



Gil Ellerby

November 18, 1939 - April 30, 2016

John Howard "Gil" Ellerby

Gil Ellerby, 76 of Fort Collins, passed away Saturday, April 30, 2016 at his home surrounded by family and friends.

A Memorial Mass to celebrate his life will be held at 11:00 am, Monday, May 30th at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Fort Collins. A reception will be served in Meredith Hall immediately following the service. A rosary will be said in his honor prior to the Memorial Mass.

Gil was born November 18, 1939 in Whittier, California to Alfred and Lucille (Smith) Ellerby. He graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1960 with a BS in Industrial Engineering. On February 2, 1963 he married the former Marcelle Therese Sonnier in Houma, LA. Gil spent many years in the manufacturing industry with jobs at 3M and Voicelt. Gil spent countless hours coaching various little league and bowling teams because he enjoyed working with young children. Gil's love of kids and passion for learning led him to be the founder of the Youth Bowlers Tour where special friendships were made, good sportsmanship was learned and respect was of the utmost importance. He was a sometimes father and grandfather to many young children in the Fort Collins area. After his retirement, he started a second career and became a substitute teacher because he wanted to make a difference in the lives of many. He enjoyed golfing, traveling and spending time with family and friends. Gil was a large presence but a gentle giant with a deep voice, infectious laugh and a caring heart. There is a hole in the hearts of many because of their love for this wonderful man.

Gil is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Marcelle Ellerby, his son, Charles Martin Ellerby and his wife Sally also of Fort Collins, his daughter Kristine Dawn Curtis of Fairfax, VA, and five grandchildren he adored: Robert, Danielle, Samantha, Christian and Andrew.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Mr. Ellerby's memory to Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Drive, Suite E, Fort Collins, CO 80524, The family will decide where they want the donations to go in the coming weeks.

Cemetery

Grandview Cemetery

1900 West Mountain
Avenue
Fort Collins, CO, 80521

Events

MAY **Rosary** 10:30AM - 11:00AM

30

St. Joseph Catholic Church
300 W Mountain Ave, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80521

MAY **Memorial Mass** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

30

St. Joseph Catholic Church
300 W Mountain Ave, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80521

MAY **Burial** 09:00AM - 09:30AM

31

Grandview Cemetery
1900 West Mountain Avenue, Fort Collins, CO, US,
80521

Comments



“ Hi Marty,

This is Leslie Sampson, the daughter of Ray & Sharon Stroot. My dad asked me to send you the tribute I posted on Facebook about your dad, so please find it pasted below. Also listed below are a few comments people made in response to my post that I thought you'd enjoy reading.

Please accept my deepest sympathy as you grieve the loss of your dad.
Leslie

The world lost a wonderful man yesterday with the passing of Gil Ellerby. This gentle giant shared his big heart and love of life with so many. Gil was often asked how tall he was and his response was always 5'19". As a little girl, I always wanted to hold Gil's hand anywhere we went because he would skip with me:-) I can't imagine how ridiculous we looked, him so tall and me a chubby little pipsqueak, but Gil didn't care because it made me smile and laugh. He was my first bowling coach, my brother's baseball coach, my sister biggest teaching fan, and my parent's wonderful friend. He had nicknames for all of us kids...Andra was Andy, Eric was Rooty Toot Stroot, and I was Lester. He also affectionately called me his "sometimes daughter", my favorite nickname of all. Gil's love of kids and passion for learning led him to be the founder of the Youth Bowlers Tour where special friendships were made, good sportsmanship was learned and respect was of the utmost importance. After retirement, Gil became a substitute teacher and continued making an important difference in the lives of many. He was so proud of all the good work his wife Marcy did as a lifelong teacher and his heart overflowed with love for his children Bob, Kris and Marty. Heaven is a better place today with the addition of my sometimes dad. I already miss him so much and will love him always. May he rejoice in reuniting with his son Bob and find peace and life everlasting with our heavenly father.

Tracy Moloney Meyer He truly was an amazing man. The Ellerbys were my mom and dad's 1st friends when we came to Fort Collins in 1978. They were also my 1st babysitters. Talk about growing up in a land a giants:). I pray that Gil, Bobby and dad have a chance to throw a few games together:)

Charlotte Gater Moloney Shanahan Gil and Marcy were the first people we met when we moved to Fort Collins in 1978. We bowled with them and coached youth bowling with Gil for years. They help me get through when my world was rocked with the passing of my husband in 1986. The friendship will never be forgotten. Gil you will be missed. Bowl a couple of games with Chuck or play a round of golf together.

Nancy J. Zawada My heart is heavy for you and the hundreds of youth bowlers & their parents who had the privilege of knowing Gil! I will share the news with the rest of our family; many tears will be shed!

Leslie Sampson



“ In loving Memory of my 30 year best Friend “Gil” Ellerby
(by Bob Hansen 5-30-2016)

The first thing everyone experienced with Gil was that he was a Big man. What was remarkable was how big he was in all aspects of his life. He was tall and had a large, deep voice, but he was also Large in many other ways. He was intelligent, confident, loyal, kind, honest, trustworthy, friendly, generous and a good sport.

He was also very competitive and enjoyed baseball, bowling and golf. And cards! He was excellent at bridge, cribbage, poker and any other card game he played. If you played for money, Gil would usually win. He told me that he essentially paid his way through college playing poker.

He was a hard worker from a very early age. He told me his toughest job was rough necking in the oil fields of Wyoming. And that he almost died in a roll-over accident heading from the oil field to a date. But that was not to be.

He excelled and finished high school early and also graduated early from college. He enlisted with the Air Force and became an officer. He tried to become a pilot and passed all the entrance tests, but alas, he was too tall for the job.

After the service he was a Superintendent of a lithoplate manufacturing process, a specific Line of Business for 3M company. He made many friends on the shop floor and knew most of the names of each workers and of their family members.

When he left 3M, the Ellerby family relocated to Fort Collins, CO. Gil participated in many different endeavors and the highlight was his time with the startup business Voice IT. He was a contributor from the word go and told me that he probably did just about every kind of task that came up no matter what level of work it was. He really enjoyed the people and always had high expectations and gave encouragement.

Giving encouragement was another large part of Gil. He coached baseball and bowling. Many of his protégés have given tremendous testimony to how big of difference he made in not only learning the game but also in developing proper etiquette and sportsmanship. He valued the trait of always having a plan or a target even if it would frequently change.

Perhaps his true calling came after he retired when he began substitute teaching. He loved to teach mathematics and problem solving to 2nd through 4th grades and tutoring individual students (and their parents if needed).

He was big in generosity too. Each year he would give some kind of ‘gift’ to the catholic schools he taught in such as providing ‘Smart boards’ in several class rooms.

Gil became a friend nearly everywhere he went. We would frequent various eating places, such as McAllister’s and McDonalds, and in each he came to know the servers and returning patrons not by just by name but as friends and family. He was an easy, fun person to spend time with.

Most people were astounded by the total recall he had for the classic movies and TV shows of yesteryear. He often could name all the main characters and also their birth names. I'm sure he memorized every Star Trek show and most of the others. In fact, he was often on the same side of issues as Archie Bunker. He also liked the Partridge Family because he had a secret crush on Shirley Jones.

Gil also had maybe more than his share of adversity.

You may know that Gil and Marcy lost two children.

He had several serious car accidents, and talk about surgeries and injuries!!! Broken ribs several times, shoulder surgeries, knee surgeries, back surgery, stomach surgeries. Throughout each of these I admired how pain tolerate he was. When the end was near and he said he was in pain, I can only imagine how bad it really was.

But there was also the Bigger side of life for Gil and Marcy. They extensively and we often vacationed together. He would say that some of the most memorable were a trip going to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji and enjoying New Years eve at Sydney Harbor, snorkeling

Bob Hanson - June 02, 2016 at 01:46 PM



“Continued from Bob Hansen... "at the Great Barrier reef, visiting Christ Church and resting up at Fiji. Another time was when we traded houses for vacations with friends in High Wickham, England and played being a Brit for a week. Other trips were to Spain, Mexico, Italy, river cruises in Europe, and a few ocean cruises.

For many years he looked forward to going to Wendover, Nevada and playing in the 'scramble' golf tournament with our wives as well as doing a little gambling. Other stateside vacations were to Augusta GA. to watch practice rounds of the Masters golf tournament a place he loved to visit. Also to Louisiana to visit relatives and enjoy touring the alligator farms and historic places. Several trips to Myrtle Beach (for golf and relaxation). We vacationed in Virginia to visit his daughter Kris, and another special trip was to Anchorage Alaska to visit Marty and family (and to fish and golf).

All in All, I know that God Most High is the ultimate judge, but from my perspective Gil traveled this life as a good and loyal servant doing good works in all aspects of his life and completing a job well done.

His works will live on in each of us that was touched by the good example he displayed in all that he did.

I believe I speak for everyone here, 'Thank you Gil for being my friend'.

Bob Hanson - June 02, 2016 at 01:41 PM



“ Gil and his beautiful wife were an integral part of of my family's life. His son helped me with computers in their infancy, and he taught me how to bowl better. He and his wife had many evenings of fun playing cards with my parents. He was very important to my siblings and myself. He will be sorely missed.

Jeffrey Stroot - May 27, 2016 at 03:36 AM



“ To Gil,

Long time friend. He was a great mentor. He was a great teacher of bowling. He was always laughing. He will be sorely missed. His family has lost a great Dad, Husband, and great person. My thoughts go out to the Ellerby Family. He will be missed.

Your friend
Steve Honick

steve - May 26, 2016 at 07:04 PM



“ Mr. E was a substitute teacher at Skyview Elementary in Windsor, the school my children attend. I was fortunate to get to know Mr. Ellerby on the days I volunteered. He was a true gem! The kids loved him and his fun disposition when teaching math. You will be missed!!

Elizabeth Kueny - May 22, 2016 at 11:37 AM



“ I knew Mr. Ellerby, and he was a good man. He substituted at my school, and was more than funny! He was awesome, kind, and was a great teacher. I always think of him, wondering how he is doing. I thought Mr. Ellerby was the greatest sub in the world. And he still is. Not because he gives smarties out and really high high- 5's, but because he was special, and he still is.

A Friend

An Elementary School Student - May 22, 2016 at 10:34 AM



“ To Aunt Marcelle, Please accept our sympathy on the passing of Uncle Gil. I will remember fondly when we were young the whole Sonnier clan being in Houma La. for the big Holidays and the great feasts we had in the back yard at Maw Maw & Paw Paws house. Being around the Kitchen table years later with Uncle Gil & you at Mom & Dad's house sharing stories and coffee on your visits to Louisiana. Know our prayers and thoughts are with you, Marty, Kris and their families.
Anthony & Marilyn Domingue

Anthony Domingue - May 21, 2016 at 06:38 PM



“ Marcy - I am so sorry to hear of Gil's death. There aren't too many days that go by without thinking of our time together at Voice-It. My daughter Sara still talks about stopping by the office when she was 4 or 5 and Gil always offering her a licorice. By the way, she is now a Junior at the University of Wyoming. Gil would have loved that part!

Now it's time to take care of yourself. Please know that you are in our hearts and prayers and we will think of you often!

Mark and Charlene Griffith

Mark Griffith - May 18, 2016 at 03:15 PM



“ Dear Marcy and Family,

I am so sorry to hear about Gil. He loved you all very much, and I know he will be greatly missed. My prayers are with you.

Martha Parks

martha parks - May 16, 2016 at 11:23 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Gil's passing. We have wonderful memories from our trip to Australia in 2005-2006. Tom passes 12/14/12 and life has never been the same for me. We pray you find comfort in your friends and family like I have. prayers, to you.
Lin LaPierre

Lin LaPierre - May 16, 2016 at 08:25 AM



“ Gil was my friend and also a friend to my family and my children. I would like to say that Gil made a "DIFFERENCE" to the many people he touched throughout his life. I'll miss riding in your golf cart while playing golf at Pelican Falls & I'll also miss having our talks while sharing lunch at the Taste Of Philly in Loveland. RIP Gil. You will be missed.

Ray Stroot

Ray Stroot - May 15, 2016 at 01:18 PM



“ God Bless one of the Best Brother-in-Laws I could ever want. I'll light a candle in memory of Gil and our good times together.

Annette



mawmaw - May 14, 2016 at 05:05 PM



“ To one of the best uncles in the world! I loved his stories, his smile and his pearls of wisdom... It was nice to always have someone to have an "intelligent" conversation with. Love you and Miss you.

Missy

mama - May 14, 2016 at 05:02 PM



“ We remember the first time we meet Gil and Marcy. It was in Seattle when they came to meet us and our daughter, Sally, who was to become the Ellerby's daughter-in-law. We were so impressed by Gil's height, big voice and booming laughter. And to cap it off, he came to love our daughter very much. Although we lived many miles apart from each other, there was always a loving connection between our two families. We will certainly miss Gil.

Charles and Alice Lee - May 14, 2016 at 02:37 PM



“ I didn't know Gil well, but I remember him often sitting on the porch of his house next to our neighborhood pool and always having a smile or a kind word or some other way of interacting and connecting with the kids as they made their way to and from the pool. His smile made a difference, and I am sad to see his empty chair on the porch. Blessings to Gil and his family.

Lin Wilder - May 14, 2016 at 08:06 AM



“ My heart and prayers go out to you Marty. So very sorry on the passing of your Dad. Love you friend.

Stacey Rooks - May 14, 2016 at 02:10 AM



“ From A good friend , "Tough start to my week: my best friend died from pancreatic cancer this weekend. Gil Ellerby & I have been going to lunch every week for 22 years; great chats, sharing of ideas, etc. We disagreed on lots of things, but somehow we just clicked. And we played golf when we could. Funny, compassionate, principled, and OCD like me There's a hole in my heart, I miss him terribly."

you - May 13, 2016 at 08:41 PM



“ From Leslie Sampson "Stroot", "

The world lost a wonderful man yesterday with the passing of Gil Ellerby. This gentle giant shared his big heart and love of life with so many. Gil was often asked how tall he was and his response was always 5'19". As a little girl, I always wanted to hold Gil's hand anywhere we went because he would skip with me:-) I can't imagine how ridiculous we looked, him so tall and me a chubby little pipsqueak, but Gil didn't care because it made me smile and laugh. He was my first bowling coach, my brother's baseball coach, my sister biggest teaching fan, and my parent's wonderful friend. He had nicknames for all of us kids...Andra was Andy, Eric was Rooty Toot Stroot, and I was Lester. He also affectionately called me his "sometimes daughter", my favorite nickname of all. Gil's love of kids and passion for learning led him to be the founder of the Youth Bowlers Tour where special friendships were made, good sportsmanship was learned and respect was of the utmost importance. After retirement, Gil became a substitute teacher and continued making an important difference in the lives of many. He was so proud of all the good work his wife Marcy did as a lifelong teacher and his heart overflowed with love for his children Bob, Kris and Marty. Heaven is a better place today with the addition of my sometimes dad. I already miss him so much and will love him always. May he rejoice in reuniting with his son Bob and find peace and life everlasting with our heavenly father."

ME - May 13, 2016 at 08:38 PM



“ From Tim Canney , "Tough start to my week: my best friend died from pancreatic cancer this weekend. Gil Ellerby & I have been going to lunch every week for 22 years; great chats, sharing of ideas, etc. We disagreed on lots of things, but somehow we just clicked. And we played golf when we could. Funny, compassionate, principled, and OCD like me There's a hole in my heart, I miss him terribly."

ME - May 13, 2016 at 08:35 PM



“ There was never a day that Gill didn't come up to me with a smile and a kind word at Skyview. He truly loved the kids and he was a gift to all of us.

Susan Grande/Art teacher

Susan Grande/Art Teacher - May 12, 2016 at 09:26 AM



“ We will miss seeing Gil at Fantastic Sams, where he was a long time guest and all around good guy. Rest in Peace friend.

Christa



Christa - May 11, 2016 at 08:53 PM



“ What a wonderful man. I will miss seeing him at Cottonwood Plains very much.
Sarah Perkins

Sarah Perkins - May 08, 2016 at 04:05 PM



“ Chrissy Reimer-McCollom lit a candle in memory of Gil Ellerby



Chrissy Reimer-McCollom - May 06, 2016 at 11:49 AM