



Mr. Charles D. Gilson, Jr.

August 15, 1933 - April 16, 2022

Mr. Charles D. Gilson, Jr, 88, a lifelong resident of Pittsfield, passed away peacefully on Holy Saturday, April 16, 2022, after a seven month battle with cancer. Born on August 15, 1933, the son of the late Charles D. and Freda Hesse Gilson, he graduated from St. Joseph High School with the class of 1951. He later earned his degree in History and Philosophy from St. Michael's College, where he was a member of the Edmundite Order. Chuck then graduated from Boston College, where he received his master's degree, also in History and Philosophy.

Chuck was a proud U.S. Army Veteran who served his country both in Germany and later at Fort Bragg, NC, where he was stationed in 1962.

Chuck was an outstanding, not to mention popular, instructor of advanced Placement and Honors European History classes at Pittsfield High School, where he taught for 35 years.

Following his retirement in 1995, Chuck became a "Snowbird," spending winters at his Florida condo and his summers at home in the Berkshires. He enjoyed visiting city nursing homes as a Eucharist Minister for St. Joseph's Parish.

Chuck was a Renaissance Man who enjoyed the Metropolitan Opera, Broadway Theaters, Tanglewood, domestic and foreign travel, the Old

Masters and Modern Art, all genres of literature, church architecture, puzzles, and most importantly, postcards.

He is survived by his longtime friend and companion, Barbara Bell, his sister, Mary Gilson Spina, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and one great grandnephew.

Besides his parents, Chuck was predeceased by his brothers, Richard, Leo and Christopher, his brother-in-law, Peter Spina, and his nephew, Jack Gilson.

Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Mr. Charles D. Gilson, Jr., will be Friday, April 29, 2022, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 12:30 pm at Sacred Heart Church, celebrated by the Rev. A Peter Gregory, Pastor Emeritus of St. Charles Church. There will be an hour of visitation prior to the service from 11 am to 12 noon at the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home, 220 East Street, Pittsfield MA 01201. In lieu of flowers, donations in Charles' memory can be made to HospiceCare in the Berkshires, 877 South Street, Pittsfield MA 01201.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **29**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer -Wellington Family Funeral Home - Pittsfield
220 East St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 445-4064
info@dwyerfuneral.com
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

Service

APR **29**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Sacred Heart Church
191 Elm St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tribute Wall

SD

“ *My belated but no less sincere and deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. Charles Gilson. May your memories and the prayerful support of others bring you peace and comfort. I and all the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged & Infirm, sponsors of Mount Carmel Care Center, will keep you in our prayers. I'm sorry I didn't have a chance to get to know him.*

Sr. Seán Damien

Sponsor Representative

Mount Carmel Care Center

Sr Sean Damien - May 20, 2022 at 04:25 PM

KO

“ *Mr Gilson was a wonderful teacher. Each class was informative and fun. I especially remember when he, regularly, rolled his tie up under his chin, held it there for several seconds, then lifted his chin, releasing the tie to roll out down his shirt. Each time he seemed surprised at the outcome! I was in his class when the movie, Love Story was released. HE LOVED, LOVED, LOVED that movie. (Well, at least in 1970-71!). Additionally, I learned a great deal about European History. Thanks, Mr Gilson. RIP*

Kate OBrien - April 29, 2022 at 05:33 AM

AN

“ *Best. Teacher. Ever. So good I took his class twice. Lots of great history stories. A. Scott Nugai Class of 77 Thanks Mr. Gilson*

A. Scott Nugai - April 28, 2022 at 12:03 AM

SM

“ *Mr. Wilson was a bright light who shared his love of all dimensions of history with his students. Thank you Mr Wilson for teaching me the joy in history, it's still with me.*

Sherry Martin-Moe

Class of 1974

Sherry Martin-Moe - April 27, 2022 at 09:41 PM

TD

“ *I have lost a longtime friend and fellow teacher. We taught together at PHS from the beginning of my career until his retirement. However, Chuck was also a close personal and family friend. Both of our fathers were close friends. During our teaching days, we shared some of the happiest times with the Murphy brothers and the Creran/Wetzel families traveling to Montreal and The Cape, but most often at the Creran cottage on Thomas Island. There we celebrated holidays and theme parties crafted mostly by Barb Bell and Anne Wetzel. Sadly, Barb and I are the only ones left to share these memories now.*

My sympathies to Barb and to Mary and the rest of the Spina family. Farewell to my good friend.

Tom Dillon - April 27, 2022 at 11:17 AM

JS

“ *The very best high school teacher I had at PHS. Mr. Gilson inspired a love of history that remains with me today.*

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." -- Henry Adams.

Thanks you for your gifts, Mr. Gilson.

J. Schneider, class of 1975

john schneider - April 27, 2022 at 10:55 AM

BD

“ My deepest sympathies to Ms.Bell and the Gilson family. Mr.Gilson had such a gift for teaching. He inspired a lifelong interest of history by making it exciting, accessible, and relevant. I still frequently tell stories from his class (30 years later) and appreciate the strong foundation he laid in how to view and use history. I am sure I am joined by many in listing him as # 1 teacher.

Becky donovan - April 26, 2022 at 09:06 PM

DF

“ I am very sorry to hear of Mr. Gilson’s passing. I was fortunate to take his European History classes while a student at Pittsfield High School in the 1990s. He was a passionate and entertaining teacher and was a major reason I chose to study history in college and beyond. To his entire extended family - please accept my sincere condolences. - Dave Farrell

David Farrell - April 26, 2022 at 03:58 PM

MD

“ Mr. Gilson was a superb history teacher, gifted and inspirational. His classes remain memorable to this day. My condolences to his family.

Mark Ditmar

PHS Class of 1971

Mark Ditmar - April 26, 2022 at 10:08 AM

JM

“ Chuck was such a kind, warm, and sweet man. He was so appreciative of even little things, like receiving post cards of churches. His faith in God was strong, and I am certain he is now filled with the bliss of paradise, and reunited with those who went before him. My heart goes out to all who are now missing him.
Janice Bell Meisenhelder-Heyn

Janice Bell Meisenhelder - April 23, 2022 at 12:21 PM