

RANDALL JAMES GILLIAM

1930 - 2021



Born to Arvin J. and Mary Ellis Gilliam (Teague, Texas) on May 28, 1930, Randy passed away peacefully on November 26, 2021 at Westminster Manor in Austin, Texas. He is survived by his wife of over 38 years Sue J. Gilliam (née Maunsell), daughter and son-in-law Patricia G. (Tricia) and James A. Young (Cypress, Texas), son Blake Randall Gilliam (Kerrville), and Sue's daughters Wendy J. McCredie (La Grange), Anna M. Loonam (Pearland), Jennifer McCredie Adkins (San Marcos) and their husbands Leonard G. Schulze, Peter S. Loonam and Steve Keith. Randy has eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren who loved him dearly.

Randy's two younger brothers, Bobby Joe and Hugh Alton preceded him in death. All three of them grew up in Mexia, Texas. Randy was an excellent student and, according to him, somewhat of a teacher's pet because he "never caused any problems." Randy

played baritone horn in the high school band and participated in all the sports, including football, basketball and track. He said the "highlight" of his senior year was dropping an English course, so he could come back and play another year of football. He and five others who had done the same thing were part of the Mexia team that won the 1947 regional championship.

After they graduated from Mexia High School Randy and his brothers joined the US Military. Bobby Joe joined the Navy, Hugh Alton joined the Marines and Randy joined the Air Force. As Randy said, "All three survived the military."

After completing his service in 1954, Randy attended the University of Texas on the GI Bill, completing his studies in electrical engineering in three years. In November 1957 he married Nelda Phillips. Upon graduation, they moved to Baltimore, Maryland where Randy began his engineering career at Westinghouse and Patricia, their first child, was born in 1960. Their second child, Blake, was born in 1963 in Dallas after they moved back to Texas and Randy went to work for Texas Instruments. Nelda and Randy were divorced in 1979. Randy married Sue in 1983.

Randy spent the rest of his career at Texas Instruments where he held a variety of managerial roles including Austin Site manager, US National Sales Manager and Managing Director, Australia. Throughout his career, Randy traveled to a variety of locations but always managed to find time to enjoy playing golf, boating on the lake, tinkering in the garage fixing whatever was broken, watching football games, and playing card games with family. He also was very frugal, almost to a fault, and did a good job managing their investments which included multiple rental homes. Randy and Sue enjoyed overseeing and maintaining each of the family size homes. Randy talked about retiring from Texas Instruments for years and finally did in 1989.

After retirement Randy and Sue travelled frequently visiting friends and family across the United States. Sue even persuaded Randy to visit New Zealand a couple of times. To avoid Austin's summer heat they spent several months each year in Summit County, Colorado, where they enjoyed hiking, bike riding, playing bridge and lingering sunsets. Living several months a year in a condominium made downsizing from the house they loved in Austin to an apartment at Westminster Manor quite feasible.

Randy enjoyed his first several years at Westminster, getting to know many new friends, co-leading morning exercises with Sue and occasionally playing bridge. Recently, with the sense of humor so many of us appreciated, he told Sue that it took him "a year to remember everybody's name (just the first name) and then just a short time to forget both names."

He will be sorely missed and forever loved.