



Gilbert Oscar Dowden

DEC 9, 1924 - JAN 23, 2010



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Gilbert O. Dowden was born in Leesville, Louisiana, on December 9, 1924, the son of Isadore and Nancy Legg Dowden. He went to be with the Lord on Saturday, January 23, 2010, in his home with his family at his side at the age of eighty-five years.

After graduating from Leesville High School in 1942 and at the age of eighteen, Gilbert enlisted with the United States Marine Corps. He was a member of the 5th Infantry Division and fought bravely in the battle of Iwo Jima. When he returned home, Gilbert married Doris Lewis on June 18, 1943. With thirty-seven years service, he retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1981.

Gilbert is highly revered by his family and friends as one of the most Christ-like men they have ever known-humble, compassionate, and kind. A dear son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and friend, he especially valued spending time with those closest to him. Gilbert adored his grandchildren, who affectionately called him "D-Daddy", and he treasured their time together. For most of his life, Gil was an avid sportsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. After retirement, he began woodworking and spent many hours creating for his cherished family and friends.

He was a selfless servant of the Lord and faithful member of East Leesville Baptist Church since 1946. Over the years, Gilbert served as Church Clerk, Treasurer, Trustee, Chairman of the Building Committee, and he was the Sunday School Secretary for over thirty years.

Gilbert was preceded in death by his parents, Isadore and Nancy Legg Dowden; brothers, J.B. Dowden, Glen Dowden, and Ray Dowden, and one sister, Elouise Dowden, all of Leesville.

After sixty-one years of marriage, Gilbert leaves behind his wife and soul mate Doris Lewis Dowden. He also leaves his beloved son, Stephen C. Dowden and wife Cindy Moss Dowden, two grandchildren, Stephanie Dowden Moon and her husband Justin T. Moon, and Douglas Lewis Dowden, and one precious great-grandson, Silas Caleb Moon, six months. Other immediate



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survivors include his brother Huey Dowden and wife Joyce, and his sister Helen Dowden Blair, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from 5 until 9 PM on Monday, the 25th of January, 2010, at East Leesville Baptist Church, 266 Alexandria Highway, Leesville, Louisiana. A memorial service will be conducted at the church on Tuesday, the 25th of January, 2010, at 2 PM, officiated by Reverend Carl Burris and Reverend Gil Arthur. Arrangements are under the direction of Labby Memorial Funeral Home, 601 South Fourth Street, Leesville, Louisiana 71446, (337) 238-1358.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Gilbert's memory to Compassion in Action Ministry at East Leesville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1511, Leesville, Louisiana 71446.

"Be strong and courageous. Be not afraid; neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9



Tribute Wall

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TL

Ted Ledet posted:

DD,\r\n\r\nMy heart goes out to you and your family in your time of loss. Gilbert was a wonderful man, and I will always have fond memories of both of you!\r\n\r\nTed Ledet

June 2 at 6:09 AM

EA

Evelyn Arpke posted:

sorry for your loss and will keep you in thought tomorrow.

June 2 at 6:09 AM

NG

Norma And John Gass posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

June 2 at 6:09 AM

CH

Charlie Holton posted:

Mrs. Doris,\r\n\r\nSo sorry about your loss. I know that you will miss Mr. Gilbert. He was a great man. Praying for you and your family,\r\n\r\nCharlie Holton

June 2 at 6:09 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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