



## Charles Edward Gillard, III

July 30, 1939 - May 3, 2017

CHARLES "ED" EDWARD GILLARD July 30, 1939 ~ May 3, 2017 Charles Edward "Ed" Gillard passed away peacefully on May 3, 2017 at the age of 77 with his wife, Anita and children Kelly and Greg, by his side. Ed was born in Colorado Springs, CO to Allan and Elizabeth Gillard. After they divorced, his mom married Alfred Caswell, a geologist, and the little family started a slightly nomadic life. They moved to where the work was and spent time in many small towns before moving to Libya. After returning to the U.S., the family settled in McCook, NE. Ed spent his teen years in McCook and always consider this his home town where he made many lifelong friends. The day after he graduated from high school, he enlisted in the Navy - a decision he would later label as "questionable." Being in the Navy gave him the chance to see the world. His tour of duty was focused in Asia where he acquired seven tattoos - another "questionable" decision. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Ed returned to Colorado where he met Anita Garrison. The two fell in love and were married on July 12, 1963. In 1966, they welcomed their first child, Greg and in 1969 their second child was born, Kelly. Ed attended Eastern Washington University on the G.I. Bill and graduated with a degree in Political Science in 1970. He worked for the Bureau of Reclamation in Ephrata, WA. Four years later, he began his career at The Bonneville Power Administration. The family relocated to Vancouver, WA in 1973 and Ed spent the rest of his career at the BPA working in Land Acquisition and as a Hazardous Waste Specialist. Ed loved reading nonfiction books, watching

sports and spending time with his friends and family. No one on earth enjoyed Spaghetti more than him - especially his wife's recipe! Over the last few years Ed battled heart disease and diabetes with courage, optimism and humor. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather, a fun co-worker, and a dedicated friend. Ed is survived by his wife of 53 years, Anita Gillard, his children Greg Gillard (Lanice) and Kelly Golden (Jay), his grandchildren Cal and Jack Gillard, Bailee and Trey Rogers, and Megan, Carly and Cody Golden along with many other relatives and dear friends. Memorial donations can be made in Ed's honor to the American Heart Association . Please sign Ed's guestbook at [www.columbian.com/obits](http://www.columbian.com/obits).

# Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 09:10 PM

KY

“ May you Rest in Peace

Kitty Teoxell Young - July 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Anita I am so very sorry for your loss. While it has been many years ago, Ed and I were close friends while in high school . We both left McCook right after graduation so we lost track of each other for a long time. Once Ed came to Kansas City where we lived and we had dinner together. He said he was going to come see us in Sequim but he never made it here. He will be missed

Bob Murphy - June 14, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ so sorry to hear this. Classmate of Eds.

Carolyn Corder Bird - June 14, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Rest in Peace My Friend!!

Jacque Olberding - June 14, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Rest In Peace Ed! So sorry for your family, but disbetes is not a fun disease.

Bonita Boyd Lages - June 14, 2017 at 12:00 AM