



Paul Gilbert

April 5, 1932 - August 8, 2024

Paul V. Gilbert, 92, of Cape Girardeau, passed away peacefully at home on August 8, 2024, with his wife and daughter by his side.

Born on April 5, 1932, to Kelvin Gilbert and Daisy Vinyard, Paul spent his formative years in Cape Girardeau and Jackson. He graduated from Jackson High School in 1950, where he excelled on the debate team. Paul continued his education at Southeast Missouri State, where he developed a deep interest in history. In the summer of 1952, he met the love of his life, Janis Wheeler, and the two were married later that year. Shortly after, Paul joined the Naval Air Reserve, serving on active duty before transitioning to a summer reservist role. With the support of the GI Bill, he pursued a law degree at Washington University, graduating in 1958.

Paul's legal career began as the Schuyler County Probate and Magistrate Judge in Northern Missouri, where he was believed to be the youngest probate judge in the state's history. Soon, he and Janis moved to St. Louis, where Paul joined the law firm of Evans and Dixon, marking the beginning of his career in insurance law. Returning to the Cape Girardeau area, Paul became a senior partner at Thomasson, Dickerson, Gilbert and Cook, practicing for over 30 years. He enjoyed a successful career, earning both respect and the highest ranking from his peers. He also briefly served as a special municipal court judge in Cape Girardeau. Paul retired at the age of 70.

Paul and Janis raised three children and celebrated nearly 72 years of marriage, growing ever closer over the decades. They shared a passion for golf and bridge. Paul was a devoted golfer, playing up to four times a week, and was renowned as the area's leading bridge player. For many years, he led a bridge club in Cape Girardeau and taught advanced bridge at the vocational school.

Paul was a devoted husband and father who will be deeply missed. He is survived by his beloved wife, Janis; two sons, Jeff Gilbert and Greg Gilbert (Mabelle); a daughter, Tammy Gilbert; two grandchildren, Alex Hoffmeister and Benjamin Bodenschatz; a great-granddaughter, Lexie Hoffmeister; and sister, Barbara Stone.

Paul often reflected on his long life with gratitude. As he faced the end, he reassured his family, saying they shouldn't feel sad for him, as he was thankful for the life he lived. "When you have won the game, you do not ask for overtime or extra innings."

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no visitation or funeral service.

Tribute Wall

HW

“ Paul & Janice & I played bridge for many years. He was a terrific man and great bridge player. Helena Wood

Helena M Wood - August 15, 2024 at 06:49 PM

JC

“ I was Paul's law partner nearly my whole career. He was the best 'law' lawyer we ever knew up until he helped pick Kathy Wolz as his successor! Paul was endlessly helpful to young lawyers and was always a gentleman. He was the glue that held the law firm together. He was one of my best friends. We miss him.

John Cook - August 15, 2024 at 01:27 PM