



Robert 'Bob' Darrell Gilkey

Bob Gilkey, 61, of Harbor, died Feb. 9, 2005, at his home due to a service-connected disability. He was born Sept. 16, 1943, in Portland, to Norman and Violet Marie Waggy Gilkey. He was raised and educated in Albany. While in school, he became a champion in ballroom skating and dancing. He won top awards in Oregon and later received much enjoyment in volunteering his time to teach underprivileged children how to skate. Following high school graduation in 1961, he worked at his father's service station before enlisting in the U. S. Army in April 1963. He served three years during the Vietnam War, both in Vietnam and Thailand and was honorably discharged in 1966. He returned to Oregon and worked ten years for the Linn County Motor Pool. On March 15, 1977, Mr. Gilkey married Nancy Jean Evans in Crabtree. The couple made their home in Lebanon. Mr. Gilkey then worked briefly for the Linn County School District before changing careers and learning the medical orthotic fabrication trade.

Illness forced is disability retirement in 1985, and the couple moved to Harbor in the mid-1990s, where they lived since.

Mr. Gilkey was a friendly, outgoing man who never met a stranger, his family said. He loved his local hangouts and dropped in frequently at various businesses to visit. He was interested in old cars, and each year assisted Dale Niemie with the Muscular Dystrophy Association (M.D.A.) Benefit Car Show at Lucky 7 Casino. He loved helping others and was always happy to be around without fail.. Mr. Gilkey was very active in the local Veterans Administration Support Group, attending every week without fail.

Having learned to play the accordion as a child he continued to play for his own enjoyment, like to travel and build outdoor lighthouses.

Survivors include his wife Nancy J. Gilkey, son and daughter-in-law Darrell R and Vancha L. Gilkey; grandchildren Daniel Lopez, Jessica Gilkey, Shaniqua Lopez, Victor Lopez and one expected grandshild, all of Harbor. He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Shelia.

Memorial donations may be made to the local Vietnam Veterans, VVA 757, PO Box 4056, Brookings, OR 97415, or the local Muscular Dystrophy Association, 1800 Sky Park Drive, Medford, OR 97504.

Private services with the United States Coast Guard are planned for a later date.

Cremation is under the direction of Redwood Memorial Chapel and Crematory.