



Michael Joseph Gilbride

December 4, 1939 - February 26, 2021

On February 26, 2021, Michael Joseph Gilbride passed into eternity after a long illness. Surrounded by his loving wife of 49 years, Catherine “Cathy” Cole Gilbride, and his adoring daughters, Karen and Megan, Mike drew his final breaths amid the sound of their voices as his favorite Irish music played softly in the background.

Born December 4, 1939, in New York City to Irish immigrant parents, Mike, or Joe as he was called in his youth, grew up in a close-knit Irish Catholic community in Manhattan. As a boy he loved the New York Yankees, playing handball, and hanging out in the city with his older brother John, cousin Frank, and friends from the neighborhood. He attended Ascension School for his primary education and the De La Salle Institute for high school. Everyone who knew Mike throughout his life remarked on his exceptional mathematical ability, even Governor of New York Jacob Javits, who sent him a letter of commendation for his perfect math score on the Regents Exam. Mike attended Manhattan College, finished his undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland, and received an MBA from George Washington University.

Mike’s father, John Gilbride, and mother, Bridget Hopkins, emigrated as teenagers from County Leitrim and County Mayo, respectively. They worked hard to provide a good education and a loving home for their sons. John

carried with him Mike's first pay stub as a reminder of the progress a single generation could achieve in the United States.

Mike moved to Washington, D.C. in the mid-1960s and met Cathy Cole on a blind date in 1969. They married in December 1971, settled in Virginia, and had two daughters. While working for the Federal Communications Commission, Mike formed wonderful friendships with his co-workers, whose company he cherished long after he retired. He later went to work in the private sector, traveling for business to the far-flung corners of the world from Jordan to Vietnam.

In his retirement years, Mike filled his days playing golf, bowling, watching movies, tutoring kids in math, swimming, managing his fantasy baseball and basketball teams, traveling with Cathy, and calling his daughters to give advice – both solicited and unsolicited. He loved his sons-in-law Keith Crowder (Karen) and Wesley Turner (Megan), and reveled in story time, playground visits, and trips to the ice cream parlor with his beloved grandchildren, Zoe and Marek Crowder, and Ulysses Turner.

Mike's 81 years on this earth are bookended by pandemics. At the age of two he contracted polio while on summer holiday in the Catskills. He endured a long recovery which imbued him with a zest for life and fun. Mike Gilbride excelled at fun. He loved to laugh and make others laugh. He made friends wherever he went and he was always grateful for those friendships. We will miss him more than words can express. In the lottery of life we all hit the jackpot with him as a husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

A funeral mass and celebration of Mike's life will be held at a later date to be determined. Donations in his name may be made to VITAS Community Connection, the hospice service that took such wonderful care of him in his last years. The online link is: <https://vitascommunityconnection.org/> (please

select Northern Virginia in the drop down box).

Or you can donate by check to VITAS Community Connection.

The mailing address for the donations is:

VITAS Healthcare

VCC Fund

3251 Old Lee Highway, Suite 200

Fairfax, VA 22030

Tribute Wall

JR

“ My first memory of my cousin Joey goes back 70 plus years. My mom and I would go to his home for Christmas dinner. Gathered around the table would be Uncle John, Aunt Beasy, Johnny (Joe’s brother), Aunt Mary and at the foot of the table would be their beloved Pal. He would be waiting patiently to see if some food would drop on the floor.

It was always fun to be around the boys. Joey would be the one to keep us entertained with his stories. My thoughts and prayers go out to Cathy, Karen and Megan. I know the last few years have been hard for everyone.

Love, Joan

Joan Ritter - March 13, 2021 at 01:38 PM

KG

Thank you for sharing this memory. My dad loved Pal! Even after he had forgotten our names, he could still talk about Pal.

Karen Gilbride - March 17, 2021 at 07:17 PM

DC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Don and Carol Cabrera - March 08, 2021 at 12:33 PM

KG

Don and Carol, Thank you so much for posting this photo. I've never seen it before. So many wonderful memories from Windsor Park.
Karen

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:23 PM

RS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Raymond E Spence - March 05, 2021 at 08:49 PM

RS

Mike, you were the best.

Raymond E Spence - March 05, 2021 at 08:49 PM

CG

He always had a great time when he was around Ray and the FCC friends

cathy gilbride - March 06, 2021 at 10:35 AM

KG

Thank you for posting this photo. He loved his FCC friends. Karen Gilbride

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:24 PM

LP

“Mike was the best friend a fellow could have. He obviously enjoyed life, and he shared that enjoyment with many people along the way. I have nothing but good memories from our days working together at the FCC, playing against and with each other in several fantasy sports leagues, and sharing golf outings at Penderbrook and Goose Creek. It was always fun, and often enlightening, to be with Mike.

There are a lot of phrases that we use to describe a fine person: “salt of the earth”, “solid as a rock”, “as patient as Job”, “smart as a whip” Take all those phrases, multiply them together, raise the result an order of magnitude, and then you can begin to appreciate Mike. We will miss you Mike.

Larry P

Larry Petak - March 05, 2021 at 03:14 PM

MS

so true

Mary Jane Spence - March 05, 2021 at 03:49 PM

KG

Thank you, Larry. We will miss him, indeed. Karen Gilbride

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:25 PM

EL

“ Mike had the luck of the Irish with him --- a loving wife, Cathy, and two beautiful daughters, Karen and Megan, along with three loving grandchildren.

Michael had a full life filled with laughter, joy, achievements and friendships.

He will be missed by many and by me. Always in my heart and memory.

Evelyn Long

Evelyn Long - March 05, 2021 at 09:47 AM

KG

Thank you. I love looking at the pictures of all of you around the time of my mom and dad's wedding. Karen

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:28 PM



“ With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Joseph Gilbride.



March 05, 2021 at 06:13 AM

WS

“ Thanks for all the good times on the golf course mike. The statement "John, I will bet you \$1, you cant keep it in the fairway" will always be with me. We always had a great time. You supported your staff whenever we got hauled in for whatever it was we did and a great sportsman on the many Golf courses we played and Golf trips south. See you when I get there, my friend. Wayne Sepe

Wayne Sepe - March 04, 2021 at 04:35 PM

KG

Thank you. My dad loved golf and he loved his golf friends even more.
Karen

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:29 PM

BE

“ Cathy, Megan & Karen.
So very sorry. my cousins-in-law Death of your husband and father brings pain that only time can heal. We lost touch for many years but we have the memories in our Gilbride family and they are unique just as "Joey" was. I think he looks like my father in that picture. Stay in touch Cathy.

Cousin Betty

Betty - March 04, 2021 at 03:02 PM

KG

Thank you, Karen

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:30 PM

SS

“ I remember Mike as one of the most creative, fair and pragmatic managers at the FCC I've had the good fortune to work with.

Sheryl segal - March 04, 2021 at 01:20 PM

KG

Thank you

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:31 PM

HL

“*Bob Hope would end his shows with the song “thanks for the memories.” Among my many good times with Mike were those on the golf course with him, John, and Jerry. Mike and John had titanic skirmishes pitting golf skill with, in Mikes case, psychological warfare. Although Mike was a mathematical genius, Jerry kept the score card. After each hole, rather than ask what score did you get, he would ask what score do you “allege” you got. Then he could pick up his cell phone to check on his stocks. If play was slow we would skip holes in order to get to the club house in time for the free lunch and 2 beers. It was never about the golf.*

So let me say Mike, thanks for the memories. Harvey

Harvey Lee - March 04, 2021 at 12:45 PM

KG

Harvey, This made laugh out loud! Thank you!

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:32 PM

TJ

“ I can't imagine what you guys are going through right now. I am so so so sorry for your loss. For our loss. I immediately started crying the second I heard the news. I couldn't help but think about all the amazing memories my family and I shared with Micheal! I am still so grateful for the multiplication song he brought over on a cassette, even though it drove me nuts, there is no way I'll never forget my tables. I am so grateful to have known him and be able to remember all the laughs and the memories our families shared. Mondays! Those were the days he would come over, even though I hated doing my school work he truly did help me understand and he was so smart, I was like how do you know everything?! The trips to the park, teaching us how to fly a kite and laughing hysterically at our poor attempts, teaching me checkers (and always smoking us), playing monopoly with us. I remember driving down to the beach and the silly car ride games we would play because he was so sick of us asking if we were there yet. I wish I had one more chance to say goodbye and tell him how much I appreciate him.

Micheal, he was a great man, loved by many, and he will forever be in our hearts and never forgotten! Cathy, Karen, Megan, I love you all and your family and I can't wait to be able to see you all soon! All my love, Taban ❤️

Taban Jaff - March 03, 2021 at 05:01 PM

KG

Taban, Thank you so much! You made me laugh out loud with these stories. Mondays!! He loved you guys so much.

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:37 PM

JG

“ *My friend and mentor. The racetrack or the golf course, you always offered good and needed advise. I will miss you greatly. john*



John Giuli - March 03, 2021 at 01:41 PM

KG

John, Thank you for posting these pictures. You two were quite a pair. If you misplay a hole on the golf course this summer, blame my dad. He's smiling down at you from above while surreptitiously sabotaging your golf game.

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:46 PM

TM

“ *Michael, get back here. We are not finished with you yet. We miss you too much. To know that your pains are all gone makes our hearts sing. Whenever we were fortunate to be in your company we knew a good time was to be had. Just thought of the time we met out at Dominion Brewery. Karen and Keith were searching for a proper destination and you decided what finer place than the brewery. I suppose Karen and Keith took it under advisement. When we met you and Cathy the perfect place was Windsor Park. We were each attempting to figure out the wonders of parenting as our first-born babies were born one month apart. I recall your stern efforts to plan that no daughter of yours would waste her time and skills as a first word such as "mama" or "dada." This child would work on her language skills with the language skills of her heritage. If you had it your way Karen would learn the word "po-ta-to." I believe you had success; and I'll bet she still knows it today. Ask her! It may be a little difficult to work into conversation, but she's the girl who can do it, We love you, Michael.*

The Melbergers - March 03, 2021 at 12:23 PM

KG

Joan and Alan, Thank you so much for sharing this wonderful story. It really made me smile. I had know idea he wanted my first word to be potato.

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:52 PM

ND

“ Megan, your dad was one of the most interesting men to talk too. Being from such different backgrounds, I loved listening to his stories about growing up and what his life was like. Our hearts and prayers are with you and all your sweet family. The Davids love you all very much.

Nacona David - March 03, 2021 at 11:52 AM

KG

Thank you

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:33 PM

CR

“ What a wonderful man, father, husband, and friend. His humanity for others is reflected in his obituary and his joy for life touched all of us who were lucky enough to know Mike! Praying for Mike and his family.

Carol Riley - March 03, 2021 at 10:08 AM

KG

Thank you

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:33 PM

MS

“ I will remember Mike as somebody who always had a great sense of humor, and knew how to calm the waters when the seas were rolling. In the workplace, Mike was always the one who took me aside and said no matter what the work issues, just "relax". I cannot count how many times he said this to me, when we worked together in the FCC. His even-handed approach to everything he came across reflected his intelligence and calm approach to every challenge he faced. In all the years I worked at various places, Mike was the only person who kept me steady. We meet many people over the course of our lives, but Mike stands out to me, as one to really be remembered. I will remember.

Mary Jane Spence - March 02, 2021 at 10:13 PM

KG

He used to tell me, my sister and my mom to "relax" too whenever there was a problem. He had this way of gesturing and spreading his arms wide as he would say "relax" in this very funny, but not very relaxed way. One of his many funny gestures I will miss dearly and never forget.

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:58 PM

JO

“ My memories of Mike go back when he met Cathy such fond memories of them dating and then they Married. He tried very hard to help me improve my golf game but I enjoyed being with him, looking forward to a beer after our games. I enjoyed many good times with Mike. I will miss you dear friend rest in piece.



Joan - March 02, 2021 at 08:49 PM

KG

Joan, Thank you for always being such a wonderful friend to my dad and mom.

Karen Gilbride - March 08, 2021 at 07:59 PM

FF

Mike's family expanded exponentially. Cathy, Karen and Megan began this journey but Mike had a way of welcoming others to travel with him. His advice and positive nature helped my sister and Mike's sister-in-law, Mary Catherine Cole, many times.

We will always be grateful for the happiness he brought to the journey.

Please let us know when the memorial service will occur.

Until then, thank's Mike for all the wonderful memories.

Susan and Frank Florentine

Frank Florentine - March 08, 2021 at 08:21 PM