



George "Willy" Gilis

September 6, 1935 - February 7, 2023

George "Willy" Gilis, 87 of Reno, Nevada, passed away on 7 February 2023 following an unforeseen diagnosis of Leukemia.

Georges was born to Theodor and Martha Maria Gilis-Gybels in Tessengerlo, Belgium on September 6, 1935. He worked in various restaurants as a busboy & waiter and served in the Belgian Army from 1953-1955. In the summer of 1958 George immigrated to the United States with longtime friends from the Frisan Family, arriving by ship in Hoboken, NJ on August 19, 1958. From there he made his way to California on a Grayhound bus. Once he arrived in California George stayed with the Frisan Family and worked at The Pantry, a famous LA restaurant as a waiter. George was introduced to his future wife Kathleen by a friend, he was so enamored by her beauty and told her he was going to marry her one day, to which she responded "Yeah you and who else?". Eventually they were married on July 25 1970, and soon after welcomed their first child, Tricia. In short work, the family grew to seven with the births of Marya, Aaron and twins Adriaan and Bryan. George worked hard to make sure his family was taken care of and loved. The family eventually moved to Truckee California, where George worked in Reno, NV at the Sahara Casino as a waiter in the show room. His hard work and determination led him to achieve the position of a Maitre'd and was later invited to work in Atlantic City, NJ at a Steakhouse in The Claridge Casino where he would be named Best Head Maitre'd consecutive years in a row throughout his career. The family called home to Egg Harbor Twp, NJ until George retired back out

west to Reno, NV. The desert was where George felt most at home loving the Wild west from a young age reading Louis L'Amour novels. Outside of his professional life, George found joy in cooking meals for his family, gardening, watching Western and Classic black and white movies, watching & feeding the wild life animals and sitting under his tree talking to those he loved and lost. George also enjoyed going out into the desert searching to find items left behind by settlers and Native Americans. To which some of his finds were used in his "Wild West" creations.

George "PaPa" is survived by his children and family, Mary Patricia & Harry Hewitt, Aaron Gilis, Adriaan Gilis & Sirada Kanangkul, Bryan Gilis & Heather Olsen. His 13 grandchildren: Marinn and Husband Erik Greis, Faith, Devin, K'lee, Darren, Ashley, Kaden, Ashton, Emma, Emily, Colton, Peyton and Kamden. Great grandson: Draven Greis. Sisters: Yvonne Gilis and Jacky (Leo Dewit). Numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, in-laws and the Frisan Family, Longtime family Friend Ellen Kraus. And many more family and friends in the USA and Belgium that all love him and will miss him dearly. Georges is preceded in death by his Loving wife Kathleen Gilis and daughter Marya Gilis-Panuska. His parents Theodor and Martha Maria Gilis-Gybels, mother in-law Mary P Stephenson and many other family members and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you spend time having family dinners or enjoying the great outdoors with your loved ones in George "Willy" memory.

Georges will be greatly missed by family and friends. The memories we have will never be forgotten. "Just another day, another dirty shirt"

We love you

Cemetery Details

Sierra Mts. Cemetery

Truckee, CA 96161

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 12. 10:00 AM (PT)

Sierra Mts. Cemetery
Truckee, CA 96161

Tribute Wall

TR

“ *Tricia lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis*



Tricia - February 07 at 08:59 AM

TR

“ *Daddy, It's Three years now .I look at the night sky everyday and know you are watching over all of us .❤️ I love you & miss you 🙏*

Tricia - February 07 at 08:57 AM

AN

“ *Auntie Yvonne And Nadine lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis*



Auntie Yvonne and Nadine - February 06 at 06:21 PM

AN

Rest in peace and watch over us. We still miss u 💔

Auntie Yvonne and Nadine - February 06 at 06:24 PM

TR

“ Tricia lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Tricia - December 25, 2025 at 06:40 PM

TR

“ Merry Christmas Daddy 🎄 I love and miss you so very much . I know you are looking down and sending you love and prayers to all of us . Lots of hug and kisses ❤️

Tricia - December 25, 2025 at 06:39 PM

NY

“ Nadine Verstappen And Auntie Yvonne lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Nadine verstappen and auntie Yvonne - December 25, 2025 at 05:47 PM

NY

Merry Xmas ❤️

Nadine verstappen and auntie Yvonne - December 25, 2025 at 05:48 PM

TR

“ Hi Daddy , well we just had Thanksgiving Day again . I miss you and love you so very much . It's not the same with out you and Mommy and Marya . Please watch over us . xoxoxo 🙏❤️

Tricia - November 29, 2025 at 08:52 PM

TR

“Daddy , It's Halloween here . Time has gone by so fast and another year will be coming . Your 4 great grandchildren are growing and they would just love you so much as you would love them to ❤️ Everyone else is going about everyday life and missing you . Mommy's Birthday is coming up , and I know you all are celebrating with Jesus . I love you ❤️❤️🙏🙏

Tricia - October 31, 2025 at 02:22 PM

TR

“Happy Birthday Daddy ❤️ I love & miss you so much 🙏

Tricia - September 06, 2025 at 06:29 AM

NY

“Nadine And Auntie Yvonne lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Nadine and auntie Yvonne - September 06, 2025 at 01:17 AM

NY

Happy birthday in heaven...much love from your sister Yvonne and niece Nadine

Nadine and auntie Yvonne - September 06, 2025 at 01:19 AM

TR

“Hi Daddy , I've been thinking of you and how much I miss you ❤️ You are loved so much . I wish you were here and able to see your great Granddaughter, what a joy she is ! I love you talk to later 🙏

Tricia - August 18, 2025 at 08:31 PM

TR

“ Hi Daddy today is your wedding anniversary ! 55yrs it would be ❤️ . I love you and miss you so much 🙏

Tricia - July 25, 2025 at 09:31 PM

TR

“ Happy Father’s day “. Daddy . I love and miss you 🙏❤️

Tricia - June 15, 2025 at 04:20 PM

TR

“ Daddy , Today is 10 years since mommy passed . I love and miss you very much 🙏❤️ . Also today they elected a new Pope and he’s an american . Times sure have changed .

Tricia - May 08, 2025 at 01:28 PM

TR

“ Happy Easter Daddy ☐ I love & miss you very much ❤️❤️



Tricia - April 20, 2025 at 11:34 AM

TR

“ Daddy , Happy Valentines Day! I love you ❤️

tricia - February 14, 2025 at 09:57 PM

TR

“ Tricia lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Tricia - February 07, 2025 at 06:01 PM

TR

“ Daddy, My mind still talks to you, My heart still looks for you but my soul knows your at peace . Your always with me .. I can't believe it's two years . You are so missed and loved by everyone . I love you much ❤️

Tricia - February 07, 2025 at 06:00 PM

YV

“ Yvonne Gilis And Nadine Verstappen lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Yvonne Gilis and Nadine Verstappen - February 07, 2025 at 06:55 AM

YV

Already 2 years in heaven....we still miss u.

Yvonne Gilis and Nadine Verstappen - February 07, 2025 at 06:59 AM

TR

“ Happy New Years 🎉 Its 2025 Daddy , I love you so very much ❤️

tricia - January 01, 2025 at 12:10 AM

TR

“ Tricia sent a virtual gift in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Tricia - December 29, 2024 at 08:47 PM

TR

“ Good night Daddy , I love you ❤️🙏 . I have txt'd you good night everyday since you went to heaven , like I always did . Your phone is disconnected now. Love you xoxo

Tricia - December 29, 2024 at 08:44 PM

TR

“ Tricia lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Tricia - December 25, 2024 at 09:53 AM

TR

“ Merry Christmas Daddy . I'm sending lots of hugs & kisses to you !

Tricia - December 25, 2024 at 09:53 AM

NV

“ *Nadine Yvonne Frans Verstappen lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis*



Nadine Yvonne Frans Verstappen - December 25, 2024 at 01:59 AM

TR

“ *Happy Thanksgiving Daddy 🙏. I love and Miss you all .*

Tricia - November 28, 2024 at 12:24 PM

TR

“ *Daddy , Trump one the presidential race. For 2025! It's going to be an amazing country again . I love you and miss you so much. I miss talking to you everyday and hearing about your day . Lots of love*

Tricia - November 06, 2024 at 08:48 PM

TR

“ *Daddy , today your great granddaughter was dedicated to Jesus. I wish you were still here , you would just love her so much . ❤️🙏 I love you ❤️*

Tricia - November 03, 2024 at 07:38 PM

TR

“ *Hi Daddy , it's Halloween 🎃. I love you and miss you 🙏❤️*

Tricia - October 31, 2024 at 08:22 PM

TR

“ Hi Daddy ! Happy Birthday . I love and miss you so much ! I am celebrating you today . Love you ❤️

Tricia - September 06, 2024 at 10:23 PM

YV

“ Yvonne Gilis And Nadine Verstappen sent a virtual gift in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Yvonne Gilis and Nadine Verstappen - September 06, 2024 at 08:37 AM

YV

“ Yvonne Gilis And Nadine Verstappen lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Yvonne Gilis and Nadine Verstappen - September 06, 2024 at 08:34 AM

YV

Happy Birthday for a beloved brother and uncle !
we love you, for always in our hearts

Yvonne Gilis and Nadine Verstappen - September 06, 2024 at 08:36 AM

TR

“ Daddy, I miss you...I love you .

Tricia - August 20, 2024 at 09:29 PM

TR

“ Hi daddy , I was just in Tampa on you & mommy’s anniversary . We had a baby shower for Faith . I can’t wait for the baby to be here ! You’ll be a great Papa again ❤️ . I love you and miss you so .. xoxo

Tricia - July 29, 2024 at 08:35 PM

TR

“ Daddy , I miss you so much and sometimes frays are harder . I just wish you were here . I love you 🙏❤️

Tricia - July 16, 2024 at 09:18 PM

TR

“ Happy Fathers Day “ ❤️ Daddy , I miss you very much ! I love you

Tricia - June 16, 2024 at 06:24 AM

TR

“ Hi Daddy , not a day goes by that I am not thing of you. Some days are harder than others ... I wanted to tell you that your baby sister Jacky is with you now and all the family . I love you ❤️🙏

Tricia - June 02, 2024 at 01:29 PM

TR

“ Daddy , just thinking of you. I always do but some days are harder than others . Xoxo

tricia - May 15, 2024 at 08:46 PM

TR

“ Hi my daddy , today is 9 years since mommy went to heaven . I hope you have found each other. May all our memories stay bright . I love you xoxo

Tricia - May 08, 2024 at 06:30 PM

TR

“ Hi Daddy , it's Easter Sunday today, I left some Palm with you and lots of prayers . It's only over a year that you have passed . I miss you very much and wish you were here. I love you . Xo

Tricia - March 31, 2024 at 04:07 PM

NY

“ Nadine And Yvonne lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Nadine and Yvonne - March 31, 2024 at 03:57 PM

NY

Happy Easter !
Always in our hearts ❤️

Nadine and Yvonne - March 31, 2024 at 03:59 PM

TR

“ Daddy, just thinking of you and wishing we could chat and talk about ours days . 🙏❤️

Tricia - March 03, 2024 at 05:44 PM

TR

“ Hi Daddy , Today is the anniversary of Mymy passing. Sending lots of hugs & kisses . I love and miss you so ..



Tricia - February 11, 2024 at 08:59 PM

TR

“ Tricia lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Tricia - February 07, 2024 at 11:15 AM

TR

“ Hi Daddy , today is 1year since you passed and went to Heaven to be with all your family. We all miss you every day and have so many memories to share . I love you. Lots of hugs and kisses !

Tricia - February 07, 2024 at 11:15 AM

YN

“ Yvonne En Nadine lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Yvonne en nadine - February 07, 2024 at 02:17 AM

TR

“ Hi daddy , today is Marinn’s Birthday ! In love you ❤️🙏

tricia - February 03, 2024 at 08:35 PM

TR

“ Happy New Year Daddy 🌟🙏❤️



Tricia - January 01, 2024 at 12:05 AM

TR

“ Daddy , It’s Christmas Day and we are filled with lots of memories. I love you and miss you ! Merry Christmas ❤️



Tricia - December 25, 2023 at 09:31 AM

NV

“ Nadine Verstappen lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis



Nadine Verstappen - December 24, 2023 at 03:41 PM

NV

Missing u at Christmas day

Nadine Verstappen - December 24, 2023 at 03:43 PM

TH

“ *Daddy you're in my thoughts always as we celebrate Thanksgiving Today . ❤️*



Tricia Hewitt - November 23, 2023 at 06:46 PM

TH

“ *Tricia Hewitt lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis*



Tricia Hewitt - September 06, 2023 at 08:24 PM

TH

Happy Birthday in Heaven Daddy 🙏❤️

Tricia Hewitt - September 06, 2023 at 08:27 PM

YV

“ *Yvonne Gilis And Nadine Verstappen lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis*



Yvonne Gilis and Nadine Verstappen - September 06, 2023 at 01:53 AM

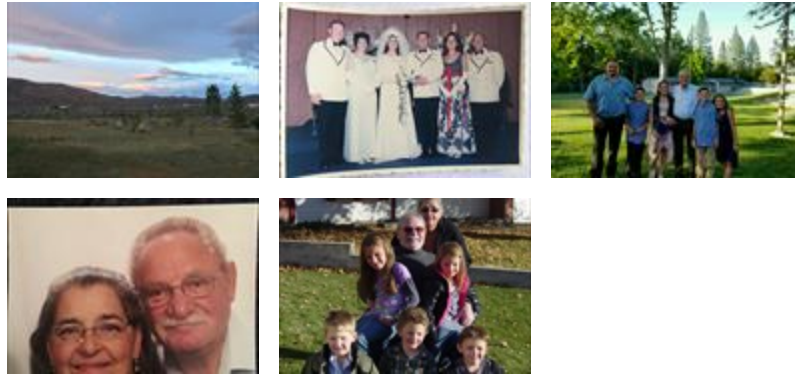
LF

“ Uncle Willy was a good man. An I remember him only as uncle. Him an aunt Kathy were the best part of being a frisan. Without him an understanding I would never of discovered the gifts I have. An the family love he gave an shared, an my first set of babies-Tricia, Mariah/mymy, Aron, Bryan an Adrian. 💜💜

Lynette Frisan - August 06, 2023 at 08:44 AM

TH

“ 30 files added to the album Georges Willy



Tricia Hewitt - August 04, 2023 at 06:16 AM



“ Burgundy Peony and Orange Daisy (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of George "Willy" Gilis.



August 03, 2023 at 02:20 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of George "Willy" Gilis.

August 03, 2023 at 02:20 AM

TH

“ *Tricia Hewitt lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis*



Tricia Hewitt - July 26, 2023 at 08:07 PM

LW

“ *Leo De Wit lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis*



Leo De Wit - July 26, 2023 at 08:37 AM

YV

“ *Yvonne Gilis And Nadine Verstappen lit a candle in memory of George "Willy" Gilis*



Yvonne Gilis and Nadine Verstappen - July 26, 2023 at 08:09 AM

EK

“ *I miss you so much Willy. Our daily talks especially about the pups. Now you are where you wanted to be with your beloved Kathy and beloved Marya. For with the Angels Willy and know you are missed.*

Ellen Kraus - July 25, 2023 at 05:16 PM



“ *Good night Daddy, I Love You!*

Tricia - July 25, 2023 at 05:02 PM