



## Thomas Joseph "Tom" Gilligan III

April 7, 1945 - April 27, 2017

Thomas Joseph "Tom" Gilligan III of Mentor, OH died on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at age 72 in Parma, OH after a long illness. He was born in 1945 in Great Barrington, MA to Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Gilligan Jr., and was the eldest of 9 children. He was a car guy in high school and very proud of his Pontiac GTO and working in the pit crew of the "200", which raced at Lebanon Valley Speedway. In college, he worked one summer driving cement trucks so he could read and study while waiting in line. His love of reading and learning continued throughout his life. He graduated with a bachelor's of chemistry from College of the Holy Cross in 1967, and received a Masters and PhD from Yale University in electrochemistry in 1972.

While a fellow at the University of Oklahoma, he met Connie Carole McCrory and married her in 1973 in Little Rock, Arkansas. They moved to Switzerland while he was a fellow at the Max Planck Institute at the University of Basel. Returning to the US, they had two daughters and settled in Lake County, Ohio where he started working for Diamond Shamrock as a Sr. Research Chemist. He retired from Eltech Systems Corporation in 2000 as Vice President of Emerging Business and CTO, having collaborated on teams that were awarded five US patents and more than 50 patents in other countries, mostly in the field of electrochemistry. After his first retirement, he became an Adjunct Professor of Chemical Engineering at Case Western Reserve University and started the GC Group, a consulting firm.

Tom believed in giving back to the community, volunteering as a science fair judge and on the Board of the Northeast Ohio Scouting for the Boy Scouts. He was a wonderful husband and father who enjoyed cooking for his family. He made the best Thanksgiving dinners and apple pie. Enjoying traveling and studying other countries, Tom and Carole made many trips to Europe and Asia. Every summer he took the family on vacations to the beach and to Cedar Point to ride roller coasters. These were a favorite because of the special times with his daughters. He loved sports--rooting for the Indians and Cavs. Tom was definitely not a fair weather fan. Tom's frequent trips to the Cleveland Art Museum, Symphony and Botanical Gardens were shared enthusiastically with family. "Papa Tom's" grandchildren were a delight to him especially at Christmas when decorating cookies for Santa.

He is survived by his wife, Connie Carole Gilligan of Mentor, OH, daughters Heather Gilligan of Houston, TX and Megan Tillman (Christopher) of Sagamore Hills, OH, grandchildren Brandon and Lauren, siblings Michele Gilligan (Les Ettlinger) of Great Barrington, MA, Peter Gilligan (Lynn Smiley) of Chapel Hill, NC, Susan Lucy (Robert) of Fallbrook, CA, Ann Gilligan (Steve Seitz) of Swarthmore, PA, Jane Gilligan (Don Ritcher) of Lenox, MA, Paul Gilligan (Joyce Fitzpatrick) of Northborough, MA, Hannah Gilligan of Arlington, MA and Michael Gilligan (Elizabeth) of Durham, NC and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He is predeceased by his parents Thomas J. Gilligan Jr. and Mary Hassett Gilligan.

The family is grateful for his caregivers at Pleasant Lake Villa and Western Reserve Hospice.

A wake will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2017 from 3-5 PM at The Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave, Mentor, OH 44060.

The funeral will be held on Monday, May 22, 2017 at 10 AM at St. Gabriel Church 9925 Johnnycake Ridge Rd, Mentor, OH 44060 followed by burial at All Saints Cemetery, 480 W. Highland Rd, Northfield, OH 44067.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Boy Scouts of America Northeast Ohio Scouting 2241 Woodland Run, Cleveland, OH 44115 or <http://councils.scouting.org/council440> in memory of his service to the organization.

Offer condolences at [www.Brunners.com](http://www.Brunners.com)

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Cemetery

480 W. Highland Rd.  
Northfield, OH 44067  
(330) 467-7951

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 21.** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center  
8466 Mentor Avenue  
Mentor, OH 44060  
(440) 255-3401  
ajs@brunners.com  
<https://www.brunners.com/>

## Memorial Mass

**MAY 22.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Gabriel Catholic Church  
9925 Johnnycake Ridge Rd.  
Concord Twp., OH 44060  
(440) 352-8282

# Tribute Wall



“ *Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph "Tom" Gilligan III.*



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May 20, 2017 at 12:52 PM



“ *We shared many adventures and experiences working with Vittorio (Moltech) both in Geneva, Switzerland and Ohio. It was always a great pleasure working with Tom and his Eltech team and my memories will always be fond ones. Carole, it must be a huge hole in your life as Tom was always a larger than life and great person to be around.*

*Wishing you all well at this sad time.....Lindsey Clavel, London and Geneva*

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**lindsey clavel** - May 15, 2017 at 08:40 AM



“ *With sincere condolences on Tom's passing. I was a Holy Cross '67 classmate, and remember him well. He obviously was an exceptional person (aren't most "car guys"?) as his resume attests. What a wonderful family. And what a great career. Our sympathy and best wishes to Tom's wife and family. John & Thea Miles*

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**John S. Miles** - May 13, 2017 at 10:35 AM

AJ

“ *Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there - I do not sleep.  
I am the thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints in snow,  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
As you awake with morning's hush  
I am the swift-up-flinging rush  
Of quiet birds in circling flight.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there - I did not die.*

*Sending prayers of comfort to support the Gilligan family through their grief, as they cope with losing their devoted father and husband.*

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**Angie Johnson** - May 12, 2017 at 10:39 AM

HG

*Thank you Angie. You've always been a great friend.*

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**Heather Gilligan** - May 13, 2017 at 06:22 AM

JP

*My deep condolences to Tom's family members, relatives, and friends. I am Tom's classmate from the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA but, most unfortunately, missed out on the opportunity to get to know him during my first two years of college (I then transferred Stanford University in CA to major in Psychology). I would have loved to talk science with him. In a more general way, I did try to get Tom to vote for me in our sophomore year (1964-1965) when I ran for the elected office of Secretary for the Class of 1967 (my classy but doomed slogan was "Vote for McGovernment!"). I do not know how Tom voted, but I did learn that I shared a common fate with another McGovern, George McGovern (Dove), who lost to the incumbent Tricky Dick Nixon (Hawk) in 1972. My campaign manager was another classmate of Tom, Chas. A. Domson of Mahanoy City, PA who, like Tom, went on to earn his Ph.D. at Yale University (in the History of Science). Charlie Domson died young, but I do hope that he got to know Tom during both his years at the Cross (as opposed to being "on the Cross!") and at Yale (Charlie lived in Jonathan Edwards College at Yale). Charlie's Ph.D. advisor at Yale was Peter Gay, a scholar whom Tom may have read given his great interest in the natural sciences. Tom had a wonderful life, though cut short prematurely. He had a nourishing love life and was blessed with both daughters and grandchildren. His work life was something in which he thrived. I am very sorry for your great loss - it would have been nice to possibly get to know Tom a bit at our upcoming 50th Class Reunion at Holy Cross this coming June 2017. I shall keep him in my prayers, as I am sure will many of his college classmates.*

*John (Jack) Stewart McGovern, Class of 1967, Holy Cross College  
drjohnmccgovern@gmail.com*

*(My Ph.D. is from a rival university to Tom's - Harvard;  
I would have kidded Tom that my University is years older than his  
University - 1636 versus 1701 - and therefore, superior!!)*

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**John Stewart McGovern, M.Div., Ph.D.** - May 13, 2017 at 01:47 PM