



Col John W Gillespie

April 24, 1926 - May 1, 2019

Col. John William "Bill" Gillespie, USA, Retired, of Walhalla, South Carolina, died on May 1, 2019, at Cottingham House in Seneca, South Carolina.

The Colonel was born in Walhalla on April 24, 1926. He was preceded in death by his parents John Burton and Maggie Abbott Gillespie and by his sister Frances Gillespie Todd. He is survived by his wife Inez Wilson Gillespie of Walhalla; his children Cheree Gillespie of Greenville, John Gillespie, Jr. (Susan Orlean), of Los Angeles, CA, and Pine Plains, NY, and Mark Gillespie (Penny) of Centreville, VA; and grandchildren Jay Gillespie (Gabrielle), Christina Gillespie, and Austin Gillespie.

He graduated from Walhalla High School where he played many sports. He held a private pilot license. In 1943, he matriculated at Clemson College and lettered in football under Coach Frank Howard. After his 18th birthday, he trained as a bombardier in the US Army Air Corps. When WWII ended, he returned to Clemson, was on the track and tennis teams, earned a B.S. in chemistry (1948), an M.S. in entomology (1954), and taught chemistry before returning to active duty in the US Army Chemical Corps (1956).

Until his retirement in 1983, Gillespie specialized in chemical, biological, and radiological warfare. He earned a B.S. in nuclear physics from the Naval Postgraduate School (1962) and graduated from the US Army War College (1972). His career included duty in CBRW research, teaching, Chemical

Officer for the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam (1968-69), and commander of the Army Materials and Mechanics Research Center. Among his medals were the Silver Star, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross W/OLC, Bronze Star, and Air Medal with "V" device 11th award.

The Colonel's 93 years were full of tennis, golf, loving his family and friends, music, cheesecake, humor, Stuart Woods, nickel poker, and taking credit for spurring the Tigers to 2 football national championships by leading his Morningside of Seneca friends in Clemson cheers during the meal before each game. The list is not necessarily in order of importance to him.

A funeral service followed by burial at Arlington National Cemetery will be on a date to be determined.

Memorials may be sent to the Arthritis National Research Foundation via curearthritis.org/donation/.

Tribute Wall

BG

“ *Bill Gillespie lit a candle in memory of John Gillespie*



Bill Gillespie - May 27, 2024 at 11:22 PM



“ *Col John W Gillespie*

January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM

DF

“ *David and Stephanie Orlean and Family purchased the Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket for the family of Col John W Gillespie.*



David and Stephanie Orlean and Family - May 08, 2019 at 11:56 AM

LA

“ *Linda T. Walter, Jo, Kathy, Roger and Kelley& all purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Col John W Gillespie.*



Linda T. Walter, Jo, Kathy, Roger and Kelley& all - May 07, 2019 at 04:00 PM

LF

“ Col. John W. (Bill) Gillespie, May you rest in peace. I thank you for all your service for all our freedom. Thank you for being a wonderful husband to my sister Inez. To all the family I pray for peace and safe travels for you all. May God bless and be with you. Love , Linda, Gerald Tilson and family

Linda Wilson Tilson Family - May 07, 2019 at 03:32 PM

KA

“ Kathy Addis lit a candle in memory of Col John W Gillespie



Kathy addis - May 06, 2019 at 05:06 PM

SA

“ Sherry Abbott lit a candle in memory of Col John W Gillespie



Sherry Abbott - May 04, 2019 at 10:07 PM

NM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Always enjoyed talking to the Colonel and he will be missed.

Nona McAlister - May 04, 2019 at 06:45 PM

NM

“ *Nona McAlister lit a candle in memory of Col John W Gillespie*



Nona McAlister - May 04, 2019 at 06:44 PM

JW

“ *Colonel will be greatly missed! It was always a joy to sit and talk with him when I worked at Morningside. He always made me laugh. He gave my daughter, Kensie, one of his dancing monkeys; which she loves. I am praying for comfort for his family. - Jennie Witzel*

Jennie Witzel - May 04, 2019 at 06:33 PM

SA

“ *Sherry Abbott lit a candle in memory of Col John W Gillespie*



Sherry Abbott - May 04, 2019 at 04:34 PM

NB

“ *Norma Baumgarner sent a virtual gift in memory of Col John W Gillespie*



Norma Baumgarner - May 04, 2019 at 01:38 PM

GP

“ We have cherished memories of Mr Bill. Loved listening to his stories from his early childhood, college days, military life and how proud he was of his beautiful wife, Inez and their children and grandchildren. RIP Col Bill.

Glenn&Jan Price - May 04, 2019 at 12:35 PM

GP

“ Glenn&Jan Price lit a candle in memory of Col John W Gillespie



Glenn&Jan Price - May 04, 2019 at 12:31 PM