



David "Dave" Gilmore

September 4, 1940 - January 19, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

David (Dave) Gilmore

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

David "Dave" Gilmore, age 84, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at his home in Murphysboro.

He was born on September 4, 1940 to Sherman Edward and Margaret Jane (Biddle) Gilmore in Athens, Ohio. David married Jane Williams on January 22, 1999 and she survives. They would have celebrated their 25th anniversary in 3 days.

David taught Cinema and Photography for over 30 years at SIU in Carbondale. He also served as Department Chair during his time there. David was an "all or nothing" kind of guy. When he became interested in something or immersed in a project, he was "all in" as evidenced by the many motorcycles he and Jane purchased and enjoyed touring around the country.

He was well known by whippet breeders for many years as he toured most of the eastern half of the U.S. racing his dogs, living with them each weekend in a van he converted for the cause. And then there were his many years of bowling, during which he was awarded with several “300” perfect game awards. But he didn’t just bowl, he studied the lane oil patterns, he researched how drilling balls in different manners would impact their rotations, he purchased and experimented with different composites. And lets not forget his years of competitive archery where he researched different compound bows, becoming friends with some of the designers of the bows, and studying the different models and modifying some himself. Then came an era of fascination with pinball games after Jane gifted him a used one for their Christmas together. David’s family was not wealthy by any means when he was young and he had never played pinball because he never had a nickel to spare as a child. But he was instantly smitten at the age of 54. He began to research the top rated pinball games of all times, he tracked them down all over the U.S., played them and then purchased ones he thought were worthy of rehab and restoration, if needed. He read hundreds of pages of pinball theory and design. He joined chat groups, he taught himself to track the miles of wiring in each machine and to perform maintenance and repairs. A chance meeting of an SIU student whose father actually produced artwork for some of the pinball games David by now owned led to him becoming acquainted and friends with some of the top designers, artists and producers of games in the United States. He actually was instrumental in putting together a then record-breaking attendance gallery exhibit of The Art of Pinball at the Mitchell Museum in Mount Vernon. Every bocce ball player at the Murphysboro Courts seems to know that if not for David designing, creating and donating laser instruments for scoring in the game, the courts would still be determining questionable balls by using tape measures or strings. (In his wife’s opinion, the only downside of such addictive behavior was that he never divested himself of any of his collections when he turned his attention to a new interest, thus making their home seem like a museum in itself.) Throughout all these

years of engagement in new and different projects, David's love of animals meant that 47 feral cats were trapped, neutered or spayed and if not adopted, were maintained on their own acreage for over 20 years. From racing whippets his fascination eventually turned to greyhounds in later years and he and Jane rescued many retiring track greyhounds and showed them the joys of couches, pillows and beds.

Along with his wife, David leaves behind a brother-in-law, Ted (Kim) Williams, his daughter, Coni Nutter; grandson, David Hattan; sister, Carolyn Gilmore; nephew Kent (Dia) Knudson; and great-niece, Kali Knudson. Besides these family members left to honor his memory, are literally hundreds of former students who have maintained ties with David, some for more than 50 years. Many of these students continue to visit when they return to the area and while David has always contended he learned as much from them as he taught, many have, through the years, thanked him for the impact he made in their lives and in some cases, their careers. David, at the time of his passing, was in the last stages of collaborating with one such former student (Carl Corey) who is now a successful professional photographer. Carl has been instrumental in both encouraging David to bring a collection of his photos together in a book and in guiding him through the process. Many of David's former students are eagerly awaiting the publication of this book that is very near to completion and will be a lasting testament to David's profession.

David was preceded in death by his parents and by twin infants who did not survive childbirth.

Cremation rites will be accorded. No services will be held.

While the family in no way expects any memorial contributions and requests no flowers, please; for those compelled to honor David's life, contributions

may be made to the David Gilmore Scholarship fund at SIU that was established upon David's retirement in 2000 or, in honor of his love of his whippets, greyhounds and cats through the years, donations may be made to St. Francis Care shelter in Murphysboro.

The cremation of David "Dave" Gilmore will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

MF

“ My name is Mark Flamm and I worked with Dave to build his log cabin. We had fun and lots of hard work. I remember him talking about how he built muscles during that summer. He and I lift every log to put the cabin together. I will always remember one log was to short and I said no problem and made a 1 foot or so log to fit in the gap. And that would be a conversation point on the South gable end of the cabin.

When I was in school he sold me a whippet for \$50. What a great dog. His kennel name was Striders Boomerang and I ended up calling him Boomer. What a dog !

Many great memories of Dave and I spending time together. Think of him often.

My Condolences,

Mark Flamm

Cobden IL

Mark Flamm - February 14 at 12:30 PM

AL

“ Heartbroken. Dave was a very important person to me, a mentor and friend who was one of the few people in my life who believed in and encouraged me. I created some of my best work under his tutelage. He was definitely a force of nature. I'm sure his passing is being felt in many places. Godspeed, Dave.

Annice Laws - February 02, 2025 at 11:07 AM

AS

“ *Dave did his own thing and let others do their thing which is rarer than it should be! I was there in the 1980's and I was lucky to see him both in his role as an Instructor and artist and as a Department Chair when I worked as a student in the Dean's Office. Some of my favorite photos were produced in his class and still hang on my wall. Sadly I never made it back to SIU to visit but I have fond memories. My condolences to his family and friends.*



Alexa Smith - January 29, 2025 at 07:14 AM

AS

“ *1 file added to the album 1980s*



Alexa Smith - January 29, 2025 at 06:49 AM

TC

“ *Dave was an intellectual whom "marched to the beat of his own drum. ". I hadn't seen Dave for a long time. I enjoyed our conversations which were to say the least "stimulating.". His philosophical mind never quit churning. His daughter Coni was a favorite cousin of mine. Thoughts and prayers to the family.*

Tad Cuckler - January 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM

CC

“ *The Master has fallen, but lives on in his many students.*

Carl Corey - January 21, 2025 at 04:41 PM

EB

“ *Dave was my teacher, my mentor, and my friend. As a student, I would frequently visit him in his office, where we would talk about a variety of topics. I later did an independent study with him around the existing and modified or created landscape. He often remarked that "we had fun with that.*

Post grad, I visited him frequently, sharing my newest work with him. He never failed to amaze me at how he could look at a photograph and see something that I had missed!

We shared an interest in the science of photography and I learned a great deal from him about it.

As a friend, he was very supportive of me through first, the death of my wife and later through the death of my later, long term partner. For that, I am eternally grateful. I hope I can be as supportive of Jane in her time of need.

Godspeed, my friend. You are, and will be, missed.

Ed Bell - January 21, 2025 at 03:36 PM



I remember meeting Dave on my interview in C&P during May 1984 with his long flowing blonde hair and cowboy boots. He later took on the office of Chair and it took a toll on him as it has done for many others.

We had a falling out but afterwards he had the dignity to apologize stating that he had been led on by others over how to conduct a promotion and tenure dossier. I replied that there was no need to apologize because he was not his real self at the time.

No Chair or administrator has ever done that to me before and after. His act showed the generosity and real sincerity of a man who was dedicated to his profession, took on the burden of a very demanding office that adversely affected him temporarily, but had the courage to state on that very one instance that he was wrong.

I will always respect the man and his memory. To C&P, as many of us once knew it, his passing is a great loss

Tony Williams - January 23, 2025 at 10:44 PM

KA

I had my first class in grad school in the summer of 84 with Dave. It was portraiture. First thing he taught me was to not let photoflo get on your film reels! Then there was densitometry. And of course the love of seeing with a camera. I am a lifelong fan of Rodinal because of Dave. His influence extended beyond me to my students and how I approach crits. You were an amazing teacher and mentor

Karl - February 01, 2025 at 09:21 AM

CO

David was my advisor at SIU from 1973 - 1975. I was a young man from South Korea, still new to American culture. His looks reminded me of a "hippy" rather than a college professor.

His critique influenced me strongly.

Cook - January 12 at 12:42 PM