

CLARENCE E. "WHITEY" GILBERT

West Des Moines



Clarence E. "Whitey" Gilbert, 81, passed away September 5, 2003 at Iowa Methodist Medical Center. Services will be 10 a.m., Thursday at St. Pius X Catholic Church followed by entombment at Resthaven Mausoleum.

Whitey was born October 24, 1921 to Leon and Jeannette Gilbert in Woodstock, Vermont. Whitey was instrumental in building the first ski tow in the United States. It was built in Woodstock, Vermont and was named "Suicide Six". He was a champion skier winning many awards during his school years. He served in WWII in the 10th Mountain Division, teaching skiing to troops at Camp Hale, in Red Cliff, Colorado. He then served in Italy and the Aleutian Islands.

After the war "Whitey" and family settled in Denver, Colorado where he began a long and successful career with Sperry Univac. After holding several positions with the company and living in Colorado, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Iowa and Illinois he retired as Central Operations Manager in 1981 and returned to Des Moines.

"Whitey" enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting and his family. A highlight in his life was a fishing trip to Canada with his son-in-law and grandsons. He bragged he was the most inexperienced fisherman, but somehow managed to catch the biggest fish.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Carmela "Millie" in 2001. He is survived by daughter, Jean and husband, Ron Edwards of Ankeny; grandchildren, Gregg and wife, Christine Edwards of Altoona, Amy and husband, Shea Coogler of Nevada, IA, Scott Edwards of Elkhart, IA; five great-grandchildren, Kyle, Caitlin, Hannah, Holly and Erin; brother, Earl Gilbert and wife, Barbara of Woodstock, Vermont; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Virginia and Robert Simonds of White River Jct., Vermont; sister-in-law, Margurite Napolitano of Whit River Jct., Vermont and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday with a Vigil service at 7 p.m. at McLaren's Chapel. memorials may be given to the Kidney Care Dialysis Unit at Iowa Methodist Medical Center



McLaren's Chapel
at Resthaven Cemetery