



William H. Gehlert

MAY 21, 1926 - MAR 14, 2014



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William H. “Wil” Gehlert, age 87, of Rehoboth Beach, DE peacefully passed away while listening to his favorite big band music and surrounded by his children on March 14, 2014. He is deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Wil was born in Philadelphia, PA on May 21, 1926, the son of Harry Gehlert and Magdalene Louise Katherine Haering Gehlert.

Wil was passionate about his lifelong career in radio broadcasting. He had his first encounter in broadcasting as a Boy Scout in 1938 on Philadelphia’s KYW with the “Boy Scout Jamboree of the air.” In 1943, after attending Olney High School, Wil traveled to California to work as a propeller mechanic and free lanced in radio in the evenings. In 1944, Wil began his naval service. He was stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he built and operated the Armed Forces Radio Station WVTZ. Upon his return to Philadelphia in 1947, he began his career in professional radio broadcasting. Later, he moved to the Wilmington, DE market where he became well known for his “Wake up with Willie” morning show, first with WTUX and later at WAMS. In 1964, Wil moved to the only radio station in West Chester, PA, WCHE where he became the co-owner, general manager, salesman, engineer, copy writer, ad-libber and morning show host.

After his retirement from the WCHE and broadcasting in 1986, Wil relocated to Rehoboth Beach Delaware, where he met, fell in love with, and married Barbara (Clendaniel) Eynon. He and Barbara enjoyed many cruises together including the Panama Canal and most of the Caribbean. Wil spent his days sailing, boating, fishing, and involving himself in many social community activities including most recently the Harbour Lights CHEER Senior Center.

Wil was a proud father, grandfather, and great grandfather, offering his love and support for his children and grandchildren in every way he could.

In addition to his parents, Wil was preceded in death by a brother, Richard Gehlert, his first wife Shirley Towers Gehlert and his second wife, Barbara Gehlert.



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Wil is survived by a son and three daughters: Christopher (Chip) William Gehlert of Downingtown, PA, Vicki L. Gehlert of Port St Lucie, FL, Wendy Gehlert Grills (Husband Doug) of Clifton, VA, Beth A. Matlack (Husband Chris) of Cumming, GA; Seven Grandchildren: Rachel Taylor (Husband Chris) of New York, NY, Tyler Grills of Clifton, VA, Annie, Alison and Jack Matlack of Cumming, GA, Catie & Ryan Gehlert of Downingtown, PA, and One Great Grandchild Maisie Arden Winter Taylor of New York, NY. He is also survived by two step daughters: Dawn Bushey and Kimberly Somers, of Rehoboth; 3 step grandchildren: Heather (Somers) Blizzard, James and Jeffrey Alwine; 2 step great-grandchildren: Riley & Drake Worrall and two brothers: George Robert Gehlert of Philadelphia, PA and Harry Raymond Gehlert of Baltimore, MD.

A memorial service is being planned for the spring. Details will be announced. Arrangements by Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Lewes, DE.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Harbour Lights CHEER Senior Center – Lewes, Delaware - Contact: Dave Tidwell at 302-854-2888 or Delaware Hospice Center.

Please sign Mr. Gehlert's online guestbook at this site.

PDF Printable Version



Tribute Wall

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WE

Wendy posted:

Please select life legacy to read all about Dad. MISS YOU DAD!

August 19 at 8:00 PM

CH

Christopher Hagee posted:

It was a yr. ago this month, March, 2014 that the late William ("Willie") Gehlert, a since-retired long-time radio on-air personality died. He had, most likely his biggest claim at sta. WCHE (1520 AM), West Chester, Penna. as its long-time sta. co-owner, Gen. Mgr. and Mon.-Fri. AM drive-time DJ. He worked at WCHE Radio, West Chester, Penna. from 1965 till December, 1986. In 1964 both he/the late Frankie Robino, Jr. purchased West Chester, Penna. radio sta./and they were its co-owners till late-1986. Prior to his mid-1960s arrival at West Chester, Penna.'s WCHE (1520 AM) the late William ("Willie") Gehlert had worked as an on-air personality at radio sta. WAMS (1380 AM), greater Wilm., Del. area during the late-1950s/early-1960s. During his WCHE (1520 AM) tenure he had Mon.-Fri. AM drive-time pgrm. called "Wake Up With Willie", where payed tunes, primarily from the Big Band era of the 1930s/1940s. He's sorely missed. May he R.I.P.

March 8 at 8:00 PM

RC

Richard & Dale Lenat (Far Out Cactus) posted:

Our sincere condolences to the entire family. I had many fascinating and stimulating conversations with Wil over breakfasts at the counters of some of WC's diners many a year ago. And we will never forget the joy of having Wendy as a teen-aged employee at the old cactus greenhouse on Lenape Rd. , alas long, long ago.

November 1 at 8:00 PM

JM

Joe And Marge posted:

Our sympathies at this late date, still think about him whenever the children are around. Love from both of us.

September 17 at 8:00 PM

LP

Lois Lipton Parker posted:

He was loved by everyone and you cannot think of WAMS without thinking of Willie Gaylord.... and his Wake Up With Willie Show. I enjoyed working with him.

May 4 at 8:00 PM



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PM

Patrick Marron posted:

God bless and rest in peace William.

March 23 at 8:00 PM

MC

Michael Crapps posted:

With deepest sympathy.

March 20 at 8:00 PM

NH

Nancy Howland posted:

My heart goes out to everyone as you feel this powerful loss. Many prayers for comfort and peace in your sorrow.

March 20 at 8:00 PM

GG

George & Barbara Gehlert posted:

We were saddened by the passing of your dad and our brother Bill. We both regret that our relationship was less than ideal over the past many years and we were excited over the prospect of a renewed fellowship after our reconciliation at the hospital. It is our desire to have a family relationship with all of you. We have missed too much, sadly. But our hope for the future is that we can have a new beginning.

March 20 at 8:00 PM

CM

Carrie Maglich posted:

May you rest in God's peace and your family have comfort in their faith and fond memories....

March 20 at 8:00 PM

HF

Heather & Ken Fahmy posted:

We were so sad to hear of your father's passing. May wonderful memories of your special father help you through this very difficult time.

March 18 at 8:00 PM



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BD

Bev And Don Durham posted:

Our thoughts are with you all!

March 18 at 8:00 PM

KF

Karen Fishman posted:

To the whole Gehlert family, my most sincere condolences for your loss. He leaves behind a wonderful legacy in his children and grand and great grand children and was a lovely character to have known.

March 17 at 8:00 PM

PM

Pat And John Mandrell posted:

Our fondest memories of Bill (Wil) are the years in the 50s when he taught us to sail on the Choptank River. We have remembered him often when we sailed in the Pacific Ocean the years that followed. His family and loved ones are in our prayers.

March 17 at 8:00 PM

BH

Beverly Hopkins posted:

My prayers continue with the family. I'm very glad to get to know Will. He loved his family and was so proud of his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed his career as a broadcaster of many years. God be with you all, Beverly

March 17 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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