



## Gilbert Clifford Williams

November 5, 1936 - November 22, 2023

Gilbert (Gil) Clifford Williams, 87, passed away peacefully on November 22 after a brief illness.

After growing up on the family farm, Gil graduated from Pine Island High School. At 18 years old, he traveled to Utah and became an Agent Telegrapher for the railroad. This sparked his interest in transportation and in 1971 Gil became the proud owner of a transportation consulting company and spent the last 52 years growing Williams & Associates into a successful Bloomington business. He was well known for his brilliant business mind and his work ethic and dedication as he continued to work 6 days a week up until his recent hospitalization.

Gil has numerous accomplishments including being named Small Business Person of the Year in both Minneapolis and Bloomington, serving locally with the Jaycees, Bloomington Youth Commission, first Chairman of the Bloomington HRA, and the Bloomington School Board. He was President of the Bloomington Community Foundation since 1996 and was recognized by the Bloomington Historical Society as one of Bloomington's 100 Most Notable Residents. He shared his time and talents with many schools and universities and was a frequent speaker at transportation seminars throughout the country. Gil was proud to serve his country in the US Army and was quickly recognized as a leader and promoted to Sergeant First Class. But it was back

in school while in the Future Farmers of America that he felt the call to give back to others to make the community stronger. Because of his generosity, he was able to touch countless lives and have a profound impact on the residents and organizations in the city of Bloomington.

Gil was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Nancy, parents Clifford and Hulda, sister Marlene, and brother Bill. He is survived by sons Ron (Diana) and Larry (Sharon). Grandchildren Ryan (Charlene), Heather (Dan Bennett), Blake and Shelby. Siblings Chris (Nancy) and Helen Durst. Brother-in-law Jim Esser (Rae) and sisters-in-law Christie Williams and Jeanmarie Esser. Great-Grandchildren Isabelle, Lincoln, Jamison, Winston and Knoxxyn and many nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by many friends and business associates, including his valued employees and cherished friends at the Minnesota Valley Country Club.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, November 30 from 4-7:00 p.m. at Washburn-McReavy, 2300 W Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington. Visitation will also be held on Friday, December 1 from 10-11:00 a.m. at Pax Christi Catholic Community Church, 12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00.

Memorials are preferred to the Bloomington Community Foundation, Bloomington Center for the Arts or Normandale Community College. These are organizations that Gil was honored to support and a contribution to continue his legacy would be preferred over flowers.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 30. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bloomington Chapel  
2300 W Old Shakopee Rd  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
(952) 884-8145  
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

## Visitation

DEC 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Pax Christi Catholic Church  
12100 Pioneer Trail  
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

## Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Pax Christi Catholic Church  
12100 Pioneer Trail  
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

# Tribute Wall

BA

“ I met Gil in about 1977 after being introduced by another Twin Cities freight bill post auditing firm. At the time I was post-auditing heavy hauler/specialized carrier invoices for this other consulting firm as I had specialized knowledge of that particular segment of the trucking industry and the quirks of their somewhat "different" freight tariffs and rules. I would audit paid bills on behalf of this other firms client when my type of carrier was involved and we would then split any recovered overcharges. Gil had clients who also sometimes could benefit from my special expertise and Williams & Associates became my second client in what was then just a part-time venture. Gil and I became fast friends and periodically shared in some nice overcharge recoveries. In 1979 I moved from Minnesota to sunny Arizona and began representing other post-audit consulting firms as my clients. Gil, of course, remained one on my treasured friends and business associates and over the next several years we did a good bit of business together. He, and other post audit firms, would ship me the appropriate paid bills and I would then file overcharge claims with motor carriers on behalf of his clients. Our business relationship continued in this manner for several years until the deregulation of the trucking industry resulted in less need for my particular tariffs expertise and I eventually chose a different way to earn a living and gradually slipped away from the transportation industry. But Gil and I remained good friends and visited from time to time when he and Nancy spent time at their winter getaway home here in Arizona. After Nancy passed away Gil continued brief Scottsdale R&R visits for many years and he often made it a point to get together, break bread, share jokes and stories, talk the "old days" and just generally enjoy each others company until a few years ago when we slimmed down to just exchanging Christmas cards - and, darn, I just learned today from a mutual friend why we didn't exchange cards last year - as we lost Gil a year ago today. Sad - but oh for the memories. Gil was a busy man with many employees, associates, clients, friends, and a supporter of many organizations and causes. Yet he always made time for all and a friend was always a friend for life. I am honored to have been one of those! You'll always be remembered and missed, my friend!

**Bill Burkett, Sun City AZ** - November 22, 2024 at 11:51 PM

BA

*That should have read Bill Burkett of Sun City*

**Bill Burkett, Sun City AZ** - November 22, 2024 at 11:56 PM

 Roy  
Blanco

“ *I worked at Ball Corporation, then for Sonoco as the Transportation Manager. I would visit W&A once a year to go through the state of our business and ensure we stayed aligned with our shared goals. Gil was always in the office, always welcoming, and we would always find time for lunch. I was always impressed with this commitment to the business and his general friendliness and professionalism. I wish the family and those who worked with him well. Always great people to visit and work with.*

**Roy Blanco** - October 19, 2024 at 07:11 PM

AA

“ *I worked for and socialized with Gil for over 40 years. He was a good man  
and a good friend.*

*arlan akerlind*

**arlan akerlind** - December 01, 2023 at 10:16 AM

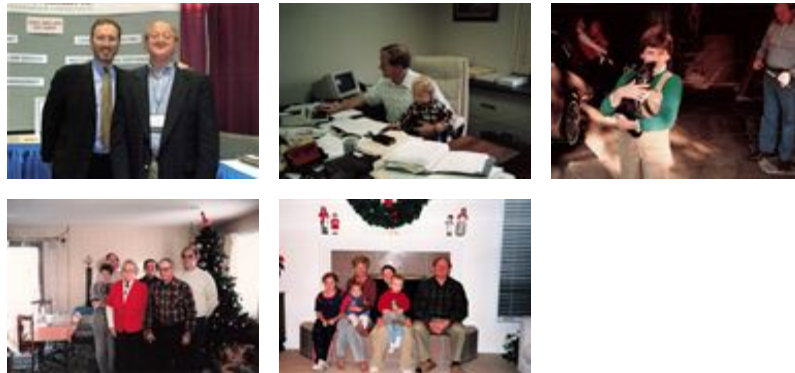
LP

“ I began working for Gil 25 years ago. He was a staunch businessman on the exterior, intimidating in his suit and tie, and I immediately respected him and was in awe of his knowledge. He was not easy to crack but when he let you into his inner circle, you knew you had a friend and supporter for life. He would show me in subtle ways that he was confident in me and taught me a great deal about the business. I leaned on him and he leaned on me and I believe our relationship was built on mutual admiration. I loved to tease him because when I said something he thought was funny, I was rewarded with the most robust belly laugh that seemed to go on for minutes. He was a gifted story teller and remembered every detail. I saw his emotional side on many occasions and quickly learned that he had a heart of gold and cared so much about his employees, his company, and his community. His friendship has been a gift to me and I miss him every day.

Lyn Pesta - November 30, 2023 at 01:29 PM

Washburn-McReavy  
FUNERAL CHAPEL, CREMATORIES AND  
CREMATION SERVICES

“ 108 files added to the album LifeTributes



Washburn-McReavy - November 29, 2023 at 06:47 PM

YP

“ your friends at Central Garden & Pet planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gilbert Clifford Williams.

your friends at Central Garden & Pet - November 28, 2023 at 09:03 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gilbert Clifford Williams.



November 28, 2023 at 09:03 AM

DE

“ I'm sorry to hear about Mr. Gil. He was great to work with. May he rest in peace.

Demmie - November 28, 2023 at 08:35 AM

JB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with his family and his work family at WAI. Gil was an exceptional man and will be missed by many.

Jennie Bigelow - November 27, 2023 at 06:10 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gilbert Clifford Williams.



November 27, 2023 at 02:01 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gilbert Clifford Williams.*



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November 27, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ *Wishing the Williams family peace, comfort, courage, and lots of love at this time of sorrow.  
All the best!  
Abe Zaatari*

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**Abe Zaatari** - November 27, 2023 at 10:51 AM



“ *Sincerely, Hitachi Energy Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gilbert Clifford Williams.*



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**Sincerely, Hitachi Energy Team** - November 27, 2023 at 10:27 AM



“ *Sincerely, Hitachi Energy Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gilbert Clifford Williams.*

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**Sincerely, Hitachi Energy Team** - November 27, 2023 at 10:27 AM

RA

“ *It was an honor to know Gil and I will always appreciate our conversations as we talked about business, the Bloomington community, and our families.*

*Gil served as the President of the Bloomington Community Foundation and each year they recognized a Bloomington resident who possesses a record of notable achievements and honor that person through the 'Legacy Award". Gil has not yet been formally recognized by the Foundation but as a Bloomington resident and a friend, you have made our community better and are deserving of that recognition.*

*Thoughts and prayers to your family, you will be missed.*

*Rod Axtell*

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**Rod Axtell** - November 27, 2023 at 08:50 AM

JB

“ I met Gil for business reasons back in 1984 or 1985. He was working out of his office located on Dupont Avenue in Minneapolis somewhere between Franklin and Lake Street. His office was small and filled with piles of paper. He had a couple dozen or so employees at the time. I was in the employee benefit business, and I provided Gil and employees with all their health and welfare insurance. We were both building a business, and we became friends.

Gil was an exceptionally dedicated businessman. He oversaw every aspect of his business and understood how every department worked. He really enjoyed his business and civic activities. He had no interest in retiring, and he occasionally joked that he would work until “they carry my body out of the office.” That’s exactly what he did!

I will also remember Gil for his caring attitude towards his employees and other people he knew. He was always willing to help someone, sometimes way beyond a recipient’s deserving need or appreciation. He had a good sense of humor and an easy laugh. We both had homes in Scottsdale, and we would usually get together when he was there. We often had dinners together at a local restaurant, including his favorite... Minnesota Valley Country Club. He would talk about everything, including his Pine Island childhood, family, business (of course!), and his Bloomington civic activities. I saw the beginning of his health decline about a year ago, and I asked if he was doing okay. Of course, he said he was fine. Gil was my friend, I and will miss him! He is now in God’s kingdom!  
JIM BISSONETT

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**James W Bissonett** - November 26, 2023 at 02:29 PM

DW

“ A true leader in the Transportation Industry of Minnesota.

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**Dan Wise** - November 26, 2023 at 10:59 AM

MF

“ Gil Was a wonderful guy. I learned a lot from him. My condolences and prayers to the family.

*All the best  
Mike Feriancek*

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**Michael Feriancek** - November 26, 2023 at 10:40 AM

CC

“ As a former employee at Williams & Associates, I want to say working for Gil, for 20 + years, was the most memorable moments of my life. I could always go to him for any concerns and his door was always open. I cannot express how much I respected Gil. He will be greatly missed. Praying for the Williams family at this time of great loss.

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**Carmel Chrestensen** - November 25, 2023 at 06:40 PM