



James S. Gillen

August 29, 1920 - October 28, 2018

JAMES STEWART GILLEN

James Stewart Gillen was born on August 29, 1920 in Queens, New York To James Francis Gillen and Florence Edna Nassauer. James had an older, sister, Virginia. James' father died when he was in his early teens. His mother remarried and James had two half brothers, David and Gerald.

James attended Brooklyn Prep High School in Brooklyn, New York. Upon graduation, he attended Manhattan College in New York City. At Manhattan, James was President of his fraternity, Beta Sigma. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. Subsequently James earned a Masters Degree in Sanitary Engineering in 1952 From New York University. When James graduated from Manhattan College in 1943, World War II was raging. Like many young men and women at that time, he chose to serve his country and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. His first assignment was to attend Midshipman school at the University of Notre Dame where he became an officer with the rank of Ensign. James became part of the Seabees, the Navy's engineering and construction corp. He was sent to the South Pacific where he built runways for allied aircraft after the islands were reclaimed from the Japanese by U.S. Marines. James left the Navy at the war's conclusion having reached the rank of Lieutenant JG.

Prior to his enlistment in the Navy, James began dating a co-ed from Our Lady of Good Council College in Westchester, New York .named Dolores Grosser. Like many young lovers separated by the war, they kept their budding

romance alive with frequent letters to each other for over two years.

Upon James's return home they were married on February 16, 1946. Their marriage flourished for the next 72 3/4 years until James' death on October 28, 2018.

James had a successful and rewarding career as a Professional engineer on Long Island, New York. His first job after the war was with the Nassau County Department of Health. From 1957 until 1971 James served as the Director of Utilities and Engineering for the Village of Garden City, New York. James became Chairman of the Long Island Water Conference in 1960. He concluded his career after working as the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works for Nassau County, New York from 1971 to 1982. During that time he was also the Director of the American Water Works Association.

James had a zest for life. He enjoyed RV vacations with his family during the Sixties and the Seventies, and made several trips abroad with his wife over the years. He also enjoyed many family reunions with his family. James served his community through the Knights of Columbus and his local church, and also volunteered alongside his wife at local nursing homes and other organizations. He was an accomplished painter, woodwork craftsman and a lifelong avid Yankees Fan. James was also an exercise enthusiast and was doing 70 pushups a day almost until his last year of life.

James was a loving husband, father, grandfather and patriarch of the Gillen Family. He is survived by his wife Dolores, four children: James and his wife Patricia, Brian and his wife Jean, Jane and her husband Douglas, and Daniel. He is also survived by 9 grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and two brothers, David and his wife Rhonda, and Gerald and his wife Barbara.

James set the bar very high for what a husband and father should be, and was an inspiration to everyone who knew him.

He will be sorely missed.

Previous Events

WAKE

NOV 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Prayer Service

NOV 8. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Cherry Ridge
3401 Cherry Ridge Dr
San Antonio, TX 78230
(210) 349-1414
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Service

NOV 9. 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Helotes
13715 Riggs Rd.
Helotes, TX 78023

Interment

NOV 9. 10:45 AM (CT)

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery
1520 Harry Wurzbach
San Antonio, TX 78209

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of James S. Gillen.



November 08, 2018 at 11:16 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of James S. Gillen.



November 02, 2018 at 11:51 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of James S. Gillen.



November 01, 2018 at 07:58 AM