



Richard "Rick" Gilbert

June 19, 1950 - December 5, 2023

Richard "Rick" Gilbert was born to the late Richard "Dick" and Priscilla (nee Pitkin) Gilbert in St. Louis Missouri. A 1968 graduate of Webster Groves High School, Rick went on to attend the United States Naval Academy. Upon graduation in 1972, he was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer and went on to serve aboard the USS BERKLEY during the Vietnam conflict. Following a shore tour teaching naval history at the United States Naval Academy, Rick concluded his military service and entered private industry. Following a distinguished 43-year career in manufacturing, Rick retired in 2014 to enjoy his passions: his family, speaking about naval history, teaching for Johns Hopkins University, golf, St. Louis Cardinals baseball and Navy football. He was a gifted orator and had a warm, yet wise presence that blessed his listeners. Rick faithfully participated in Bible study and church fellowship. He is even now delighting in the presence of his savior, Jesus Christ.

Rick married the love of his life, Susan Kelley, in 1975. He is survived by his wife, three children, and six grandchildren. Kelley (Aaron) Dausman of Yorktown, Virginia, Katherine (Jonathan) Niebes of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Douglas (Elizabeth) Gilbert of Powhatan, Virginia. He is also survived by his sister, Virginia (Jim) Wheeler-Jones; and brothers, William (Janice) Gilbert and Rodrick (Zoe) Gilbert. Grandchildren include Noah, Tristan, Samuel, Molly, Lucia and Neil.

Memorial service will be held at the Salem United Methodist Church, 11:00 AM January 6th 2024, 1200 S Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63131

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Salem United Methodist Church or New Covenant United Methodist Church, 3470 Woodridge Drive The Villages, FL 32162.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Salem United Methodist Church
1200 S Lindbergh Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63131-2923
(314) 991-0546

Tribute Wall

CP

“ I am sending love and sympathy to Rick's family. Rick was such an asset to our Salem Sunday School class, with his extensive knowledge. Kindness, and wonderful speaking ability. God bless you all. *Connie Petree*

Connie Petree - January 05, 2024 at 04:53 PM

DB

“ We are thinking of you with much love & many prayers. Such wonderful memories from CA & GA years. Our hearts go out to you all & know how very much we care. *Dianne & John Bollman*

Dianne Bollman - January 05, 2024 at 01:45 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" Gilbert.



January 03, 2024 at 03:17 PM

JB

“ I am sad to hear of Rick's passing, and so very sorry for your loss.

Rick and I crossed paths after graduation at the Naval Reserve Center in Rochester NY, both of us landing at the same company. It was Rick's initiative to provide a referral for an interview at the plant where he was working. This was a position that I would not have been considered without Rick's personal support. I will always remember Rick for this great kindness, as well as the friendship we enjoyed as classmates and colleagues during our early career journey.

Joe Bridgeford.

Joseph Bridgeford - December 26, 2023 at 02:56 PM

MJ

“ Monica J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rick" Gilbert.

Monica J. - December 21, 2023 at 10:43 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" Gilbert.



December 21, 2023 at 10:43 AM

JH

“ Rick was always a friendly, nice, laid back guy. I just saw him Oct 1st at our 55th reunion. Shocking to hear of his passing. Prayers for all his family & friends. He will be sorely missed.



Jerry Hutter - December 18, 2023 at 11:20 PM

DB

“ Susy,

You and Rick have been near “forever friends.” Forty years for me—and SIXTY for Don and Rick alone!

Rick was both kind and generous—and forever welcoming—of both Don and me—into the extended Gilbert family. His eyes were twinkling and his smile sincere. And I was impressed and fascinated with his love of history.

The memories that come to mind most vividly are our amazing French castle adventure, our cruise to Alaska and—our 13 hour road show to the float trip that never happened!

And—Oh those vodka tonics!

Don and I look forward to our future time with you, Susy—from Florida to St. Louis and beyond. Rick will always be there with us wherever we go together.

Love,

*Donna
(Bossow-Lueders)*

Donna Bossow - December 16, 2023 at 07:17 PM

JB

“Chantal and I were very sorry to hear of Rick’s passing. We lost a good one.

Rick married my older sister’s best friend, Suzie (aka Skelly), who was the girl next door — literally, next door — which is an early example of his good judgment, good taste and good character.

My strongest memory of him was visiting with Rick & Suzie in their St. Louis apartment several years ago when attending to my late mother’s affairs — a difficult time for me. He offered me a drink. I asked for Jack Daniel’s straight-up. He poured it on the rocks. That was much better and just what I needed at that moment — did I mention his good taste & judgment? Later, on another visit to St. Louis, Chantal and I had dinner with them: much hilarity and a great time.

Geography kept us from spending more time with him & Suzie. Our mistake, as the offer was always there. But those times we did share were good times.

“Fair winds and following seas.”

Jack & Chantal

Jack & Chantal Buchmiller - December 15, 2023 at 06:48 PM



“Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" Gilbert.



December 15, 2023 at 06:35 PM

SC

“ 4 files added to the album *USNA/Navy Photos*



Stephen Joseph Cereghino - December 14, 2023 at 08:35 PM

CH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Chris Haizlip - December 14, 2023 at 05:09 PM

CH

US Naval Academy 50th Reunion, 4th Company Oct 2022

Chris Haizlip - December 14, 2023 at 05:09 PM

CH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Chris Haizlip - December 14, 2023 at 05:01 PM

CH

Okinawa Trip 2012

Chris Haizlip - December 14, 2023 at 04:59 PM

CH

Lt Rick & Suzy Gilbert, US Naval Academy 1977

Chris Haizlip - December 14, 2023 at 05:02 PM

CH

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Chris Haizlip - December 14, 2023 at 04:58 PM

CH

Skip & Jane Wheeler visit Rick & Suzy, The Villages, May 2018

Chris Haizlip - December 14, 2023 at 05:09 PM

JZ

“ *I am so shocked and saddened to learn of Rick's sudden passing. I was a middle schooler at his wedding to Susie — aka, Skelley, my big sister's lifelong best friend. Rick embodied the life well lived — full of love, kindness, compassion and service, and priorities in the right order. All that is reflected in his family and his great love, Skelley.*

Jane Zimmerman - December 12, 2023 at 04:31 PM

GM

“ I will always remember the kindness you and Rick showed us when we first moved to Greensboro. I am so sorry for your loss.

Gail Moss

Gail Moss - December 12, 2023 at 07:49 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard "Rick" Gilbert.



December 11, 2023 at 10:27 PM

BH

“ Bill, Julie, and Liz Henson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Rick" Gilbert.

Bill, Julie, and Liz Henson - December 11, 2023 at 10:27 PM

JL

“ Oh my heart is so full for you and your family! He was a wonderful guy in high school and achieved so much in his later life. Prayers for you all!

jill lossman - December 11, 2023 at 07:44 PM

EA

“ For four years Rick was my rowing buddy as we daily challenged the Severn River. We learned that the 8000 calorie diet was insufficient for the hours of exertion. In hindsight we realized our time at Hubbard Hall was really a refuge from the wear of being a midshipman. Gilbert was a rock of encouragement and hope. A highlight of our 50th reunion last year was seeing his smile and being among our fellow oarsmen. A great man, god bless.

Eric L Anderson - December 10, 2023 at 09:46 PM

JM

Just happened to see on Facebook that Rick passed unexpectedly in early December I am very saddened to hear this. He was a wonderful family man and so kind and generous to others. My sincere thoughts and prayers are with Susie and family.

Janet Morris - December 14, 2023 at 01:45 AM

JB

“ I spent my formative years at the Gilbert's house at 104 S. Rock Hill Road.

Six years older than me and his brother/my friend, Bill, Rick always seemed very grown up.

I remember the homemade buttons he wore to Webster Groves High School and his collection of 45s. "Monster Mash" was an early favorite.

He was a KXOK (The Big 630) fan back when AM radio still played music. That became our station of choice, too.

Very sorry for your loss, Ginny, Roddy, and Bill.

- Bennett

John Bennett - December 09, 2023 at 12:42 PM

RD

This completely breaks my heart for the entire Gilbert family. In my high school years, Rick's home was always very busy and loaded with a ton of wonderful family life events. It was a very welcoming place. My condolences to Susie and her kids. This is a tough one. May God bring you peace and comfort. Robyn

Robyn Dalby - December 09, 2023 at 11:19 PM

MM

I am shocked about the news. Rick and I were good friends in high school and just had dinner with him and Susie this summer in St. Louis. Our heart and prayers go out to the Gilbert family.

Mark Mikkelsen - December 10, 2023 at 12:36 PM

MJ

I am so sorry for your loss. I was a classmate of Rick's at the Naval Academy but never met him. I wish I had as both of my parents graduated from Webster Groves HS (1936) and my Dad went to Purdue and then the Naval Academy (grad.1941). His parents' home is on Big Bend Blvd. and is now part of Webster College. I have 6 cousins who graduated from Webster Groves HS (one or two possibly with Rick?). My prayers are with the Gilbert family. God Bless.

M. Jones - December 11, 2023 at 05:43 PM

DL

Rick is one of the finest men I have known. He had character. A man of conviction and integrity. Rick found richness in his generosity towards others. His two biggest priorities were his unending love for Susy and his family, and his strong faith in God. Rick and Susy have three wonderful children. He often talked about each of them, and his grandchildren whenever we caught up, which was quite often. He emailed a bi-weekly family letter to update the entire Gilbert family. His goal was to keep all connected-wherever they lived. Our friendship and bond began 60+ years ago. Together we had numerous life "adventures" as Susy and my wife Donna would call them. We both served in the military. Rick in the Navy and I in the Army. As luck would have it, at one time, we were stationed about 45 minutes apart. It seemed that Rick and later his bride Susy, were always there for me during the ups and downs in life.

Rick loved a debate. Yet, he listened to others. Those of us who knew him well, will never forget his quick wit and humor. Many knew him as an educator. He enjoyed history. Although he was a senior corporate executive for a major company, Rick did not allow that to define him. It was a good and enjoyable day on the golf course that better defined Rick.

I could write volumes about our years of "adventures" through life with my closest friend. Yet I will end with this thought: I once read, "A friend, A TRUE friend, leaves an imprint upon one's heart".

Susy, Kelly, Doug, and Katie, your husband and dad has imprinted our hearts. I will miss him, terribly. Rick, you have been and will continue to be my closest friend.

Love Don and Donna Lueders

Don Lueders - December 11, 2023 at 07:44 PM

CH

Seems like we were just talking with Rick & Suzy at our 50th Naval Academy reunion. So sad to hear about Rick. What a loss. We always enjoyed visits with our fellow our former 4th Company USNA couple...in Greensboro, The Villages and the White Hall in Clayton. Our prayers go out to Suzy and the family.

Chris Haizlip - December 14, 2023 at 03:44 PM