



Robert William Gibson

September 5, 1926 - October 25, 2018

Robert William Gibson, age 92, of Oskaloosa and formerly of Albia, passed away on Thursday, October 25, 2018, at the Serenity House in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

He was born on September 5, 1926, to Frank Robert and Sarah Jane (Teasdale) Gibson in Albia, Iowa. Following in the footsteps of his father and brother, Robert enjoyed the nickname "Boots." He grew up and graduated from the Albia High School with the Class of 1944. Following graduation, Robert enlisted in the U.S. Navy Sea Bees in 1944 and served his country during WWII in Okinawa. He was honorably discharged in May of 1946 and was employed at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Ottumwa, Iowa until November of 1946. On July 18, 1947, he was united in marriage to Agnes Cecilia Nalevanko in Rock Island, Illinois. To this union, 2 daughters were born, Victoria Lynn and Helen Louise.

Robert started working at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Knoxville, Iowa, in 1948. With a year's break in service from the VA, he worked at the Post Office in Albia. He then returned to the VA, retiring from there in 1981 with 28 years of service. Robert had a total of 31 ½ years of government service at the age of 55.

Robert and Agnes kept busy with farming while raising their daughters in Marion County, IA. Robert would milk dairy cows, plant row crops, and put up hay on his "off" hours from the VA. In 1970, Robert and Agnes purchased an acreage in Monroe County and built a new home. Robert's additional skills abounded-carpenter, bricklayer, and plumber. His farm friends included Quarter horses, Black Angus calves, geese, and kitties. Robert and Agnes lived a happy life on the acreage for 40 years prior to her death.

Boots enjoyed reading the Monroe County Newspaper and looking for the articles of memories past. One such article had this sports highlight mentioned: "1944-Bob Gibson's last second basket earned a one-point win over the Bloomfield Maroons for our Demons, 28-27." He also enjoyed going to the American Legion for stag night suppers, reading library books, and doing Sudoku. He was able to do the Rubik's Cube completely, which his grandkids and great-grandkids thought was pretty cool.

In 2009 at the young age of 82, Robert was so happy that he was able to go on the WWII Honor Flight to Washington D.C. He proudly wore his yellow jacket and black cap that everyone in the group was presented with before the flight. Many of you may have seen his trip pictures. Robert and his daughter, Helen, watched the progress of the Welcome Home Soldier monument being built. They made many a drive-by to “inspect.” Several family members have toured the site with him and he was always eager to go.

Robert is survived by his 2 daughters, Vicki (Cliff) Avon and Helen (Denny) Smith; 4 granddaughters, Amy (Scott) Bredar of Eldridge, IA, Megan (Tom) Cox of Bettendorf, IA, Suzanne (Chris) Bauer of Indianola, IA, and Carmen (Kevin) Kelderman of New Sharon, IA; 10 great-grandchildren, Cael, Carley, & Cadey Bredar, Jacob & Carter Cox, Amanda & Mitchell Bauer, and Jensen, Ty & Jack Kelderman; and a sister, Debbie (Paul) Higginbotham of Sully, IA. Robert is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Agnes; his parents, Sarah Jane and Frank Gibson; a brother, Matthew “Junior” Gibson; a sister and brother-in-law, Virginia and Ed Overturf; and a grandson, Jeffrey Robert Avon.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, November 2, 2018, at Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Robert’s family present to greet family and friends.

Graveside services will be held at 12:00 p.m., Friday, November 2, 2018, at Oak View Cemetery in Albia, with Pastor Richard Grimes officiating. Military rites will be provided by the American Legion of Albia, Melrose and Lovilia.

A memorial has been established to the Welcome Home Soldier Monument.

Cemetery

Oak View Cemetery

602 2nd Ave.

Albia, IA, 52531

Events

NOV 2 **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:30AM

Tharp Funeral Home

116 Benton Ave., West Albia, IA, US, 52531

NOV 2 **Graveside Service** 12:00PM

Oak View Cemetery

602 2nd Ave., Albia, IA, US, 52531

Comments



“ Connie and Gary Mike and Mary Ann purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Robert William Gibson.



Connie and Gary Mike and Mary Ann - October 31, 2018 at 10:12 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert William Gibson.



October 30, 2018 at 03:07 PM



“ My heart hurts.

Sometimes the lives of random people intersect and it is obvious it was meant to be...

This dear man, "BOOTS", my friend, took me under his wing and taught me about caring for and training young horses. He trusted me to care for his "best friends" when he had to go away and gave me the gift of seeing a brand new colt. The hours in the barn working beside him as he taught me what to do and what to be cautious of when working with green horses are some of my most treasured memories. I looked forward to walking into that barn every day knowing he would challenge me with a new task while working with one of his horses. I can still hear him talking to them so gentle yet firm. I can hear Agnes' voice when she'd pop in saying "Robert suppers ready". You might think these are childhood memories they are not I was a grown mom with no horse experience when I stopped by to introduce myself and asked if he could use help feeding and grooming the horses. I'm so grateful he took a chance on me.

Thank you "Boots" for being patient and willing to teach me about your love for horses. You do and always will have a special place in my heart.

Rhonda Rae Kness
Neighbor



“ Always loved as a kid coming out to the Farm. Uncle Boots would always play his guitar and would always let us ride the horses. He put all three of us up on Tony and said..."Now, don't let him take you into the barn". Lo and Behold, we ended up in the barn! There are so many great memories it's hard to just come up with one! Loved picking him up in the later years after our memorial day run to the cemeteries and we went and got ice cream. As we were leaving with him, I turned to the people at the assisted living place that we were his relatives so they didn't think he was being abducted! Rest in peace Uncle Boots! Thoughts and prayers are with Vicki and Helen and their families! Until we meet again Uncle Boots!.....Love, Peg

Peg Mavin - October 27, 2018 at 09:29 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Peg Mavin - October 27, 2018 at 08:53 AM