



John Larry Gilbert

August 18, 1961 - April 3, 2025

Obituary for John “Larry” Gilbert

We gather here today to honor and celebrate the life of John “Larry” Gilbert, a man whose kindness, dedication, and unwavering love touched the lives of all who knew him. Born on August 18, 1961, to Billy Harlan Gilbert of Centerville and Inez Palmer Gilbert (Chessor) of Coble, Larry was a man of strong character, deep faith, and boundless generosity.

Though Larry was a stepfather to Joseph Larry Gilbert of Linden, he never made such a distinction—he treated all of his children as his own, with love, guidance, and unwavering support. His role as a father was defined not by titles but by the love he gave so freely. To all who knew them, there was no question that they were his, and he was theirs. He poured his heart into his family, always ensuring that they knew they were loved and valued.

From the moment he found out he was having twin boys, Larry embraced fatherhood without hesitation. He never saw them as anything but his own, and that love remained constant throughout his life. Cory Harlan Gilbert and Cody Clark Gilbert of Centerville grew up knowing the unconditional love of a father who was always there for them. Their strength as brothers is only made stronger by this loss, bound together by the love and example he set for them. He pushed and coached them to be the best at whatever they did, instilling in them a work ethic and determination that shaped their futures. Because of his

influence, all of his sons have grown into strong, successful men.

Joseph Gilbert started a family of his own and now serves the people of Tennessee as a lieutenant for the Turney Center Industrial Complex prison. Cory channeled his passion for strengthening both mind and body, earning a certification in graphic design and achieving the rank of black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Cody followed in his father's footsteps, choosing a life of service as a police officer for the City of Centerville. Each of his sons can say with pride that their father's love, dedication, and example of hard work shaped them into the men they are today.

Larry was also a proud grandfather to the children of Victoria Kay Gilbert—Victoria Grace Gilbert and Gunner Joseph Gilbert of Linden. His love for them was endless, and he cherished every moment spent with them.

He held a special place in his heart for Victoria Kay Gilbert, not only as the mother of his grandchildren but as someone he deeply loved for the kindness and care she always showed him. Every year on his birthday, she would bake him cupcakes, a simple but cherished tradition that he looked forward to. He always joked about how she would cook him the biggest pork chops every time he came over for dinner, laughing about how she was determined to keep him well-fed. He loved her deeply for her warmth, generosity, and the way she always made him feel welcome and cared for.

Larry also shared an unbreakable bond with his niece, Jennifer Voelz. She was the one he could call no matter what—whether in the middle of a storm or when his health was failing, she was always there for him. And in return, he was always there for her. He taught her how to drive, stood by her through life's challenges, and was always someone she could hold onto for comfort and strength. The love they shared was more than family; it was a friendship built on trust, loyalty, and unconditional support.

Though he and the mother of his children, Vicky Gilbert, were no longer together, they remained the best of friends. Together, they raised their children with love and dedication, ensuring that they grew into strong, capable men and women. Their bond was one of deep respect and unwavering friendship, always united in their love for their family. No matter what life brought their way, they stood together as parents, celebrating their children's successes and supporting them through every challenge.

Larry lived a life of service, dedicating himself to helping others. From working alongside his father on the hog farm to answering emergency calls as a paramedic for Hickman County EMS, he was always willing to lend a hand. His commitment to serving his community led him to work as a reserve police officer with the Centerville Police Department before becoming a 911 operator and dispatcher, where he eventually rose to the position of supervisor at the Centerville 911 Center. In each of these roles, Larry was known for his dedication, reliability, and compassion. He was someone people depended on in times of crisis, always willing to put himself on the front lines to ensure the safety and well-being of others.

Later in life, he worked as a dump truck driver for Eubanks Paving Company in Charlotte, Tennessee, and finally as a maintenance worker at Turney Center Industrial Complex. No matter where life took him, Larry approached every job with the same unwavering work ethic and sense of responsibility. He took pride in his work, always doing his best and leaving a lasting impression on those he worked alongside.

Beyond his career, Larry had many passions. He was a dedicated member and officer of Centerville Masonic Lodge #619, where he found both brotherhood and purpose. He had a love for working on cars and could often

be found at the racetrack, enjoying the roar of the engines. He loved classic cars and could spend hours working on them, sharing his knowledge with anyone who wanted to learn.

Music was another great love of his—his singing could light up a room, bringing joy to those around him. He loved to see people laugh, dance, and enjoy life. Whether he was singing at a gathering, joking with friends, or simply enjoying a quiet moment with his loved ones, Larry had a way of making people feel special, heard, and appreciated.

But above all else, Larry's greatest joy was his family. He lived for his children and grandchildren, always ensuring that they felt his love and support. He was their protector, their rock, and their biggest cheerleader. His love was unconditional, his guidance invaluable, and his presence irreplaceable.

Larry's faith in Christ guided him throughout his life. He trusted in the Lord and walked a path of kindness, compassion, and unwavering faith. He led by example, showing his family what it meant to be a man of integrity, strength, and love. Now, he sits in the presence of his Savior, watching over those he loved so dearly. Though his earthly journey has ended, his spirit remains woven into the hearts of those he touched.

Larry Gilbert was a man who loved fiercely, gave selflessly, and lived fully. We mourn his passing, but we also celebrate the remarkable life he lived. His memory will forever be cherished, and his legacy of love and service will never be forgotten. He has left behind a family and community who will continue to honor his memory by living with the same kindness, strength, and generosity that he so effortlessly shared with the world.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 3:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Funeral Service

APR 7. 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Tribute Wall

CA

“ *Celena Atkinson lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Celena Atkinson - April 09, 2025 at 05:49 PM

CA

“ *Celena Atkinson lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Celena Atkinson - April 09, 2025 at 05:48 PM

MC

“ *Maelynn Campbell sent a virtual gift in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Maelynn Campbell - April 08, 2025 at 06:32 PM

CM

“ *Larry was such a good person and I was proud that he called me Friend...my heart goes out to his family. He will be dearly missed.*

Connie Martinez - April 07, 2025 at 01:39 PM

BS

Larry was one of my dispatchers in law enforcement years ago. He was a good one and will be missed. He was always smiling and had something funny to talk about. Great guy!

Brandy S Sullivan - April 08, 2025 at 12:25 AM

CM

“ *Connie Martinez sent a virtual gift in memory of John Gilbert*



Connie Martinez - April 07, 2025 at 01:37 PM

SG

“ *Stanley & Judy Gordon lit a candle in memory of John Gilbert*



Stanley & Judy Gordon - April 07, 2025 at 01:06 PM

MC

“ *Michelle Cripps lit a candle in memory of John Gilbert*



Michelle Cripps - April 07, 2025 at 11:27 AM

SL

“ Suzy Lancaster sent a virtual gift in memory of John Gilbert



Suzy Lancaster - April 07, 2025 at 10:32 AM



“ James Arthur (Tank) & Dana Atkinson lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



James Arthur (Tank) & Dana Atkinson - April 07, 2025 at 07:21 AM



“ Such a good man. I remember me and Joseph running around river bend every Saturday as kids. Remember spending the night with them, very funny and good man to be around. Sorry for the families loss, yall are in our prayers

Josh Bradley - April 07, 2025 at 12:21 AM

DA

“ He was a good family man and a good friend. I worked with his son Joe at Turney Center. Im so very sorry for your loss.

Debbie Atkinson - April 06, 2025 at 09:35 PM

DA

“ *Debbie Atkinson lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Debbie Atkinson - April 06, 2025 at 09:34 PM

KO

“ *Kyle Orman lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Kyle Orman - April 06, 2025 at 08:37 PM

GW

“ *A true family friend; love and prayers for all his family and friends.*

Gwen Wright - April 06, 2025 at 08:21 PM

LG

“ *Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam - April 06, 2025 at 06:44 PM

BM

“ Bobby/Sandy McFarlin lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



Bobby/Sandy McFarlin - April 06, 2025 at 03:32 PM

RG

“ Ronald Gammons lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



Ronald Gammons - April 06, 2025 at 02:30 PM

BI

“ Brenda Isbell lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



Brenda Isbell - April 06, 2025 at 02:08 PM

BK

“ Shortly after my husband and I married, we attended an installation of officers ceremony at the Masonic Lodge. This was all new to me. I had no idea what to expect. I loved this group of people and I looked forward to being a part. Larry came up to me and asked if I would pin him when his turn came. I looked across the room and my husband gave me a nod. Of course he knew what Larry was asking. Being as nervous as I could be and still stand up, I was honored to decorate Larry's lapel as an officer. He gave me a hug and I felt like I had become a part of this wonderful group of people. Another time. My husband and I were out listening to music. Larry was called up to sing. I was surprised because I cannot carry a tune but others just get behind a microphone and a song just comes out. Larry sang " They Call Me the Fireman!" From that day forward Larry became "the Fireman" to me. Every time I called him that, he laughed. My husband's dear friend became my friend as well. We will miss you Fireman. 😔

Brenda Kelley - April 06, 2025 at 11:00 AM

RR

“ Randy Rawls lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



Randy Rawls - April 06, 2025 at 09:12 AM

CR

“ Charles Ragsdale lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



Charles Ragsdale - April 06, 2025 at 07:07 AM

KS

“ *Kim Skelton lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Kim skelton - April 05, 2025 at 09:53 PM

KS

“ *Joe, I will always remember your dad with a big smile and hardy laugh. What a great guy!!!*

KATHY GOSSETT SCOTT - April 05, 2025 at 09:46 PM

KS

“ *KATHY GOSSETT SCOTT lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



KATHY GOSSETT SCOTT - April 05, 2025 at 09:45 PM

CS

“ *Charlotte Staggs sent a virtual gift in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Charlotte Staggs - April 05, 2025 at 09:34 PM

CM

“ *Cheeva McClearen lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Cheeva McClearen - April 05, 2025 at 08:51 PM

BI

“ *Brenda Isbell lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Brenda Isbell - April 05, 2025 at 08:31 PM

LM

“ *I always thought of Larry as a good friend and his death has shook me to the core...sympathy to his boys and family.*

Lisa Talley McCullough - April 05, 2025 at 08:30 PM

LM

“ *Lisa Talley McCullough lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert*



Lisa Talley McCullough - April 05, 2025 at 08:28 PM

TJ

“ Tammy Jenkins lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



Tammy Jenkins - April 05, 2025 at 08:25 PM

RS

“ We both will keep "The Gilbert's" In prayers.

Regina & Martha Shelton - April 05, 2025 at 08:02 PM

RH

“ We are thinking of u.

Ruby & Rex Horner - April 05, 2025 at 08:00 PM

RB

“ Randall-Sandra Barber lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



Randall-Sandra Barber - April 05, 2025 at 07:51 PM

PS

“ Pat Sullivan lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



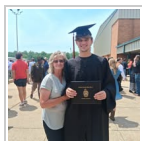
Pat Sullivan - April 05, 2025 at 07:41 PM

FW

“ Felicia Wilbanks sent a virtual gift in memory of John Gilbert



Felicia Wilbanks - April 05, 2025 at 07:26 PM



“ Larry was a great guy . I know he will be missed Prayers for all the family.

Teresa Carroll - April 05, 2025 at 07:17 PM

TC

“ Teresa Catroll lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



Teresa Catroll - April 05, 2025 at 07:17 PM

RM

“ Roy & Sharon McCoy lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



Roy & Sharon McCoy - April 05, 2025 at 06:53 PM

SA

“ We spent many years on Bus 26, singing, laughing, and being good kids. He will be missed.



Stacia Atkinson - April 05, 2025 at 06:50 PM

ES

“ Ed And Melinda Sullivan lit a candle in memory of John Larry Gilbert



Ed and Melinda Sullivan - April 05, 2025 at 06:49 PM

MB

“ Michael Bates sent a virtual gift in memory of John Gilbert



Michael Bates - April 05, 2025 at 06:45 PM

CT

Rip my friend you keep me safe as my dispatcher Lt. Charles Talley HCSD

Charles Talley - April 07, 2025 at 12:21 AM