



**Jerry Gillett**

passed away on Saturday, February 12, 2011 in Tucson, Arizona. He is survived by his beloved wife, Donna and their children, Lisa Gillett of Moraga, Sue Gillett of Scottsdale and Dan Gillett of San Jose; three very special grandchildren, Tyler of San Jose and Cody and Casey of Moraga. Jerry was born on June 30, 1931 to Charles and Lynda Gillett in St. Paul, MN where he had many childhood adventures enjoying the magic of Minnesota's lakes. He attended Hamline University in St. Paul, MN where he was involved in sports, student government and journalism. While at Hamline, he and Donna found each other and began their enduring romance. He participated in a semester program in Washington, D.C. studying government and was very active in the Eisenhower presidential campaign. With a double major in Economics and Political Science, he graduated from Hamline in 1953. He then spent two years serving in the Army. Upon returning to Minnesota, he married the love of his life, Donna, on June 16, 1956. Shortly thereafter he began his 35 year career with IBM. In 1958, they moved to Omaha, where Jerry spent the next three years working on the development and installation of computers at over 50 Air Force bases in the US and abroad. At the completion of his job in Omaha, he was sent with the growing family to Tokyo, Japan. Living in Tokyo for two years enhanced their love of travel and the Asian culture. They returned to the US with a short stay in Washington, D.C. In 1965 they moved to Los Angeles where Jerry managed a group of IBM systems engineers for some of IBM's largest customers.

Arizona Daily Star 20 Feb 2011 Pg B6

Following a few years in L.A., and with a full family, they moved to Saratoga, CA where they stayed for 25 years. After another two year stay in Japan for IBM, Jerry retired from the corporation. Jerry and Donna then moved to the Tucson area. Their love of travel and exploration continued. He had a love of living life to the fullest. Life was an adventure, be it talking to a grandson or visiting one of the over 100 countries he went to. Although he is no longer with us, we like to think that Jerry is still traveling somewhere over the rainbow. Goodnight, my love. Services will be held at **VISTOSO FUNERAL HOMES**, 2285 E. Rancho Vistoso Blvd., Oro Valley, on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. The family suggests any memorials be sent to UA Foundation for Parkinson's Research c/o UA College of Medicine, PO Box 245018, Tucson, AZ in Jerry's memory. He will be greatly missed. Visit the online guestbook at [www.vistosofuneralhome.com](http://www.vistosofuneralhome.com). To express condolences visit the guestbook at [www.Legacy.com/Tucson/obituaries.asp](http://www.Legacy.com/Tucson/obituaries.asp)

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