

Gilbert Wayne Butler(1941 - 2014)



Avid runner and **Rotarian** Gilbert Wayne Butler was born Feb. 22, 1941 in Fort Collins, Colo. to John Lafayette Butler (Lafe) and Phyllis Elizabeth (Hunter) Butler. He was raised in Boise, Idaho and graduated from Borah High School in 1959. In 1963 he received his bachelor's in science in Chemistry from Oregon State University, Corvallis. Bypassing a master's degree, he went directly into the doctoral program at the University of California, Berkley, receiving his doctorate in Nuclear Chemistry in 1967. Gil performed post-doctoral research at Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory (Illinois) before joining the Nuclear Chemistry Group at Los Alamos National Laboratory in June 1972.

At LANL, he worked at the Nevada Test Site and did research experiments at LAMPF. He was an expert in the area of gamma ray spectroscopy, and in 1996 he started working in nuclear safeguards, traveling many times to Russia. He was a member of the American Chemical Society and coordinated the National Chemistry Olympiad with high school students for many years.

Gil was a very active Rotarian and went to Guatamala three times to bring fresh water and better sanitation to highland villages. He had earned his eighth Paul Harris Fellow.

He helped with the LA Cares Food Bank and was a trustee at the United Church of Los Alamos for many years. He also ran in or helped with most of the local races; he was an avid canyon and mountain trails runner.

In December 2013, he was diagnosed with a glioblastoma multiforme (brain tumor). After completing radiation and chemotherapy, he developed pneumonia and spent five months in hospitals, passing away Aug. 9 in Kindred Hospital, Albuquerque at age 73.

Gil married Jeanne Lea Burmester on Oct. 14, 1978 in Hampton, Iowa. He is survived by his wife Jeanne; daughter Tamryn Louise Clancy (Michael (Trey) Clancy III) of White Rock; son Randal Matthew Butler of Tucson, Ariz; sister Joan (Bob) Thye of Bend, Ore.; and Linda (Frank) Morse of Albany, Ore.

His memorial service is at 11:00 a.m. Sat., Sept. 20 at the United Church of Los Alamos, 2525 Canyon Rd.

Published in Los Alamos Monitor on Sept. 14, 2014