazar - February 03, 2023 at 01:10 PM

DJ

Thank you!

Don Gilcrest, jr. - February 03, 2023 at 02:39 PM

WD

“ I have so many fond memories of the Gilcrest family during the NSBC years. Don was active with my Father, Joel Darby with the Christian Home League Ministry. They both were also serving our Lord with the Syracuse Gideon Camp! Because of Jesus as their personal Savior, they are both in Heaven now, probably talking about their old adventures that they had sharing their Faith and now meeting precious souls in Heaven who learned about God's Salvation plan from their testimonies! Isn't that a beautiful thought? Don Jr. - If you can please send me an address to reach Betty and the family, our Gideon Camp would love to Honor your Father with In-Memory Gideon Cards in his name, which would also provide funding for more Scriptures being placed in the 200+ nations around the World where you will find the Gideon Bibles in hotels and motels! Isaiah 55:11
Warren Darby, darbyny@aol.com or (315) 480-4798 cell

Warren Darby - February 02, 2023 at 12:41 PM

DJ

Thank you! I will follow up with you. Uncle Joel was a huge presence in our lives and I'm so glad that he took such an interest in my dad and our family. Thank you for reaching out, Warren. It means so much and I will share this with my mom. Don jr.

Don Gilchrest, jr. - February 03, 2023 at 02:43 PM

MB

“ Thinking of you Betty Lou and praying for comfort for you and your family. Love, Marilyn Brown

Marilyn Brown - January 31, 2023 at 02:40 PM

WT

“ My goodness - the Gilchrest family was such a big presence in my (& Donnie's) growing up years at NSBC!! I was so sad to get the news of Mr. Gilchrest's passing! But I am so happy he is with our Lord Saviour (and my dad!) and so thankful for the ministry the Gilchrest family had in my life for many years at NSBC! Praying for you all! Much love, Wendy White Tinsch

Wendy White Tinsch - January 31, 2023 at 10:17 AM

DJ

Thank you! Don jr.

Don Gilchrest, jr. - February 02, 2023 at 09:17 AM

DS

“ His faith instilled onto his loving daughter Betty Lou, has been, and will forever be my comfort. In these times of trouble with letting grief come as it must, stop and give gratitude for all the good he brought into your life and the faith in Jesus Christ we all share...our comfort and light.

Debi Slowey-Raguso - January 30, 2023 at 11:20 PM

LP

“ Dear Betty,
We are so sad to hear about Don! However I'm sure he is walking the streets of gold now! He taught me how to canoe when I went camping with your family! Hugs to everyone in your family!

Laura Powers - January 30, 2023 at 07:35 PM

DJ

Thank you! I shared this with my mom and she was very excited to hear from you!

Don Gilchrest, jr. - February 02, 2023 at 09:20 AM



Catherine Gilchrest Tietjen, Thank you for your kind words.

Catherine Tietjen - February 13, 2023 at 04:32 PM

TE

“ Thinking of you all, especially you Betty! We love you & will keep you in our hearts and prayers. So many treasured memories that could fill volumes! Dave & Lorrie Terrill

Terrill - January 30, 2023 at 05:51 PM

DJ

Thank you, Dave and Lorrie! I shared this with my mom. We're so thankful for knowing you and your family!

Don Gilchrest, jr. - February 02, 2023 at 09:21 AM



Thank you David and Lorrie for your kind words. Our families were always at your house and in the pool.

Catherine Tietjen - February 13, 2023 at 04:35 PM