



# Robert J. Gilbert

JAN 15, 1931 - OCT 9, 2016



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AJ   
HOLLY & SONS

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## **Robert J. Gilbert**

JAN 15, 1931 - OCT 9, 2016

**R**obert J. Gilbert, age 85, of Wild Rose, WI passed away on Sunday, October 9, 2016 at his residence under the care of hospice. Bob was born in Hancock, WI on January 15, 1931, the son of the late D. Irving and Freda (Abbott) Gilbert. On April 20, 1953, Bob married Mary Ferris in Hancock, WI. He graduated from Tri-County High School in 1948 and studied Biology and Conservation at Stevens Point Teachers College, graduating in 1952. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and began his education career teaching soldiers while he was stationed in Germany. He taught sciences and driver's ed in Wild Rose from 1956 to 1990. Bob earned a Master of Science in Teaching from UW Oshkosh in 1966. His interest in science and conservation found expression in their pine tree plantation in Adams County and home garden and orchard. He cultivated everything from apples and blueberries to shiitake mushrooms. He was a member of the Inland Bird Banding Association and banded birds for thirty years.

Bob is survived by his wife, Mary Gilbert, Wild Rose; his children: Stephen (Melanie) Gilbert, Rio, WI; Susan (Jeffrey) Gardner, Superior, WI; Margaret (Gerhardt) Getzin, Wausau, WI; Laura (David) Stertz, Berlin, WI and Sarah Gilbert, Stevens Point, WI. Also surviving are his 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. The Funeral Service will be on Saturday, October 15 at 11 AM at Wild Rose United Methodist Church with Reverend Douglas Clement, officiating. Burial with Military rites will be in the Hancock Cemetery. Visitation will be on Friday evening from 4 PM to 8 PM at the Holly Funeral Home in Wild Rose and also on Saturday morning from 10 AM until the time of services at the church. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in Bob's name. Holly Funeral Home in Wild Rose is assisting the family with arrangements.



# Events

**Robert J. Gilbert**

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## Visitation

- Friday**, October 14, 2016
- 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT
- A. J. Holly & Sons (Wild Rose)**  
630 County Road CR-GH, Wild Rose WI 54984



## Visitation

- Saturday**, October 15, 2016
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT
- Wild Rose United Methodist Church**  
225 Summit Street, Wild Rose WI 54984

## Funeral Service

- Saturday**, October 15, 2016
- 11:00 AM CT
- Wild Rose United Methodist Church**  
225 Summit Street, Wild Rose WI 54984



# Tribute Wall

**Robert J. Gilbert**  
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**Sherrie Komar Erbs** lit a candle in honor of Robert.

Mr. Gilbert was one of my favorite teachers at Wild Rose and I learned alot from him. He was very compassionate and did what he could to help his students learn and grow. I remember having an issue dissecting a frog and he agreed to actually do it as long as I could identify the organs. I actually passed that with "A" thanks to him! The other thing I remember is "Circular File #13". I cannot even count the number of times I was asked to spit out my gum in that "file". He was such a positive influence to so many students and I am sure he will be greatly missed. Hugs and prayers to all you.



October 14 at 6:12 PM



**Cindy Machus** lit a candle in honor of Robert.

October 13 at 11:58 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Serene Retreat to the Gilbert family.

October 13 at 6:35 PM



**Russell Charlotte Marshall And Family** lit a candle in honor of Robert.

We want to send our many thoughts and prayers to you Mary and the family/Russell and Charlotte Marshall and family

October 13 at 4:17 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Gilbert family.

October 13 at 3:55 PM





## Tribute Wall

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CB

**Cheryl Borowick** lit a candle in honor of Robert.



October 13 at 3:28 PM

CB

**Cheryl Borowick** posted:

Sending our thoughts and prayers to the Gilbert family and that all your memories comfort you through this difficult time. Love, Jim Gullickson and Cheryl Borowick

October 13 at 3:27 PM

PA

**Paula Ausloos** posted:

To family and friends. First of all you have my deepest sympathy. I did not meet Bob until after he had retired. He was still subbing at Wild Rose High School and it was my first year of teaching in the district. I found him charming and compassionate and always ready with a witty reply. He will be deeply missed. His commitment to education of all children and the teaching profession was very evident in everything he did. Paula Ausloos.

October 13 at 3:11 PM

FF

**From Your Home Town Pharmacy Friends.** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Gilbert family.



October 13 at 10:09 AM

NA

**Nancy Adams** posted:

I have very fond memories of Bob with his beautiful voice singing in the choir in the church in Hancock. As a young high school girl I felt so privileged to attend the wedding joining him with the love of his life, Mary. Bob was so kind to all who he met and always had time to stop and say hello. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Nancy Adams

October 13 at 6:05 AM



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WZ

**Wes Zuege** posted:

Mr. Gilbert was the best teacher I ever had, besides my own parents. As I recall he taught us science, biology, chemistry, and physics in successive years. He also taught us conservation and drivers education. He coached on the baseball, track, basketball, and football teams. He was our class advisor more than one year. I was fortunate to band birds with him as he worked on his master's degree. He taught me taxidermy techniques and to appreciate the world around us. He was part of the our group that painted buildings in the Wild Rose area during the summer. Mr. Gilbert taught me how to grow shiitake mushrooms on logs, a hobby I continue to enjoy. But most of all he taught me how to study and organize educational data. His ability to successfully teach the sciences lead many of us into related careers. His guidance in the class room, sports, and life will always be remembered and appreciated. Just think of the things he did for so many of us and how fortunately we are that he came to Wild Rose. A thought that has crossed my mind many times: What would my life and so many others be if he had not come to Wild Rose? Thanks again, Mr. Gilbert, my favorite formal teacher. God Bless you, Mary, and your family. A thankful student, Wes Zuege

October 12 at 3:06 PM

SA

**Steve Adams** lit a candle in honor of Robert.



October 12 at 11:35 AM

SA

**Steve Adams** October 12 at 11:40 AM

Bob was a special person - the kind of person that only comes along once in most peoples lives. He touched so many, in a real positive way, and will be remembered for his gentle soul. My thoughts and prayers for his wonderful family, and my thanks for them sharing Bob with so many people who will never forget his kindnesses. Truly, one of a kind.

SV

**Scott Vollmer** posted:

My sincerest condolences to Bob's family and friends. He was one of my all time favorite teachers and had more patience than anyone I knew, even with Joe J. and John J. in class cracking wise, he always kept his cool and made class fun and learning a great experience. His drivers ed/shopping for class supplies driving sessions were a great memory. He will always be there in my mind and heart with that knowing grin asking "What do you think the answer is Mr. Vollmer?". He will be greatly missed. Scott Vollmer

October 12 at 9:23 AM



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JD

**Judy (Emlano) Davies** posted:

I am saddened to hear this. I have very fond memories of Mr. Gilbert, Who would have thought a country girl from Wild Rose would be driving the freeways of LA? It was because of the patience of this man! I was honored to recently receive a Christs card from him.....Rest in peace, Mr. Gilbert. You have the legacy of all your students and a wonderful family. A life well lived!

October 12 at 8:07 AM

LL

**Love From Deanna And Ron Larson** sent a Sweet Tenderness to the Gilbert family.



October 12 at 6:54 AM

EA

**Ed Anderson** posted:

God Bless Mr. Gilbert, such a kind and humble man. I remember having him for both Biology and Driver's Ed. He was so passionate about his teachings and his displays in the class room. He was also passionate about Driver's Ed, hats off to a man who would take an inexperienced driver on the snowy winter roads of Wisconsin and show them how to drive-what courage and trust he had. Also he sang in the choir of the church I grew up in-such a fine role model. Lastly, thank you for your service. May his family find comfort during this difficult time in the kinds words posted here.Ed Anderson, Wild Rose Class of 1990.

October 12 at 4:55 AM

NS

**Nancy (Towne) Strebe** posted:

Mr Gilbert was an amazing teacher. I am so happy that I had an opportunity to have a conversation with him this summer at my 50th class reunion. As always he remembered where I lived, all these years after drivers ed. Please know that he will live in the memories all of his students.Nancy (Towne) StrebeClass of 1966

October 12 at 4:42 AM

CA

**Clay Acker** posted:

Both of my sons learned to love deer hunting on Bob's land in Adams County. Many a whitetail was taken there along the Roche-a-Cri. Thank you Bob, you were one of the good guys.

October 11 at 4:53 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Virginia Korleski** lit a candle in honor of Robert.



October 11 at 2:28 PM



**Alan Kowaleski** October 12 at 1:54 AM

Simply the Best in all respects stayed in touch with him over the years would visit him every other year and Wild Rose in his little house always so humble sweet and Powerful that story he took a group of us boys on a trip in the winter for skiing it was some Club and he always had the power to make us feel like we were free and making her own decisions and that had complete control and respect of a young group of teenagers it takes a powerful loving individual Human Being Il can't do that kind of respect for self and others truly a great soul and one of the best teachers in my life



**Virginia Korleski** October 11 at 2:33 PM

I was talking with my dad who recalled he was a great guy, helping out those in need. I was one the last classes he he last to take the book part of Drivers Ed. I also had him for Biology I was wonder why my feeling of not right was going on now I know. Friendship hugs if we could reach you we would physical but we can't via here electrical media, a twist on Anne McCaffrey and Mercedes Lackey Ship Who Searched from a Class of 1992 at Wlld Wild Rose, Wisconsin High School Wild Rose School District Virginia Korleski



**Karen Czeskleba** posted:

I would have never learned how to drive if it wasn't for Him! plus a very good teacher. Prayers to the family who I went to school with. My husband Gordon had him as a teacher too.

October 11 at 1:18 PM



**Bonnie Dobrowolski** posted:

He was a great teacher and great drivers ed teacher.He was easy to talk to and made the classes fun.RIP Mr.Gilbert

October 11 at 12:48 PM



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KP

**Kim (Simonson) Pittsley** posted:

Mr. Gilbert came out to our farm when I was about 12 and took Kent, Steve and I on a turtle egg hunt down by the lake. It was an adventure going all over the field looking for turtles, and wonder of wonders there was a big snapper that was laying eggs. We watched quietly, a distance away and it was something I've always remembered. He was a good teacher and man. I will miss seeing him when visiting mom's church.

October 11 at 12:18 PM

LG

**Linda Grenier** posted:

Thank you Mr. Gilbert for the memories of Biology and Driver's Education in high school. Those classes would not have been the same if you were not the teacher. Us students were very lucky to have you as our teacher. I will never forget you. Thank You so much for being a part of my life. Linda Jenks-Grenier

October 11 at 11:40 AM

JD

**John Davies** posted:

Mr. Gilbert ...50 years later and we still address our teacher as Mr. now that is respect . Thank you for sharing your husband, father etc.. with us that lived in Wild Rose. Blessings to you all. John D. Davies Class of 1969

October 11 at 10:14 AM

TJ

**Timothy Jens** posted:

I am honored to have known Robert Gilbert in my teaching at Wild Rose Schools! He had many quality things to offer those whom were in his classroom, behind the wheel in drivers ed. Or knowing him as a friend! Will always have a spot In my heart, God Bless!

October 11 at 9:48 AM

JS

**Jeff And Tori Straw** posted:

Mr. Gilbert was a wonderful teacher who will be missed by all. He touched the lives of every student that was lucky enough to have him for Biology and Driver's Education. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and the family.

October 11 at 9:11 AM



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RK

**Ray & Annette (Swartwout) Klick** posted:

Mr. Gilbert was loved by everyone who had him as a teacher in Wild Rose. He taught us Biology and Driver's Ed. He had a way of making everything easier to understand and fun to learn - answering any/all questions in great detail. He left quite an impression on everyone who was lucky enough to have him as a teacher. We will never forget him. Our thoughts and prayers to Mary and his family. Ray & Annette Klick

October 11 at 8:19 AM

DS

**Debbie Nuetzel-Strout** October 11 at 2:16 PM

Prayers to his family. He was an outstanding teacher. Graduate of 1979.

MU

**Mike Urban** posted:

Bob was a great teacher and mentor to me in high school. I had 6 classes with him and after my dad passed helped me through some rough times. I will always be grateful to him, sincerely Mike Urban.

October 11 at 7:46 AM

GB

**Gayleandcraig Berkoben** posted:

I am both humbled and proud to have been a person whom Bob called "friend." Dear memories of adventures (and misadventures) with Bob make me a wealthy man. He was one of those rare people that made you want to be better; a better teacher, a better family man, a better human being. He enriched my life, as he did those who knew him. The world is a poorer place without Bob Gilbert, but richer for his having been here. Our prayers for comfort for his family, and thanks for having known him. Craig and Gayle Berkoben

October 11 at 7:09 AM

JA

**Jamie (Satterfield) Arney** October 11 at 3:35 PM

I Just loved Mr. Gilbert and honestly was thinking about him the other day when one of my kids was talking about a science project. I will never forget the bow ties and the sometimes clash of colors and he would say, "Forgive me if my outfit doesn't match; my wife is out of town." :) He taught my mom, sister, and me and he was just such a sweet man who obviously loved what he did to teach that long. Prayers for his family. God Bless!



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**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Gilbert family.



October 11 at 5:46 AM



**Jane Erickson** posted:

Mr. Gilbert left a wonderful human legacy here in Wild Rose. We were the lucky ones to have him as a teacher and a mentor. Everything he did inspired us - his bird-banding, gardening, and knowledge of area Native Americans - he made us want to know more and do more. He made me feel like I could actually learn chemistry and was brave enough to teach us all how to drive. He was a true gentleman and I'll never forget him.

October 11 at 1:32 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Robert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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