



Gilbert Koterias

June 3, 1944 - July 19, 2023

Gilbert L. Koterias, born June 3, 1944 in Houston, Texas to Ignatius and Martha Nowak Koterias, passed away peacefully on July 19, 2023, at the age of 79, in Houston, Texas. His parents were both Polish and he was very proud to be a Polack!

Gilbert was preceded in death by both his parents and his brothers, Alley Koterias and his wife, Virgie, and Albin Koterias.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Patricia Fenn Koterias; his daughters, Tiffaney Koterias Whiteside and her husband, Stephen Whiteside of Austin, Courtney Koterias Smith and her husband, Paul Smith of Manhattan, Kansas; his grandchildren, Drayton Whiteside, Ashlyn Whiteside, Hayley

Smith and Lindsey Smith; his sister, Carol Koterias Melia-Copeland of Austin; his brothers, Frankie Koterias and his wife Connie of Tucson, Arizona, and James Koterias of Houston; as well as many nieces, nephews, Godchildren, Brother Knights, and lifelong friends.

Gilbert was a devoted husband, a loving dad, and a super grandfather, who was called “Papa Gil.” He was a very hard working, smart man. Some might say a great “handyman” to have around. He could literally fix anything and usually had left over parts!

Gilbert worked many jobs throughout his life. He worked at the neighborhood drugstore, threw a newspaper route, and worked at the Houston Chronicle with his brother Albin to help pay for his education. His father-in-law, Boyd Fenn, helped him get a job at Sears and Roebuck as a mechanic and he eventually became a manager in the lawn mower shop at Sears. His first insurance job was at American General where he worked for several years. Gilbert was a claims insurance adjuster and eventually became a claims manager. He worked for many more years in several other insurance companies before retirement in 2018 at the age of 74.

Gilbert was a devout Catholic who went to Christ the King Grammar School, St. Thomas High School, class of 1963, and was an active member of the St. Rose of Lima community. He joined the United States Marine Corps in March of 1965 and was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for basic training and was a reservist until March of 1971.

Gilbert met his wife Patricia on a blind date in 1961 with their friends Frank Kainer and Ann Storenski at a movie theater in downtown Houston. They went to each other's Junior and Senior proms together and continued to date until they married on October 9, 1966. Gil and Pat got married at Holy Name Catholic Church and honeymooned in New Orleans. In 1967, their first daughter, Tiffaney, was born and then in 1971, Courtney was born.

Gilbert became a member of Knights of Columbus, Council 2917 in September 1962 and was an active member for 61 years giving him honorary life-membership. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 620.

He had many passions, including hunting, fishing, gardening, gambling, bowling, golfing, grocery shopping, grilling, cooking, eating, and drinking! In his spare time, he also enjoyed helping Pat with her many volunteer work projects and filling the yard with seasonal decorations! Some of his treasured possessions were his family home in Chappell Hill, Texas, his tool collection, and his 1935 Chevrolet pickup truck.

Gilbert beat Cancer three times! First in 2000, when he had colon-rectal cancer; in 2017, with tongue and throat cancer; and then in 2022 with skin cancer. Unfortunately, after the tongue/throat cancer, he suffered from the complications of lymphedema and had difficulties swallowing. Even after all that, he was then diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and Vascular Dementia that were both beginning to worsen.

Gilbert was loved by many and he would usually offer you a beer (Piwo) when

he first met you!

Gilbert NEVER complained about anything. He never said “Why me?” He just kept fighting the fight!

In Gilbert’s words, “Dziekuje” (thank you) to everyone for supporting our family! We will miss him terribly!

A viewing and visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. with a Knights of Columbus Rosary at 6:30 p.m., on Monday, July 31, 2023 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 3600 Brinkman St., Houston, Texas.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m., on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 also at St. Rose of Lima Catholic. There will be a visitation prior to the service. A Luncheon will be held following the funeral.

The Rite of Committal will follow at Brookside Cemetery, 13401 Eastex Freeway, in Houston, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to one of the following organizations that meant

so much to Gilbert:

1. St. Thomas High School, 4500 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 7700
2. Northside Columbus Club or Knights of Columbus, Council 2917, 607 E. Whitney Dr., Houston, Texas 77022
3. The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Research Cancer Center, P.O. Box 4486, Houston, TX. 77210-4486

Tribute Wall

CS

“ Charles Sanford lit a candle I worked with Gil.
Good claims man. RIP



Charles Sanford - August 09, 2023 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ This is a belated message of condolences to Pat and the entire family of Gilbert. I have just today (4 August) learned of the passing of Gilbert. It was my privilege and pleasure to have worked with Gil several years at American Claims Service. I will remember Gil as a fine gentleman and as a great and wise insurance claims specialist. My thoughts and prayers go out to Pat and the extended family. I am sorry I did not know sooner. I would have been at the service. -
Frank M. Bologna

Frank Bologna - August 04, 2023 at 02:33 PM

MV

“ My condolences to Gilbert's family.i met him at the Spot Club .then remember him at Kroger shopping with his wife fine people.where I worked

Michael Vorbeck - July 30, 2023 at 04:47 PM

CP

“ Gilbert - a stellar combo of kindness, intellect, creativity and an unparalleled knack for fixing things. He was my Godfather - not just by title but in deeds as well. Ill could never forget his and Pat's signature never-miss-a-birthday touch or the hilarious double introductions at every reunion! I loved walking around with them both hearing stories. His faith-filled heart and generosity leave indelible marks on our souls. Gilbert was indeed one-of-a-kind! I will miss him so much!

Caitlin Poff - July 30, 2023 at 01:50 PM

CW

“ Pat, I'm sorry to hear of your loss. My condolences to your family. My condolences to you and your family.
Carol Whatley

Carol Whatley - July 29, 2023 at 04:35 PM

GR

“ I viewed the video and it was awesome. It brought back so many memories to me!! I met Gilbert at CTK during Grammar School. He was in my sisters class. My mother was room mother and all the children were special to her. Later in High School I was always at the Fenn Home and saw Pat and Gilbert start their long beautiful relationship. I witnessed the wedding, the birth of Tiffany and Courtney and watch them grow up and later marry!
Now I see the grandchildren! What a beautiful full life Gilbert had!! He was always handsome, kind and polite !! I will miss him! He was so supportive to Patricia and her charitable work! I know he is in Heaven! My deepest condolences to his family! I love all of you!
God Bless You!
Love, Georgana Repal

Georgana Repal - July 29, 2023 at 04:10 PM

NR

“ The memorial video brought back so many memories and lots of tears. Remembering those times the four of us (Patrick, you, Gilbert and I) shared together has stayed with me over all these years. My condolences to you and your family. How did 57 years just fly by us. Its a tribute to your love and admiration to Gilbert.

Nelda Robertson - July 29, 2023 at 03:58 PM

RD

“ The video was awesome. He was a remarkable man. I know you and the daughters,grandchildren and siblings will miss him greatly He had a wonderful life that showed he was admired and loved by many.
May he Rest In Peace with the Lord..

Rose Marie Drummond - July 29, 2023 at 02:36 PM

CS

“ I have the best memories of Gilbert, mostly from the family reunion gatherings in High Hill. My favorite is the love and support he gave to me and my mom and dad by helping to cook the buffet dinner for my wedding reception. It was so appreciated and very special. I loved him dearly. I have a photo somewhere I'll have to dig it out and share.

Claire Speck - July 28, 2023 at 07:53 PM

JK

“ Pat and to your family. We are so very sorry to hear of Gilbert's passing. We read the obituary, it was AWESOME. Rest in the memories.

Love & prayers from Janell & Barry Kimbal

Janell Petru Kimbal - July 28, 2023 at 03:50 PM

CM

“ My heartfelt condolences to Pat and your family. Gilbert was an amazing and kind man.

I remember the first time we met him at a CDA event and he offered Mike a beer and conversation, shortly after he said he better get back because Pat would be looking for him.

He was strong in his faith and I have no doubt he is rejoicing in God's glory.

Continued prayers for you dear Pat and your family.

Carol Mitschlatis - July 28, 2023 at 12:39 PM

AW

“ Alice and Scott Ward lit a candle Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Pat, and your family. May Gilbert rest in peace.



Alice and Scott Ward - July 28, 2023 at 12:00 AM