



Mr. Gilbert Edward Kitching

JUL 7, 1929 - AUG 30, 2014



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Mr. Gilbert Edward Kitching

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Dr. Gilbert E. Kitching, a much loved and respected physician in San Bernardino and a retired Air Force Colonel, passed away August 30, 2014 at his home after an extended illness.

He was born July 7, 1929, in Brooklyn, New York. As a young man, he distinguished himself by becoming an Eagle Scout. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1952 at the California Institute of Technology, and a Medical Degree at the University of Southern California in 1956. Dr. Kitching completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Tripler U.S. Army Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii, and was certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Kitching was often recognized for his professional excellence, receiving many awards and medals including the Legion of Merit, Physicians Recognition Award (from the American Medical Association), and numerous Meritorious Service Medals. He was a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a Diplomate Member of the Pan American Medical Association.

In 1955, Dr. Kitching married the love of his life, Joane Chatfield Denby. They had four sons, Alfred, Gilbert, Kenneth, and Charles. Dr. Kitching was preceded in death by his beloved son Kenneth in 2013.

Dr. Kitching held many leadership roles in the Air Force. Between 1965 and 1970, he was Chief of OB/GYN and Chief of Hospital Services at USAF Hospital Vandenberg in California. During his career, he also was Chief OB/GYN at USAF Base Hospitals in Idaho and Texas, as well as in the Philippines and Germany, and Commander of Air Force Hospitals in Illinois and Florida.

Between 1981 and 1983, Dr. Kitching was Team Chief for the Surgeon General Inspection Team. He then was appointed Deputy Director, Professional Services, and Vice Commander in the Office of the Surgeon General, a position he held from 1983 to 1985, until his retirement from the Air Force.



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Dr. Kitching subsequently engaged in the private practice of medicine in Corona, California, and San Bernardino, retiring from the San Bernardino Women's Specialty Medical Group in 1996.

After retirement, Dr. and Mrs. Kitching made frequent trips to Hawaii, where they had lived for four years. Outside of his medical practice, Dr. Kitching enjoyed gardening, astronomy, stamp and coin collecting, electronics, researching and documenting his family history, and keeping up with national and world affairs. Besides his wife and three sons, Dr. Kitching is survived by four grandchildren: Kenneth Kitching and Shauna Kitching (children of Kenneth) and Megan Kennedy and Jessica Kennedy-Schlicher (children of Alfred), and numerous nieces and nephews.



Events


Mr. Gilbert Edward Kitching

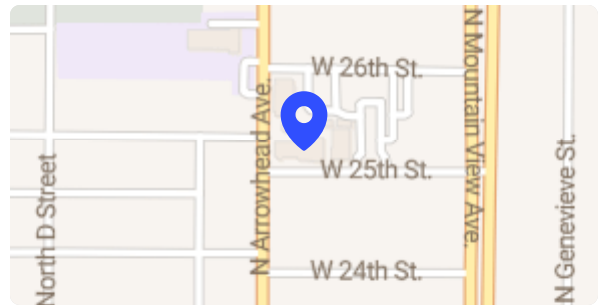
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Mass of Christian Burial

 **Monday**, September 15, 2014

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PT


 **Holy Rosary Cathedral Church**
2525 N. Arrowhead, san bernardino CA 92404

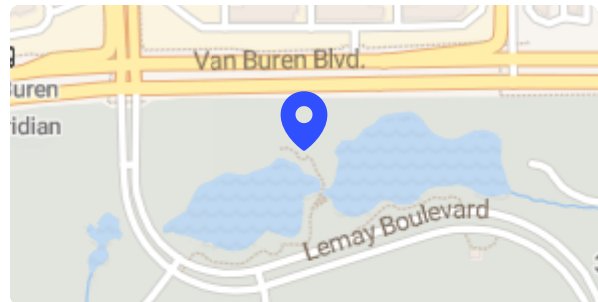


Graveside Service

 **Monday**, September 15, 2014

 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM PT

 **Riverside National Cemetery**
22495 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside CA 92518





Tribute Wall

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KW

Karan Williams posted:

My sincerest condolences. I worked with Doctor Kitchings at Brooks Air Force Base, in San Antonio during the summer when I was home from college. Both Doctor Kitchings and Mrs. Kitchings were very kind to me, and I still have a business calculator they gave me to help me succeed in pursuing my business degree in college. Such wonderful people. I pray Dr. Kitchings rest in Eternal peace.

February 4 at 1:41 PM

DC

D.Stanley Corcoran Iii posted:

Remember the friendliness and kindness Uncle Gil and Aunt Joanne always extended to my Mother Josephine, Joanne's sister, and her family, God Bless! David Stanley Corcoran III

July 19 at 1:37 PM

CK

Chuck Koenig posted:

This is from an Air Force acquaintance from the early 70"s. I was fortunate to have worked with Gil at Vandenberg AFB. He was my superior and had to put up with my antics. I remember him as a dedicated compassionate physician. One special memory is going to the Kitching house on New Years day for Bloody Marys. We have kept in touch over the intervening years and I will miss his voice and letters. Especially about the oatmeal and exercise. May he rest in peace. Dr & Mrs Charles Koenig

September 20 at 8:20 AM



Tribute Wall

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Megan Kennedy posted:

I really like reading all the letters Gil ("Gramps," for me) sent over the years. He encouraged me to continue progressing in my visual art; so much so in fact, that he ordered multiple lecture DVDs on Michaelangelo and other art-related topics. We had many warm telephone conversations (and letters) expressing delight in learning about art. For a few years, Gramps and I collected state quarters, sending them to each other as a gallant accomplishment. He sent me art-related articles from the Wall Street Journal. He also gave advice on my developing art skills, and explained what kind of camera I needed to take good pictures of my art. We also compared notes on growing tomatoes, which we both liked to do. He found solace in hearing about my biological father's religious faith, while battling lung cancer. Gramps wrote, "Physicians are acutely aware of [the fact that they don't know how long they will live], and generally ask for God's help over and over again; I know I have." I hope that in his last breaths, Gramps found peace in asking to be released from suffering. I got to learn about Gramps's childhood in upstate New York. He got to ski to grade school in the winter months, which I found a novelty. Gramps told me that, when one of his sons brought a potential girlfriend home, Gramps, being a retired army gynecologist, would walk the new girl friend to the living room where, on the hearth sat antique speculums. He'd assess the workability of each relationship based on the girl friend's reaction recognizing the speculums. Gramps strengthened my hope that I would someday have a loving relationship with my biological father. He wrote, "I had no clear idea of how painful that your separation from your father was to you. It's my belief that God loves us all, even when we can't understand it when we suffer. I also have faith that we will all be able to meet again in heaven; tell your dad that when that happens, you will need a big hug and a kiss from him! Perhaps a leap of faith for you, but a good one." I'm sorry Gramps suffered from throat cancer. He was always tough, and never complained, as far as I know. It can't have been easy, struggling to breathe. I envision him in a much better place. I will miss him very much. I'm going to bring the letters he sent to me to the memorial. He is already missed and I miss the inspiration he found when he saw my art. I love you, Gramps! Megan

September 10 at 7:44 AM



Anonymous sent a Sweet Solace Spray to the Kitching family.



September 13 at 11:34 AM



Anonymous sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Kitching family.



September 10 at 7:44 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gilbert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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