



## Mr. Robert "Bob" Gillmeister

September 20, 1927 - November 12, 2017

Robert 'Bob' Joseph Gillmeister, 90, of Lenox, MA, died early Sunday morning, November 12, 2017 of a massive heart attack at Berkshire Medical Center. He was surrounded by his loving family during his last hours.

Bob was born in Oak Park, Illinois September 20, 1927 son of the late Lucille G. Gillmeister and Joseph F. Gillmeister. He grew up in Oak Park and spent summers attending Chicago Cubs baseball games, camping with the Boy Scouts and worked at Sequoia National Park the summer following his graduation from high school.

He graduated from Oak Park high school in 1945 carrying a grade point average above 90 for a three-year period. He then attended Northwestern University briefly before matriculating to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology 'MIT', graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1949. He was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and routinely attended reunions. Upon graduation from the "Glorious Institute" (as Bob referred to MIT) he worked for Shake Proof Division of Illinois Tool Works making metal fasteners for military equipment, initially working as a field engineer, then sales engineer. He joined the Army in 1953 and completed his active service in 1955 with the Army Ordnance Corp. Bob then worked for a small R&D Firm, met and married Elizabeth Ann 'Ann' McEniry, his wife of 56 years who passed away in 2013. They then moved to Milwaukee, WI where

Bob worked for A.C. Sparkplug's, Electronics Division. In 1961 he began working for G.E. Ordnance Systems in Pittsfield where he spent the bulk of his career, some 29 years in the defense industry. In 1964 he earned a Graduate degree in Engineering Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 'RPI' in Troy, New York. While at G.E. he worked on projects such as guidance systems, personnel detection systems, and pollution monitoring control systems using a diode laser with long path absorption techniques. He was also active in the Society of Logistical Engineers or 'SOLE'. In completing his career, he was charged with evaluating and reviewing the fire control system for the Trident Command and Control Systems. He wrote and delivered presentations to NASA, EPA, Lincoln Laboratories as well as G.E. He received many awards and recognitions most notably a Distinguished Career Award from G.E. for his 29 years of service.

Along with his wife Ann, he led the local chapter of the Christian Family Movement and the Votre Soiree Dance Club, and was involved in many civic and municipal government activities in Pittsfield. Bob was also very dedicated to the success of Pittsfield and worked on its Master Plan for 10 years. He was a great athlete and enjoyed playing tennis, golf, skiing and hiking in addition to religiously working out every day. He avidly read the Wall Street Journal and watched the McNeil Lehrer News Hour every night.

He was predeceased by his wife Ann of 56 years and leaves four children, Mary Lee Gillmeister of Westfield, MA; Gerry Gillmeister and wife Melanie of Pittsfield, MA; William Gillmeister and his wife Sue of Brookfield, MA; Kathleen Valiasek and husband Russell Schmit of San Francisco, CA. Bob will also be sorely missed by the families of his ten grandchildren Matthew Gillmeister and his wife Katie; Jillian Young and her husband Kris; Michael Gillmeister and his wife Kate; Steven Ray, Jr.; and Joseph, Emily, Daniel, Bethany, Thomas, and Rebekah Gillmeister; and his five great grandchildren Anna and Emma Gillmeister; and Kristopher, Keegan and Grace Young.

Bob's family would like to thank the staff of PineHill Assisted Living where he lived and the staffs at HomeInstead and Berkshire Medical Center for their compassionate care.

FUNERAL NOTICE: A Liturgy of Christian Burial for Robert Joseph Gillmeister will be Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Ann Church in Lenox, MA celebrated by Msgr. John J. Bonzagni. Entombment will follow in St. Michael the Archangel Mausoleum, in St. Joseph Cemetery, Pittsfield, MA. Calling hours will be held at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St, Pittsfield, MA., Wednesday, November 15, 2017 from 4 to 7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, care of the Dwyer Funeral Home in his memory.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

222 Peck's Rd.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **15**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home  
776 North Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
(413) 442-5094  
info@dwyerfuneral.com  
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

## Service

NOV **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Ann  
134 Main St.  
Lenox, MA 01240

# Tribute Wall



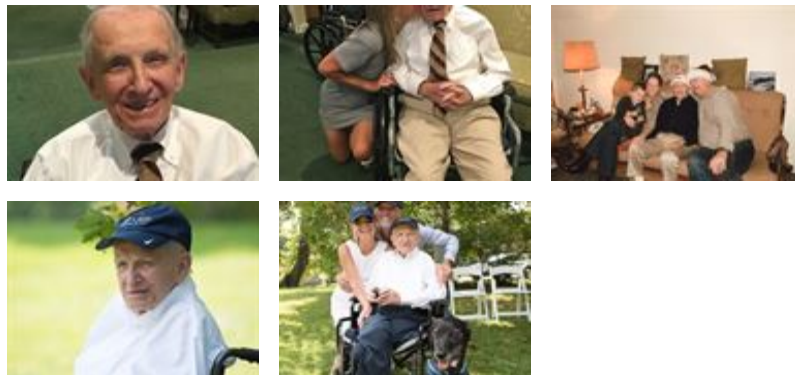
“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - November 24, 2017 at 11:50 AM



“ 45 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - November 15, 2017 at 12:21 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Bob" Gillmeister.



November 15, 2017 at 09:03 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert "Bob" Gillmeister.*



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November 14, 2017 at 09:43 PM



“ *My Dearest "Big Sister Mary" and the whole Gillmeister family. I am so very sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers as you face this difficult time. I have fond memories of your dad both at home and when I worked at GE Ordnance. He was always so very kind to me and always had great words of wisdom to share. He will be missed I am sure. Love all of you.*

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**Cheryl Lewis** - November 14, 2017 at 01:34 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to Mary, Steve, Kathy, Gerry, Bill and the entire Gillmeister family for the loss of such a dear man. Bob was always so interesting to talk to, and was truly passionate about the vision for Pittsfield as demonstrated by his contributions to the Master Plan. I have fond memories of dinner at the Gillmeister's and smile when I think of the bowl of cereal on the kitchen table prepared each night for breakfast the next morning. Bob will truly be missed! Mary and Steve, you are especially in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Mary and Brett Chandler*

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**Mary Chandler** - November 14, 2017 at 09:38 AM

HC

“ Dear Kathy & family,  
I'm so sorry to hear of your father's passing. Your father was an accomplished man who raised a wonderful and loving family. May the many happy memories you have of him provide comfort to you. Keeping you in my prayers.

Sincerely,  
Holly Chueh

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**Holly Chueh** - November 13, 2017 at 07:52 PM

EP

I am sorry to hear of the passing of my St. Ann's 11:15 AM Mass pew buddy. Blessings to all the family.  
Eileen Potash

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**Eileen Potash** - November 14, 2017 at 03:51 PM

BM

Our deepest sympathies to Bill, Kathy, Mary, Gerry and the whole extended Gillmeister family. We appreciated your Dad's intelligence, wit, and charm. A truly excellent gentleman, husband and father. Your father has left a wonderful legacy in his family and his work. We hope your fond memories of him provide some comfort. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Bob and Diane McEniry

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**Bob McEniry** - November 14, 2017 at 10:10 PM

BV

I'm so sorry for the loss of your father/grandfather for all of you. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I'm very grateful I was able to spend some time with Mr. G. this summer.

Barry Valiasek

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**Barry Valiasek** - November 15, 2017 at 12:33 AM



Darlene  
Tashjian

So sorry for your loss, Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.  
Mike & Darlene Tashjian & Brianna

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**Darlene Tashjian** - November 18, 2017 at 03:51 AM