



# Harry Dean Gilbert

MAR 15, 1944 - DEC 25, 2025



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COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 8



# Harry Dean Gilbert

MAR 15, 1944 - DEC 25, 2025

**H**arry Dean “Dino” Gilbert, 81, of Decatur, IL passed away on Thursday, December 25, 2025, at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

A celebration of God's Gift of Eternal Life for Harry Dean Gilbert will be at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, January 2, 2026, at Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home. with a visitation one hour prior. Memorials may be made to Mound Chapel Church of God.

Dean was born in Maroa, Illinois, on March 15, 1944, the son of Russel and Donna (Francisco) Gilbert. He was the youngest of nine children. Dean graduated from Decatur MacArthur High School.

Dean was a member of Mound Chapel Church of God, where he served as Trustee for many years. He loved God and his church family dearly. He worked at Borg Warner for 13 years until they closed and then retired from Borden Chemical after 20 years of service as a poly-operator. He served in the National Guard from 1963 to 1969. He was a past member of Kaskaskia Valley Bass Club where he was on the eight-man team from IL in competition. He was an avid fisherman and loved sports, especially the Cardinals, Dallas Cowboys and Fighting Illini. He also earned his gold wings for 1,000 jumps in parachuting. He could always be seen at the grandchildren's sporting events with a camera, being their biggest fan!

Dino is survived by his best friend, loving and devoted wife, Susie (Sexton), of 56 years; son Shannon Dean Gilbert and wife Lori (Gerhardt) of Forsyth; daughters Kristi Venters and husband Lee, and Robin Kleist and husband Jim, of Decatur, IL; special grandchildren Zachary (Amanda), Joshua (Alicia), and Benjamin (Hallie) Gilbert of Forsyth, IL; and Macie and Mylee Venters and Makenzie (Jared) and Kaylee Kleist of Decatur, IL; great-grandchildren Bentley and Michael Gibert; brother Harold “Hap” and wife (Donna) of Forsyth; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.



## Obituary

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Harry was preceded in death by his father, Russell Gilbert; mother Donna Gilbert; and siblings Robert, Russell, Betty, Mary, Eva, Cora, and Frances.

Condolences may be shared with the family at <https://www.gracelandfairlawn.com>.





# Events


**Harry Dean Gilbert**

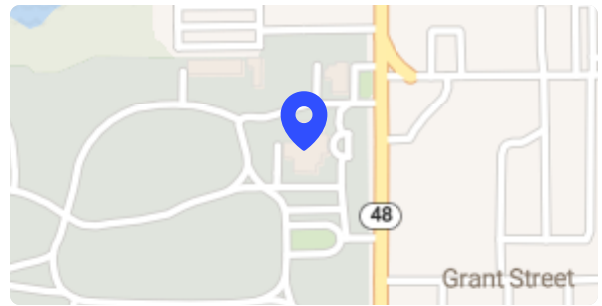
MAR 15, 1944 - DEC 25, 2025

## Memorial Visitation

 **Friday**, January 2, 2026


 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM CT


 **Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home**  
2091 N. Oakland Avenue, Decatur IL 62526

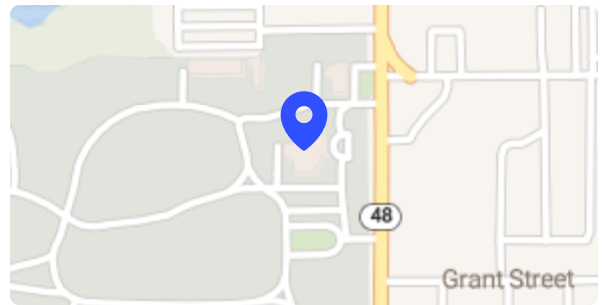


## Memorial Service

 **Friday**, January 2, 2026

 10:30 AM CT

 **Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home**  
2091 N. Oakland Avenue, Decatur IL 62526





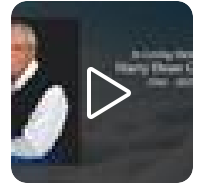
# Tribute Wall

**Harry Dean Gilbert**

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**Graceland Fairlawn** shared a **Video**.



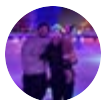
December 31 at 12:11 PM



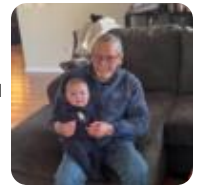
**Suzy Swearingen** posted:

Dear Susie and Shannon I am so sorry to see of Dino's passing. The picture looks just like I remember him ❤️. Sending both of you all my love and a big hug. Dino always made sure I could get in your driveway when we had snow so I could pick up my girl, Susie, and take her to work. Shannon, I never told Susie about the wild parties you had when they were out of town, it's our little secret. lol I will be thinking of you both in the coming days and keeping you in my prayers. Love, Suzy Swearingen

December 31 at 1:05 PM



**Zach Gilbert** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Grandpa Gilbert, I love you More than I could possibly express. Our family loves you so much! Little Michael lights up when he sees you! I miss you so much, and it doesn't feel real that you're not with us. Thanks for telling Jesus to give the cowboys a win on Christmas. That gave us all a smile at the end of the game because we all laughed about how grandpa was sitting with Jesus watching the game and he was telling him my family really would smile at a win and they need that right now. Which is a perfect example of the kind of man he was. He always put his family first. Grandpa is a role model I looked up to my whole life. He worked hard with his hands, he knew how to fix everything, he was an amazing husband, kind hearted, funny as all get out, and overall he walked with God in a way that should be admired by everyone. When I served in the army I was so proud to follow his footsteps. And now I'm so proud to be following the example he set out For all of us to see. Strong willed, god first, family first, lead with love and kindness in you heart, and be the kind of husband my grandkids will look up to and say wow he really loved his wife just like I did. I miss you so much, but I will see you one day when I get to the pearly gates and your waiting for me. I love you grandpa!

December 29 at 4:59 PM



**Makenzie Kleist** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Rest in peace Grandpa Dean 🍷

December 30 at 3:41 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Harry Dean Gilbert**  
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**Robin O'brien Kleist** shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

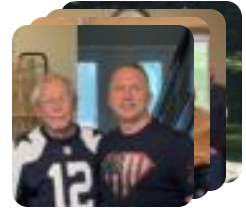
Forever in our hearts

December 29 at 4:59 PM



**Lori Gilbert** shared 9 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 29 at 4:59 PM



**Josh Gilbert** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 29 at 7:19 PM



**Leslie Pool** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My heart will never be the same. He was more than an Uncle to me. He was and always will be my favorite. I will miss him beyond measure. Rest in Peace Uncle Dean... Love, Cis

December 29 at 4:59 PM





## Media

**Harry Dean Gilbert**  
MAR 15, 1944 - DEC 25, 2025



Graceland Fairlawn shared a Video.

December 31 at 12:11 PM





**Media**

**Harry Dean Gilbert**  
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Zach Gilbert shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 31 at 11:48 AM





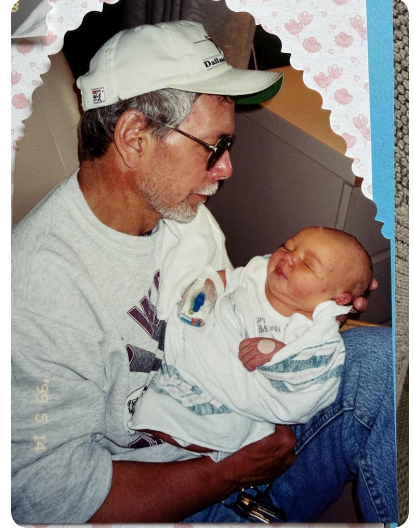
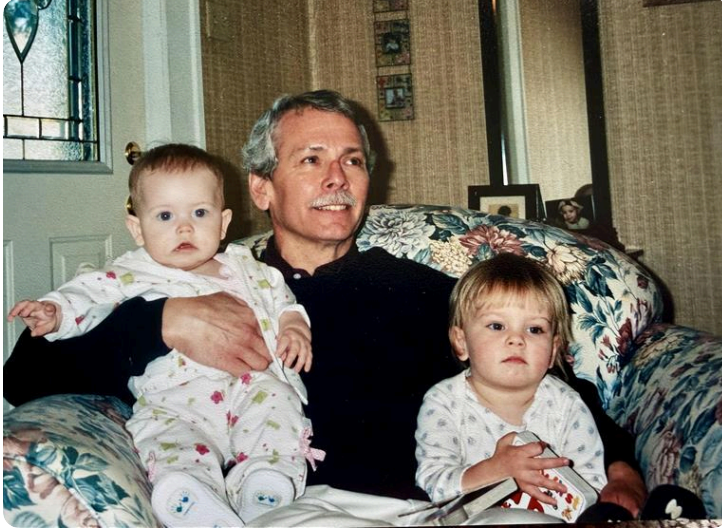
## Media

**Harry Dean Gilbert**  
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Makenzie Kleist shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 30 at 3:41 PM





# Media

**Harry Dean Gilbert**  
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Robin O'brien Kleist shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 29 at 9:22 PM





# Media

**Harry Dean Gilbert**  
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## Media

**Harry Dean Gilbert**  
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Lori Gilbert shared 9 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 29 at 7:32 PM





# Media

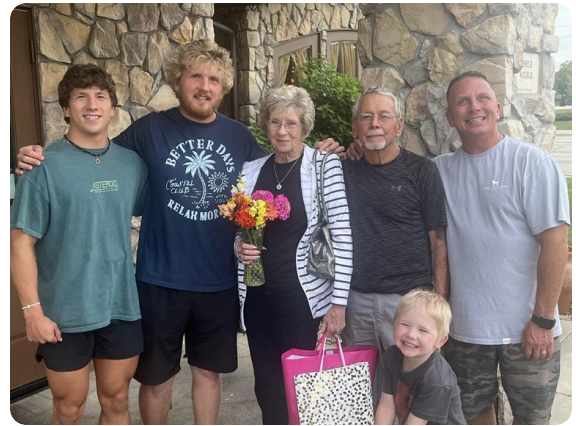
**Harry Dean Gilbert**  
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# Media

**Harry Dean Gilbert**  
MAR 15, 1944 - DEC 25, 2025



**Josh Gilbert** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 29 at 7:19 PM





## Media

**Harry Dean Gilbert**  
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**Leslie Pool** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 29 at 4:59 PM





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

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



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