



Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert

November 19, 1936 - June 6, 2015

Funeral services for Clifton Lenell "Topcoat Louie" Gilbert, 78, will be held at 11:00 am Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home Chapel.

The Rev. John Hamilton will officiate with burial in Westview Memorial Park Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Tuesday at the funeral home.

Mr. Gilbert died Saturday, June 6, 2015 after a lengthy illness. "Topcoat" was a local legend born in Darlington Co., SC, to the late Clifford Lee and Grace Wood Gilbert. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving from October 1955 until September 1959. He participated in Operation Red Wing during 1956 in the Pacific Ocean Proving Grounds, Marshall Island. He retired from Sonoco Products Co. after 15 years of service and was the owner and operator of "Louie's" for over 53 years. He also worked for Progress Energy as an expediter and was a firefighter with the Hartsville Fire Department. Topcoat coached Hartsville National Dixie Youth Baseball for over 29 years and had a great love for children. He was a Hartsville High Class of 1955 graduate. He loved athletics and participated in basketball, baseball, and football and was awarded "Best Blocking" trophy. Topcoat also had a love for great danes, especially his own, "Tiger," "Lucky," "Lady," and "Tebow." He was previously a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Surviving are his loving wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Hubbard Gilbert of Hartsville, SC; son and best friend, Clifton Chase Gilbert of Hartsville, SC; stepdaughter, Kelly Norwood Raines (Charlie) of Olanta, SC; step-grandchildren, Andrew Raines and Michael Banxton Norwood.

He was preceded in death by his stepson, Michael Lance Norwood.

Memorials may be made to the Darlington County Humane Society, Box 1655 Hartsville, SC 29551 or to Hartsville National Dixie Youth Baseball, Box 544, Hartsville, SC 29551.

Cemetery Details

Westview Memorial Park Cemetery

2223 Kelleytown Road
Hartsville, SC 29550
info@bpafuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 9. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home
306 W. Home Ave.
Hartsville, SC 29550
(843) 332-6531
info@bpafuneralhome.com
<http://www.bpafuneralhome.com>

Service

JUN 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home Chapel
306 W Home Ave
Hartsville, SC

Tribute Wall

LR

“ *Laura Roscoe lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Laura Roscoe - November 09, 2015 at 03:42 PM

JB

“ *Betty, I was looking for something else and when I saw "Topcoat" I stopped. I never knew the last name or how to find you. I am so sorry about your loss. Will try to get in touch with you. Judy Barnett Potter*

Judy BarnettPotter - August 06, 2015 at 04:04 PM

JS

“ *I just learned of Lenell's passing. Though not unexpected, it still marks another sad milestone. I've not seen Lennell, or "Louie" in over twenty years, but he had certainly not passed from my memory. He was a close friend of an older brother, at our house often and loved to tease our Dad, who enjoyed teasing back. So sorry he has left. Jerry Sumner*



Jerry Sumner - June 17, 2015 at 08:21 PM

GG

“ Genny Garrity lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Genny Garrity - June 13, 2015 at 08:37 AM

GG

“ Gail Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Gail Gilbert - June 11, 2015 at 06:17 PM

DC

“ Dawn And Bill Crawford lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Dawn and Bill Crawford - June 11, 2015 at 02:47 PM


Michelle
Furr

“ Betty and Chase, I love you both like family. I am sad that Louie has passed. I miss you so much and I regret not being there for you two in this time of need. I will come see you two as soon as I return. I love you much.
Michelle Furr

Michelle Furr - June 11, 2015 at 10:11 AM

DG

“ Betty, I'm sorry for your loss. our families have fond memories together. May God give you and Chase comfort, patience and peace in the days ahead. With Love, Dawn W Grantham.

Dawn Grantham - June 10, 2015 at 08:03 PM

RS

“ Betty, I am so sorry for you loss! I was shocked when I clicked on BPA's site and saw that Louie had passed. My heart goes out to you, Chase, and all your children and loved ones. I will not be able to make it to the service and obviously, visitation had already been held when I learned this sad news, but know that you all are in my prayers. I pray that you each find comfort in your memories, the loved you shared and the peace that surpasses all understanding which flows from above. May God bless you all in the days ahead as you journey through grief.
Sincerely,
Rebecca Skinner
& Family



Rebecca Skinner - June 10, 2015 at 01:24 AM

Tasha
Freeman

“ Mr Louie was the only man I knew who could fit 4 golf balls in his mouth. I will always remember him entertaining me showing me that trick . He was a good hearted man!



Tasha Freeman - June 09, 2015 at 06:09 PM

KR

“ Karen & Jack Rhyne lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Karen & Jack Rhyne - June 09, 2015 at 12:19 PM

EC

“ Evonne Cooper lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Evonne Cooper - June 09, 2015 at 09:48 AM



“ 53 files added to the album Life Tributes



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - June 09, 2015 at 09:22 AM

LH

“ *Lisa Howell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Lisa Howell - June 09, 2015 at 08:15 AM

JL

“ *Johnnie Register Locklair sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



johnnie register locklair - June 09, 2015 at 06:53 AM

JL

“ *Johnnie Register Locklair lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



johnnie register locklair - June 09, 2015 at 06:44 AM

JL

“ *i had not seen you since aunt grace died but rest in peace. keep on coaching*

johnnie register locklair - June 09, 2015 at 06:43 AM

GG

“ Betty -Chase so sorry to hear this , may your memories always fill the emptiness in days to come. Louie will be missed.

Gayle Gilbert - June 08, 2015 at 11:56 PM

CS

“ Charles And Lavonde Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Charles and Lavonde Smith - June 08, 2015 at 03:36 PM

GB

“ Betty, you and your family are in my prayers.

Love in Christ,

Gloria Beckham Butler

gloria butler - June 08, 2015 at 03:32 PM

LD

“ My deepest sympathy. I will always remember our school days, he has always been a good friend.

Lydia Dempsey



Lydia Dempsey - June 08, 2015 at 12:34 PM

CR

“ Chris And Debbie Ridenhour lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Chris and Debbie Ridenhour - June 08, 2015 at 11:48 AM

BH

“ Bobbie & Tony Huggins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Bobbie & Tony Huggins - June 08, 2015 at 10:12 AM

SF

“ SHANNON AND HEATH FREEMAN lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



SHANNON AND HEATH FREEMAN - June 08, 2015 at 08:22 AM

WG

“ Wayne Garner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Wayne Garner - June 08, 2015 at 06:40 AM

JR

“ *Jan Stephens Ruple lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Jan Stephens Ruple - June 07, 2015 at 08:53 PM

RT

“ *Rudy And Jayne Tyner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Rudy and Jayne Tyner - June 07, 2015 at 08:50 PM

LT

“ *L.Wayne Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



L.Wayne Thompson - June 07, 2015 at 08:29 PM

PS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you!*

Pam and Jerry Sansbury

Pam Sansbury - June 07, 2015 at 03:56 PM



“ *Doris Griggs lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Doris Griggs - June 07, 2015 at 03:35 PM



Betty, I was so sorry to hear about your loss! I am praying for you & Chase and I am sending my deepest condolences to each of you! Louie will continue to live in the memories of many friends! Blessings to the family during this difficult time!

Doris Griggs - June 07, 2015 at 03:43 PM

BC

So Sorry to hear about "The Top Coat" .. One of kind !! Thoughts and prayers for you and Chase .. RIP Top Coat ..

Byron Caulk - June 08, 2015 at 08:21 AM

MN

“ *Ms. Betty, Chase, and family,
I was so sadden to hear of the loss of such a dear man with an
unselfish heart to others when he was coaching the boys years ago.
Louie had a genuine soul that you don't find in many people
anymore. He was a dear friend to my father "Gene Watson" and he
played a huge role in my sons "Cody" life during all of baseball and
beyond. Heaven has gained another angel to add to the multitude
that watch over us all daily. Please allow God to give you peace in
the many days to come that will seem unbearable, and remember
that as long as there are memories Mr. Louie will continue on within
your hearts. May God Bless You and Keep You!*

*Prayers are with you,
Melissa Norton; Gene and Betty Watson*

Melissa Norton - June 07, 2015 at 02:09 PM

CF

“ *Carole Flowers lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Carole Flowers - June 07, 2015 at 01:38 PM

BW

“ *Bess And Bobby Watkins lit a candle in
memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Bess and Bobby Watkins - June 07, 2015 at 01:10 PM

BW

“ *Bess And Bobby Watkins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Bess and Bobby Watkins - June 07, 2015 at 01:01 PM

BW

RIP Louie! To the entire Gilbert family "Take Care"

Bess and Bobby Watkins - June 07, 2015 at 01:13 PM

EJ

“ *Ethel Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Ethel Johnson - June 07, 2015 at 09:41 AM

EJ

I know that Louie was immediately handed the keys to the baseball field and a VIP seat for the basketball games (beside Lukie Watkins)..Louie, you left a lot of wonderful memories for all of us, memories that will bring a smile to our faces and some that will make us cry from laughing..I will miss hearing you call me "Jenny Craig" and only you could get away with that because I could see the love in your eyes every time you said it..Your game on earth has ended and a new game begins. You are the ultimate winner..Love you always and will miss you..

Ethel Johnson

Ethel Johnson - June 07, 2015 at 09:51 AM

DW

Louie want be forgotten because his life will be placed in the memory of the living.

Betty and Chase I have faith that this scripture will comfort you both.

Ps.34:18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Danny Weaver

Danny Weaver - June 08, 2015 at 04:04 PM

VJ

“ *Von Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Von Johnson - June 07, 2015 at 08:33 AM

HE

“ *Chase and Betty, so sorry to hear of the passing of Louie. He was a great man and will be missed dearly!*



Heather and Blake Easterling - June 07, 2015 at 07:47 AM

BW

“ *Betty, Chase & family ... My heart breaks for you all during this time. Louie was a great man and will be missed dearly. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Betty & Mack Woodham - June 07, 2015 at 07:43 AM

JN

“ Our prayers are with you at this difficult time. Topcoat and I worked together for a long time. He was a great competitor.

Jimmy Nichols - June 07, 2015 at 06:43 AM

AW

“ Dear Betty and Chase, I am thinking of you so much this morning. Praying for you and Chase.

Fondly,
Anna Williams

anna williams - June 07, 2015 at 06:33 AM

MC

“ Matt Cassidy lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Matt Cassidy - June 07, 2015 at 05:56 AM

JV

“ Johnny Valentine lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Johnny Valentine - June 06, 2015 at 10:39 PM

BM

“ *Sorry for your loss*



Butch Morrell - June 06, 2015 at 10:28 PM

BG

“ *Bonnie Gaineley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Bonnie Gaineley - June 06, 2015 at 10:14 PM

JJ

“ *Jimmy&JudyGaineley sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Jimmy&JudyGaineley - June 06, 2015 at 09:45 PM

MV

“ *Mike Vann lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Mike Vann - June 06, 2015 at 09:00 PM

WR

“ Warner Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Warner Rogers - June 06, 2015 at 07:53 PM



“ Angela Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Angela Johnson - June 06, 2015 at 07:17 PM

KG

“ Kent And Linda Watson Gainey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Kent and Linda Watson Gainey - June 06, 2015 at 06:47 PM

KN

“ So many good memories of Mr. Luie coaching our boys in baseball. .prayers to the family.

Kathy and Dan Newsome - June 06, 2015 at 06:42 PM

AW

“ Amy Walters lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Amy Walters - June 06, 2015 at 04:17 PM

WW

“ Wade Walters lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Wade Walters - June 06, 2015 at 04:16 PM

MW

“ Mike Walters lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Mike Walters - June 06, 2015 at 04:15 PM

BM

“ Betsy & Howard Moore lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Betsy & Howard Moore - June 06, 2015 at 04:11 PM

BF

“ Bruce & Nicole Farmer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Bruce & Nicole Farmer - June 06, 2015 at 03:11 PM

BF

Betty, Chase & family you are in our thoughts and prayers

Bruce & Nicole Farmer - June 06, 2015 at 03:13 PM



“ Crystal Minnehan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



Crystal Minnehan - June 06, 2015 at 03:10 PM

BB

“ Bobby And Violet Bragdon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert



bobby and violet bragdon - June 06, 2015 at 03:03 PM

BK

“ *Brad And Wanda Kent lit a candle in memory of Mr. Lenell C. "Topcoat" Gilbert*



Brad and Wanda Kent - June 06, 2015 at 02:47 PM

BK

Chase, Betty and Family, we are so sorry for your loss. We will keep you in our Prayers.

Brad and Wanda Kent - June 06, 2015 at 02:52 PM

FH

Sorry for your loss, you are in our prayers. may God bless and keep you in His amazing grace. Faye hall and family

Faye hall - June 28, 2015 at 02:16 PM