



Brian J. Gillis

March 22, 1961 - October 9, 2021

Brian Jarrell Gillis, quietly transitioned from his earthly home in Seaford, Delaware, to his eternal home during the morning hours on Saturday, October 9, 2021. His wife, Shirley, lovingly honored his wishes to transition at their home. His loving wife, immediate family and close friends surrounded Brian during his transition.

Brian was born March 22, 1961, in Dover, Delaware. He was one of ten (10) children born to Rosetta Gillis. Brian's mother passed at an early age and his grandmother, Ella Reed, raised him. Affectionately called Gil, he lived a brief, but full six decades of life and was BLESSED to have had a great impact on all those he encountered during his life journey.

Brian received his formal public education through the Smyrna Public Schools and immediately became involved in the world of work. Brian began his career of work with a brief period with the Job Corps and then the State of Delaware Department of Maintenance, Building and Grounds. He left that position to begin his ten (10) years employment as a supervisor at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital in Seaford, DE. Brian then began working at the Harrington Raceway and Casino as the Executive Director of Support Services for the last twenty-five (25) years until the onset of his declining health earlier this year, which made it prohibitive for him to work. Brian also worked part time the last ten (10) years at The Manor House in Seaford, which he had identified as his

retirement job. Brian was loved and held to high regard by all his peers at work, those he supervised, as well as, the patrons at the Harrington Raceway and Casino.

One of Brian's greatest joys was riding his motorcycle. He was one of the Founding Fathers of the National Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Troopers Motorcycle Club, Inc. (NABSTMC). During the early years of the organization he was elected the National Treasurer. The NABSTMC added over forty-five (45) chapters during his tenure on the Executive Staff as National Treasurer. He was also one of the Founders of the Delaware Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, Inc., which under his leadership became the largest chapter in the NABSTMC. Brian selflessly dedicated countless hours, money and traveled thousands of miles in support of the aforementioned association and clubs.

Brian's character and influential demeanor touched the lives of many. His lighthearted approach to life was appreciated, as well as, his commanding presence when there was a task that demanded the collective efforts of all. He was a dedicated and loving family man and friend. He enjoyed helping others even though at times he refused help from others especially if he thought it would be an inconvenience. He was honest, reliable, trusted, as well as, a very proud man. Days when he didn't feel well himself, he continued to be active to ensure that family members and friends were well. A measure of a man's success is measured by how many people love and respect him. (African Proverb) To truly know Brian was to love and respect him. He leaves us with lasting memories that we can embrace forever.

Brian was preceded in death by his mother, Rosetta Gillis; grandmother, Ella Reed; and brother-in-law, Eugene Jackson (Lola) .

Brian leaves to cherish his precious memory, his loving wife of thirty-two years, Shirley Gillis; two stepsons, Andre Batson (Terri), Tremain Batson;

granddaughter, Ti' Anna Harris, the love of his life, all of Seaford, DE; and godson, Jalen Gillis. Brian is also survived by nine siblings, Juanita Taylor of Highland, CA, Barbara Wright of Clayton, DE, Cheritta Marvel (Clarence) of Smyrna, DE, Phyllis Marvel (Lawrence) of Smyrna, DE, Veronica Haman (Joseph) of Odessa, DE, Arnold Gillis of Cheswold, DE, Clinton Gillis (Carolyn) of Dover, DE, Yvonne Gillis-Fountain (Lance) of Smyrna, DE and Damon Gillis (Aimee) of Milford, DE; in-laws, Henrietta Cannon (Donald) of Seaford, DE, Thomas Jones of New Castle, DE, Emerson Jones (Marion) of Seaford, DE, Mary Duker (Tim) of Seaford, DE; a special friend who was like a brother, Dale "DK" Brown I (Tina) of Greensboro, MD; and a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **22**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - Dover
717 W Division St
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 678-8747
info@benniesmithfuneralhome.com
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bennie Smith Funeral Home - Dover
717 W Division St
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 678-8747
info@benniesmithfuneralhome.com
<https://www.benniesmithfuneralhome.com/>

Interment

OCT **22** (ET)

Odd Fellows Cemetery (Smyrna)
Smyrna, DE

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

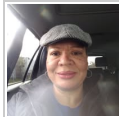
Bennie Smith Funeral Home - October 21, 2021 at 12:47 PM



“ *Denise Knowles Smith and family*



Denise Knowles - April 22, 2022 at 12:38 AM



My condolences to the family

Denise Knowles - April 22, 2022 at 12:41 AM

TB

“ *Brian, You were the first person that I met when we all did the Road Cleanup in Greenwood. As we talked about things, I was given the name of The White Buffalo. I took the name and representation to keep My Brother Soldiers safe. You will be missed, Have a Safe Journey. We will Ride Again.*

The White Buffalo - October 27, 2021 at 06:20 PM

DD

“ Brian, we will miss you so much. You were a kind and gentle man. You possessed the gift of Patience which allowed you to connect with anyone. That asset allowed you to lead the Delaware Buffalo Soldiers M/C for 11 years, and we were proud to call ourselves "SOLDIERS". The foundation that was built during the period of your leadership has allowed us to continue the legacy of the Original Buffalo Soldiers for 24 years. Your work here is done, and enjoy the fruits of your labor. Behind every good man; is a good woman. Shirley we thank you for sharing Brian and allowing us to become apart of your lives. We have so many great memories. We love you Shirley, and we will always be here for you!

"God Bless the Gillis Family"

*(Fuzzy & Clazzy)
Butch & Debbie Davis*

Debbie Davis - October 22, 2021 at 11:49 PM

ET

“ Eddie Tunstall lit a candle in memory of Brian J. Gillis



Eddie Tunstall - October 22, 2021 at 10:26 AM

ET

TO a man who has touch many hearts & lives to a man who i would been proud to call dad/ brother / cousin / uncle etc. As long as i have known him about 26 plus years he has always gave his best in whatever he set his mind to do and and accomplish everything with flying colors. He will be miss. love you brother. R.I P. PITBULL

Eddie Tunstall - October 22, 2021 at 10:42 AM

GC

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Gillis family. Gloria J Cottman*



Gloria J. Cottman - October 21, 2021 at 10:33 PM

DH

“ *Douglas&Michele Holden lit a candle in memory of Brian J. Gillis*



Douglas&Michele holden - October 21, 2021 at 06:14 PM

MH

“ *Michele Holden lit a candle in memory of Brian J. Gillis*



Michele holden - October 21, 2021 at 06:12 PM

GS

“ *My deepest sympathies go out to all of you! I met Brian while working at Manor House. He was always smiling and friendly and always smelled so good! He will truly be missed! Gina Sturm*

Gina Sturm - October 21, 2021 at 03:33 PM

CA

I did not know until Nov 12,2021 that Brian Passed Oct. 21,2021 I'm in shock. I kept asking for Brian to 3 Guards at Manor House"Welcome House" All so secretive.. Brian was a part of our life, he took us to Hospitals once stayed over night up in Newark, De.at hotel to be there for my husband, Robert released from hospital next day in a.m.. Brian took Robert & me to P.A. Airport knowing this would be our last Vacation together.(Robert passed Feb.12,2021) Shirley Brian's wife I'm so sad for you and your Grand daughter.. Brian with pride, always talk about your grand daughter like, what he was giving to her for Birthdays, Christmas, she bought a BIG Smile to his live. Missing you Brian Gillis a warm giving Man. from, Mrs. Carolyn Hagman.

Carolyn - November 15, 2021 at 10:47 AM

WW

“ *Willie & Michele Wayman lit a candle in memory of Brian J. Gillis*



Willie & Michele Wayman - October 21, 2021 at 02:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Brian J. Gillis.*



October 21, 2021 at 01:41 PM

AN

“ I had pleasure of knowing Brian at Harrington Casino Raceway. It didn't matter where you would see Brian he would always make sure that he would come over and speak to you and warm you with his smile. It's very rare that you find someone in management that cares about their coworkers as much as Brian did. God Bless you Brian.



Family keep the memories near to heart that will get you through the hard times.

Anna

anna - October 21, 2021 at 10:36 AM

EH

“ R.I.P.Karen and I will check on Shirley.No more pain and suffering.



Elton Holmes - October 20, 2021 at 09:55 PM

RH

“ Been my good neighbor since 1988. Was my wedding photographer 1999.
Was a shuttle driver for Delaware Special Olympics getting drivers there.
Brian my brother, rest easy now. I'll see you again one day up there in heaven.
I'll stop by the cemetery 1st chance I get. I'll bring you a cold one to enjoy
Robert Hathaway

Robert Hathaway - October 19, 2021 at 05:34 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Brian J. Gillis.*



October 19, 2021 at 12:07 PM



“ *Manor House Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Brian J. Gillis.*



Manor House Family - October 19, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ *So sorry to hear about the passing of my Cousin Brian Gillis. Memories of growing up and spending time at their home will always remain a part of me. Praying for for all of my family. Love you all. ❤️*

Beverly Guy Garnett - October 19, 2021 at 09:07 AM



“ *R.I.P.Brian.Will always remember you on how you tease Shirley and I about going to the senior citizens place to exercise.You have no more pain now.Karen Holmes*



Karen Holmes - October 18, 2021 at 11:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Brian J. Gillis.*



October 17, 2021 at 07:54 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Brian J. Gillis.*



October 15, 2021 at 08:28 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Brian J. Gillis.*



October 15, 2021 at 02:54 PM

VR

“ Brian,

Thank God that your life exemplified a good example of how a Christian should live. One of my members (Mil Davis) always expounded on the way you touched her life while working together at both the Casino located in Harrington DE. and the Manner House Security Acts located in Seaford De. God allowed you to take your wings and come home. You will be greatly missed. Continued prayers going up for Family and Friends.

*Respectfully Submitted,
God's Way Ministries
Apostle: Virginia Rainey-Carter*

Virginia Rainey - October 15, 2021 at 11:04 AM

AS

“ Brian i'm just Hearing about your passing we sure are going to miss you at shore stop. Fly high and we will all be together one day.

April savage - October 15, 2021 at 06:04 AM

RA

“ Ronald Andrews lit a candle in memory of Brian J. Gillis



Ronald Andrews - October 15, 2021 at 01:45 AM

RA

When I first meant Brian I found out we had a lot in common, and with that note we talked for hours. I was especially surprised that we were married into the same family. Brian was known for his good advise that he shared with everyone, but you better not talk bad about those "PHILADELPHIA EAGLES" true fan to the end! I will miss you my friend!

Ronald Andrews - October 15, 2021 at 01:51 AM

MD

“ *Millie Davis lit a candle in memory of Brian J. Gillis*



Millie Davis - October 14, 2021 at 05:20 PM

BB

“ *Gil was a great leader. One of the founders and pillars of our motorcycle association. It was a no brainer to sponsor his chapter into the association. I was proud to call him a friend. May God continue to uplift his family, friends, and those that he touched.*
Brian W. Bulow

Brian Bulow - October 14, 2021 at 04:22 PM

LD

I met Brian Gillis through a motorcycle group. Gil was a good man; and he will be missed. R.I.P. and my condolences to the family 🙏

Law Dog - October 14, 2021 at 11:41 PM

LT

“ *My Condolences to the Gills family keep God first and he will help you through this difficult time and your life you will have good days and you have bad days will always remember put God first*

Lynn Tate - October 14, 2021 at 10:18 AM

LW

“ *My Sincere condolences to the Gillis family.
May God wrap His loving arms around you all
during this difficult time.*

L. White



L. White - October 12, 2021 at 03:02 PM