



John L. Gilbert

March 1, 1922 - January 11, 2015

Rev. John L. Gilbert 1922-2015

Rev. John Lewis Gilbert of Hammond passed away at age 92 on January 11, 2015 in a Hammond health care facility. Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, to Rev. Martin J and Pearl Lewis Gilbert, Rev. Gilbert graduated from Hammond High, Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. From 1942-45, Rev. Gilbert served on active duty in the US Navy (Air Corps). His unit was first stationed in Dutch Guyana, South America, where he was Radioman/ Navigator/Gunner on a PV 1. Their bombers hunted German U-Boats prowling in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. His unit was then transferred to the Aleutian Islands, where many bombing runs were made over Japan until the end of the war. Several close brushes with death signaled to Gilbert that 'God was trying to tell me something' and he answered the call to Christian ministry. Called back to duty during the Korean Conflict, he was chaplain to a Seabee unit during the building of the Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He spent the next 30 years as Naval Reserve Chaplain attached to Marine units in New Orleans and Shreveport, retiring with the rank of Commander. Next to God and his family, he was most proud of serving his country in the Navy. Rev. Gilbert is survived by one sister, Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Charles) Ray of Carrollton, Mississippi, and four children; Pete (Cheryl) of Fayetteville, Arkansas, J (Barbara) of Bryson City, North Carolina, Mark (Shelia) of Amite, Louisiana., and Cindy Ferrara (David) of Albany, Louisiana, 14 grandchildren and 5 great-grand children, and numerous nieces

and nephews. The Gilberts also 'adopted' several other children that they had met while traveling on the foreign mission field. Fatima Lima Garcia is one example. They met her as a teenager in Brazil, invited her to the States to live with them and provided her with a college education. Following her graduation she returned to Brazil to serve as missionary/minister there. Rev. Gilbert was preceded in death by a grandson, Seth Lavigne; his wife of 67 years, Betty Dicken Gilbert; his brothers, J.T. and James Pascal Gilbert; and his parents. Rev. Gilbert served over 65 years in the gospel ministry. He was pastor at numerous churches in Mississippi, Louisiana and North Carolina, and served as Director of Associational Missions for Southern Baptists in New Orleans, Shreveport and the Florida Parishes. In 1982 he was recognized by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as the Outstanding Director of Missions in the Eastern half of the United States. Rev. Gilbert was recognized by his peers as an outstanding leader among Louisiana Baptists, starting churches, new ministries, and leading numerous volunteer mission trips. He was particularly skilled at mentoring young ministers from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as they served some of the small rural churches in the Florida Parishes. Many veteran ministers in Louisiana can remember a time when 'Bro. John' assisted them through a difficult time or gave them a welcome helping hand. With John L's deep roots in Washington Parish growing up at Enon and Isabel, the Gilberts chose Franklinton as their retirement home. They leave behind many cherished friends and their beloved church, First Baptist. In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to be made to First Baptist Church of Franklinton. Crain Funeral Home of Franklinton is assisting the family with arrangements. Services will be Saturday, January 17th at First Baptist Church Franklinton. Visitation will be 1 to 3 PM with the funeral beginning at 3 PM. Burial will follow in the Ellis Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

CH

“ I had the honor of being a member of Westview Baptist Church in Jackson, Ms. He was our preacher and my friend. My favorite memory of Brother Gilbert was a mission trip to Venice, La in July of 1973. It was a wonderful experience and adventure. Brother Gilbert was a remarkable and wonderful man of God. When he delivered a sermon to our congregation we all walked away spiritually filled with God's message through him.

Sincerely,

Charlene Harris

Charlene Harris - June 07, 2020 at 02:39 PM

MW

“ *Pete, Mark and Family,
Though we will all miss your sweet wonderful father, we know there is absolutely the best Lewis reunion going on in Heaven right now. May God grant you all peace and comfort in your tremendous loss.*

Mark and Dane Watkins - January 17, 2015 at 01:20 PM

RS

“ *We only had the pleasure of meeting Rev. Gilbert a couple of times but came away feeling as if we had known him for years. What a sweet & gentle man.
Our prayers are with the family during this time of loss. But what wonderful memories you have of this precious man. May the Lord continue to be with you and comfort you.*

Ron & Janice Short - January 16, 2015 at 12:31 AM

DS

“ *Many condolences from the Joiner MKs. What a wonderful man it shows your uncle was was, just like our "Uncle" James.*

Donna Joiner Sliger - January 15, 2015 at 12:26 AM

RD

“ *I extend my deepest sympathies to tThe family of Rev. John L. Gilbert. He was an incredible and wonderful man and will certainly be missed.*

Rev. John Denton - January 14, 2015 at 07:59 PM

MS

“ *J and family. We are thinking of you all at this time of transition but we know that there is a great reunion in heaven. Prayers for you all.*

Mike & Jeannie Stewart - January 14, 2015 at 07:58 PM

JM

“ *--A great servant of God and role model,always with a positive outlook and cheerfulness. "Well done, good and faithful servant.*

Jim and Pat Muse - January 14, 2015 at 07:24 PM

MM

“ *John L. Gilbert*

MATTHEW MCMICHAEL - January 14, 2015 at 04:49 PM

VG

“ John and Betty Gilbert were a blessing to our family. My sister, Dot Patterson Davis worked as his Secretary when he was Director of Missions in New Orleans. I also worked for him for a short time. Their lives were a wonderful example of the love and care that Jesus showed when He was here on this earth. They hold a very special place in our hearts. We pray for comfort for your family during this difficult time.

My sister passed away a few years ago, so they are enjoying a sweet reunion now in heaven. My Dad, Lester Patterson, also is there to greet them.

Their children always held a very special place in their hearts. They were so proud of all of you.

God bless you

Virginia Patterson Goforth

Virginia P Goforth - January 13, 2015 at 11:19 PM

TM

“ We are sorry about your great loss! Bro. John was a great person and service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Heaven is a wonderful place and we know he is happy to be there. May GOD surround all of you with His great love and comfort always! Love in Christ, Ronnie & Terry Moak Mt. Hermon, Louisiana

Terry Moak - January 13, 2015 at 02:24 PM

JR

“ No one person had more influence on me as a young preacher than you John. Always had the greatest respect and admiration for you and your dear wife. May you rest in Jesus.

Jim Richardson - January 13, 2015 at 10:33 AM

MR

“ *Mark and family, My condolences on the death of your Dad. My thoughts and prayers will be with all of you.*

Mittie Rohner - January 12, 2015 at 05:32 PM

LK

“ *Sorry for your loss. We were members of First Baptist when J was youth director, Rhonda and Kenny Kinlaw our children. Know he will be missed by family and so many friends.*

larry and dot kinlaw - January 12, 2015 at 05:28 PM

TL

“ *Rest in peace, John. I pray for the repose of your soul. I enjoyed our many visits and American Legion meetings. You were an immediate kind heart and friend when I moved to Franklinton. May your family and friends continue to share memories of your legacy.*

Tom Lewis - January 12, 2015 at 03:11 PM