



# David Clinton Gilliland

MAY 26, 2021



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# David Clinton Gilliland

MAY 26, 2021

**D**avid Clinton Gilliland, known as Clint to family and friends, was born March 4, 1952 in Baton Rouge General Hospital.

From an early age he pursued interests that would stay with him for life: amateur radio, electronics, mechanics, and food. Though he expressed disdain for the standard school curriculum of the time he was a skilled autodidact. One of his early activities was amateur radio. He was a life member of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, helped with communications for the Houston Marathon and the MS 150 Bike Ride, and helped established communications that enabled children in Shriners Hospital in Houston to communicate with family members in distant locales.

After High School he became certified as a Surgical Technician and worked for Harris County Hospital District as well as for a major Orthopedic Group.

In 1977 he enlisted in the Navy and was active duty until 1981 at which time he served two years in the Naval Reserve. He had the highest academic average while in training and was his class's Honor Man. He later obtained certifications in Aerospace Medicine and Field Medicine. He served in the far East, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa, including 200 plus days in the Persian Gulf during the Iran Hostage Situation.

He married the love of his life, Jena, November 20, 1991. Their courtship began long distance between California and Texas until Clint relocated to Houston permanently.

Upon discharge from the Navy, he accepted a position with Data General as a Systems Engineering Consultant. In 1997 he joined SAP as a Senior Software Principal with International Consultation. He was a highly valued employee when diagnosed with Meniere's Disease. Despite incapacitating bouts of vertigo, hearing loss and facial pain he worked several more years until retiring in 2007.



## Obituary

**David Clinton Gilliland**

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When unable to work he remained active in Ham Radio, motorcycle riding, target shooting, and gun-smithing, becoming a certified Glock Armorer.

He was a highly active member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, where he was a member of the Vestry and the Finance Committee, served as a Visiting Eucharistic Minister, and every day for several years was a Worship Leader for weekly morning prayer. When his illnesses progressed and regular attendance became impossible, he joined the staff of TheDailyOffice.org, an online Episcopal community. With his technical expertise he became Honorary Deacon of Interesting Stuff, finding resources on-line that would support the daily worship service. His technological expertise played a significant role in The Daily Office, making a transition from blog to online community. He also did a daily feature for the website, They Have Names, which made certain that service members killed in the line of duty were properly acknowledged. In 2014 he was made Doctor of Soul Medicine by the Episcopal Bishop of Indianapolis. Though in treatment for cancer, he continued to lead two online services daily until progression of the disease caused him to cut back.

Clint is predeceased by his father, Robert McMurtry Gilliland II, his mother Ernestine Robertson Gilliland, and his stepmother Virginia Varley Gilliland. He is survived by his wife Jennifer (Jena) James Gilliland, daughter Celeste Smith and husband Derek, grandchildren April, Ethan, Jenna, and Elizabeth; daughter Julia Butcher and husband Ryan, grandchildren Hadley and Caroline; Clint's brother Robert McMurtry Gilliland III, sister-in-law Penelope; as well as by sisters Shawn McFarland, Kelly McFarland-Hatcher, Leslie Anders, and Lisa McFarland.

In lieu of flowers, a contribution to either St. Peter's Episcopal Church or [thedailyoffice.org](http://thedailyoffice.org) is suggested.



## Tribute Wall

David Clinton Gilliland

RG

**Raymond Goodrich** posted:

I am very sad to learn of Clint's death at a relatively young age of 69. I've known Clint since 1968 when I took his step sister to my graduation prom. Although I left for college in another state in the fall, I kept in touch with Clint for many years. Over the years we have come in and out of contact. I probably lost touch for nearly 20 years when we reunited in 1991. He had just married Jenna and he was working for data general and traveling quite a bit. He was very much as he always had been, gregarious talkative friendly and supportive. We had a great time reminiscing about our youths in Houston. When I moved to Austin in 1995, Clint came and visited a few times but with the onset of his Meunier's Disease symptoms, he became housebound. I could sense a change in him and sadly, for me, we parted. I have thought of Clint often over these past 13 years. I mourn his passing, but celebrate his life among us and the good times that we shared as young men in Houston. With my sincere wishes for peace and acceptance to his wife, family and all who cared for him.

September 12 at 7:00 PM

DJ

**Dj Jackson** posted:

I met Clint in the Navy. We were classmates in Aerospace Medicine School and became instant friends. His personality was just as infectious as his laugh. I lost track of Clint after we all received our orders and we're scattered all over the world. Throughout my naval career and retired life, I thought of him often. As I am reaching out to find my Navy buddies, I regret I didn't reach out sooner. Would have loved to hear his story after the Navy. His obituary was only the tip of the iceberg. I am so sorry for your loss and I too miss him. While you may not know me, you have my prayers. In God's love, DJ Jackson

August 10 at 7:00 PM

LB

**Linda Barry** posted:

I knew Clint from the DailyOffice.org I live in Spring, TX and he always greeted me with "Hi Neighbor". I always felt so welcome when he said that and we shared many things that only those who live near Houston know. He was an amazing person and is greatly missed. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with all of those who loved him. Linda Barry

June 7 at 7:00 PM

KP

**Kevin, Angel, Kaden And Liam Pierce** posted:

In loving memory.

June 3 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

David Clinton Gilliland



**William Paine** posted:

Jena and family, we are so sorry for your loss. May you find peace and comfort in Christ during these difficult times. You are in our prayers. Love, Bill, Rossana, Genna and Arianna Paine

June 3 at 7:00 PM



**Lieszl Compas And Family** posted:

Prayers for peace and comfort for you and your family as you celebrate his life!

June 2 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Praying that Our Heavenly Father will comfort your hearts and bring peace to your spirits during this difficult time. Love, Braddy & White Families

June 1 at 7:00 PM



**John Dobrott** posted:

Rest in peace Clint! You were a great mentor at Data General Days back in the late '80s and '90s. I remember you traveling frequently to Dallas to support the DFW salesforce. My parents enjoyed hosting dinners for you at their home! Mom used to always asked about Clint. Sorry, we did not keep in touch! Rest in peace MAV!John DobrottPlano, TX

May 31 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss... Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

May 31 at 7:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring David by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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