



John Lee Gill

September 17, 1922 - August 10, 2011

JOHN LEE GILL

CHESTERTOWN, MD- John Lee Gill of New York died Aug. 10, 2011, at Chester River Manor. He was 88.

He was born in Chestertown, Maryland, the son of the late Charles Lee Gill, Jr. and Mable Coppage Gill.

He was preceded in death by his wife, T Smyth Gill, and his brother, William Thomas Hepburn Gill. Survivors include his sister, Jean Gill Smith of Centreville, Maryland and nieces, Cheryl Gill Lesh of Bel Air, Maryland, Jane Gill Lane of Chestertown and six grandnieces and grandnephews.

Mr. Gill was a Veteran of World War II, serving as a Naval Aviator in the Western Pacific on various aircraft carriers, mainly the USS Santee CVE 29. After the war he returned to Chestertown and completed Washington College, graduating with a B.A. in History.

He served as a Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation from 1951 to 1977. He was assigned to offices in the Midwest, West and New York City.

After his retirement, he and his wife resided in New York City.

Mr. Gill was an active volunteer with the New York City Fire Department, being honored as an "Honorary Deputy Chief, Fire Department, New York and the USS Intrepid CV 19 Aircraft Carrier Museum. He was presented with a Seat of Honor aboard the Intrepid on Memorial Day 2011.

He was a member of The Fire Bell Club of New York, Entrepid Museum

Volunteers, U.S. Naval Institute, Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, Inc. and the Escort Carrier Sailors and Airmen Association.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00PM on September 24, 2011 at the Church of the Incarnation, 209 Madison Avenue (Corner of Madison and 35th Sts), New York, NY 10016 (Inquiries at 212-689-6350).

Another Memorial Service will be held in Centreville, Maryland on the banks of the Chester River in October, at a date to be determined by the family.

Inquiries should be made to Mr. Gill's Sister, Jean Gill Smith, at 410-758-1659 as to arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made in memory of John to the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation, 21 Asch Loop, Bronx, New York, NY 10475 (718-379-1900).

Previous Events

Service

JAN 1. 12:00 AM.

To be announced at a later date

Tribute Wall



“ *John Lee Gill*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *John Lee Gill*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *John Lee Gill*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I first met John when I was a young fireman assigned to Rescue Company 1 in Manhattan. I was impressed first by the high esteem the rescue firemen held for him. As I got to really know John and his beloved T, I could see why they thought so much of him. I am very proud to say I was friends with John since 1983. We spoke often about history and he was very generous with use of his vast collection of books to help me with my research as I began writing books and articles about fires and fire history.*

I thought so much of John that I named a character in my first novel "The Twelfth Hour" for him.

John was a true gentleman. And I feel myself a better person for having known him. God bless you John and T.

Paul Hashagen Rescue 1 FDNY (retired)##imported-begin##Paul Hashagen##imported-end##

August 12, 2011 at 06:11 PM



“ I had the priviledge of visting Uncle Johnny with my Mom and daughter (Julianna) last April in NYC. I had not been to visit since I was a kid and it brought back some great memories with him and Aunt T. The apratment still looked the same and Uncle Johnny was as facinating as ever. I remeber the Olympics parade we atteneded with him and Aunt T in the 80's and we passed the firehouse where he had some great friends. My Mom still has the picture of Chris (brother) and I with the fie gear on next to the fire truck hanging on her wall. I think i was 11 years old at the time. As Uncle Johnny walked us out through the park outside of his apartment, he called the balck squirrel's like he always did and my daughter watched in amazement as I did when I was 11 years old.

Uncle Johnny was a great man and I alwsy enjoyed every conversation with him. I am glad he had such a great longlasting life and now he is with Aunt T and our other loved ones forever.##imported-begin##Jim Smyth (Son of Scott and Ronnie)##imported-end##

August 12, 2011 at 02:32 PM



“ I would like to offer the family my deepest condolences. I am a member of the New York Fire Bell Club and have know John for over ten years. He was a gentleman and a good friend. I will miss him very much.

Allen Hayes##imported-begin##Allen Hayes##imported-end##

August 12, 2011 at 02:22 PM



“ Johnny Lee and his late wife T Gill were my aunt and uncle, and like all the cousins, I have wonderful memories of them. They were like second parents to generations of kids in the Wood, Smyth, and Gill families. Their apartment was always open to relatives and friends visiting New York, and Johnny was always delighted to share his specialized knowledge of used book stores and all things nautical related to the city with his guests. Last year my husband and I had the immense privilege of visiting the U.S.S. Intrepid with him -- the world's most knowledgeable docent! We will all miss him very much, but are happy for his long and productive life. I hope that he and his many friends from the FDNY who lost their lives on 9/11 are happily together again.##imported-begin##Susan Wood##imported-end##

August 11, 2011 at 08:28 PM