



Jerome Jerry Gillette

May 6, 2020

Jerome Jerry Gillette

Greece - Born November 2, 1922 in Rochester NY. Died May 4, 2020. He was a 1944 engineering graduate of the University of Rochester and had a long career as a chemical engineer at Eastman Kodak. He was a commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II and served 25 years in the naval reserve until his retirement. He was an avid collector of Heisey glass. Jerry was predeceased by his first wife Marjorie and sister, Rose Tiernan. He is survived by his current wife Arlene Reynolds Gillette (widow of George Reynolds), his children Deborah Gillette and Jeffrey Gillette, daughter-in-law Ping Gao, granddaughter Meagan Gillette, nephew Richard (Marylou) Tiernan and niece Kathleen (Richard) McGovern. Additionally, he is survived by Arlene's children Deborah Compton and George Reynolds and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Private interment, Arlington National Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

KM

“ *I had the pleasure of knowing Jerry briefly. He was a great man. RIP*

Kevin McCann - July 30, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ *Jerry had such positive energy. He seemed perpetually happy in any and all situations. I had limited interaction with Jerry but they were always so positive. My impression is that his first wife was the boss but he didn't seem to mind taking orders. Or when a certain someone wasn't pleased with the progress of a Christmas cookie batch, he just still kept on smiling. I would accompany daughter Deb to Ithaca a few times and Jerry (and Marge sometimes) would meet us and always take us to dinner at Moosewood. I loved hearing stories about little Debbie growing up, like how she grazed on the decorative greens at the buffet. Like many of the greatest generation, he didn't talk much about his war experiences but I'm sure they were frightening and horrible. He had a powerful focus on what needed to be achieved and did so successfully both during the war and during his career at Eastman Kodak. The world is less of a great place without Jerry. Even though I didn't interact with him much, I'll miss him.*

Pat Rooney - July 29, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *Sincere condolences to the family and friends of this true American Patriot. May he rest in eternal peace.*

Timothy Streb - May 31, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ I remember going out to dinner with Jerry and family in Rochester several years ago. Although I did not get to spend a lot of time with Jerry, I remember him as a gracious host and consummate story teller, someone who knew the history of the area in which he lived and was happy to give a full tour and share fun facts while driving his guests around town. In addition to all of his other accomplishments Jerry was incredibly knowledgeable about trains and local Rochester history. With his chemical engineering and Naval command background it is easy to understand how Jerry could seamlessly transition into the world of mechanical engineering and embrace trains as a fascinating hobby. Jerry volunteered at the Rochester Genesee Valley Railroad Museum for many years. It's the only Railroad museum where you can actually ride the exhibits. I remember taking our son Brooks to the museum on Jerry's advice and what a great time we had. I have never met anyone so into history and trains and able to tell the stories in such an engaging way! Jerry was so very accomplished and gracious. Jerry was fun to be around and will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Laura Ciavola - May 12, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I have fond memories of Jerome's visits to Lansdowne, Pa. He was always helpful with painting or electricity projects around Debbie's house. Always a pleasure to spend time with him. He lived a good life and will be greatly missed

Janet Muti - May 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM