



William "Bus" Gillespie

February 28, 1952 - January 28, 2018

William Sharp "Bus" Gillespie, 65, passed away on January 28, 2018, surrounded by his loving family at home in Provo, Utah, after a nine-year battle with leukemia. Bus filled his life with service to others as a teacher, coach, counselor, scoutmaster, bishop, father, and grandfather. His interests and vocations directly benefited those around him.

Bus was born on February 28, 1952 in Provo, Utah. He was the fifth child of Robert and Wilma (Wiscombe) Gillespie. After graduating from Orem High School in 1970, he served a full time mission in Vienna, Austria from 1971-73. He studied History and Education at Utah State University, graduating in 1978. His student-teaching stint led to a full-time career as a History and Government teacher at Orem High School, a position that he held for 28 years. He was proud of his students and fondly remembered by them. As a teacher of Government, his classes dominated the statewide "We the People" speech competition, resulting in seven different trips to Washington, D.C. for his students. He also coached wrestling and football at Orem High. Following his retirement from Orem High, he received a Master's Degree in Counseling and returned to Alpine School District to work as a counselor and teacher at Polaris High School for 12 years.

When Bus wasn't teaching, coaching, working summers at Muir Roberts cherry factory, building houses for relatives, or playing softball, he could be found spending time with his family. He married Susan Spencer in December 1978, and together they were the parents of six pretty awesome children. The family shares sweet childhood memories of working with Bus in the apple orchard, including a weekly irrigation day each summer; fabulous family camping trips; and family dinners where Bus waxed philosophical about Milton Friedman's economic theories or Marxism's influence on the world. He coached all of the girls' softball teams, went to band performances, art openings, plays, and baby blessings. He was an attentive father and loving grandfather.

Bus had living faith in God and was a devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He was an excellent scoutmaster (on five different occasions), counselor, and twice a bishop. He also enjoyed serving as an ordinance worker in the

Provo temple. His most recent calling as a bishop of a BYU YSA ward was a perfect culmination of his talents in leading young adults and teaching the gospel in an accessible way. He was greatly blessed during his cancer treatment by the faith, prayers and fasting of his ward and stake.

Bus was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Wilma (Wiscombe) Gillespie; his parents-in-law, Warren and Marie (Christensen) Spencer; his older sister, Petrea Kelly; and two sisters-in-law, JoAnn and Dorothy Gillespie. He is survived by his wife, Susan Spencer Gillespie (Provo), and children: Jethro (Robyn) Gillespie, Spanish Fork; Jan (Ben) Francisco, Lander, Wyoming; Thad Gillespie (John Valdez), Provo; Toni (Ben) Gaines, Highland; Emily (Russell) Oliphant, Provo; and Matt (Rachelle) Gillespie, St. George, Utah. He also has 16 superfans (grandchildren) who will miss him dearly, and his monster swing-pushing abilities.

All are invited to funeral services at the Edgemont Seventh Ward building at 555 E 3230 N, Provo, Utah. A viewing will be held on Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 PM. The funeral will be on Wednesday at 11:00 AM, with a viewing preceding from 9:30-10:30 AM.

The family wishes to thank the medical staff on the East 8th floor at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City. We appreciate their help during the past two months of Bus' treatment.

As we grieve Bus's passing and look back at his life, we are grateful that he did not idle away his time, limited as it was. "Daylight's burning" was a common refrain from him early in the morning. He spent his days—working and playing--in service to others. His legacy continues on in us as we go forward carrying his influence and example in our hearts.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

Cemetery

Provo City Cemetery

610 South State Street
Provo, UT, 84606

Events

JAN 30 **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

Edgemont 7th Ward
555 East 3230 North, Provo, UT, US

JAN 31 **Viewing** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

Edgemont 7th Ward
555 East 3230 North, Provo, UT, US

JAN 31 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Edgemont 7th Ward
555 East 3230 North, Provo, UT, US

Comments



“ He we super fun to have for a grampa. He always loved to tease us.

Anna Gaines - July 21, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ We rented a bounce house and grandpa played with us and tackled us and we had so much fun.

Lincoln Gillespie - February 08, 2018 at 12:36 PM



“ We served in Austria at the same time many years ago - never as missionary companions, but in some of the same areas with the same people. He was known as a tough, hard-working elder. The end of an era!

Paul Glauser - February 03, 2018 at 10:54 AM



“ Bus was my favorite teacher and favorite coach. I loved going to his class with his laid back attitude, still having the ability to command the respect of his students and the athletes he coached. I alot about history, sportsmanship, and football. I wasn't the greatest football player but the coaches on that team and especially Bus contributed greatly to the success I have had in my life. His son is now my daughters teacher and I was proud to let him know what a great man his father was.

Rick Herlevi - February 02, 2018 at 06:58 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Bus at Polaris in the digital curriculum for the last 2 years. I was continually amazed at his ability to help students with all subjects of packets. His far-reaching knowledge and intelligence was overshadowed only by his love of helping students. He was so kind and funny he drew all to him. I deeply miss our daily talks on just about every subject. He provided such an example of cheerfully carrying on with the business of daily life despite illness, that I am forever changed.

Robbie Butler - February 01, 2018 at 12:25 PM



“ I was standing at a football practice waiting for my turn to do whatever we were doing and he called me over and pointed to some guys who were working on the roof of a house across the street and said, "See those poor guys over there? That's what happens when you don't graduate from high school." I have been laughing about that for 30 years.

Brady Deucher - February 01, 2018 at 10:02 AM



“ Bus was such a great coach! He made playing football fun. As a skinny defensive end he taught me a wrestling move that was a perfect change up. He had me crouch very quickly under a fullbacks block and then quickly pop up and tackle the running back. When I did it, and it worked just like he said it would, he smile and laugh let me know that he was just as excited as I was. When you have a coach that can share that kind of joy, that you know is thrilled for your success, well...then you know you have a coach! I thank God that I was lucky enough to play for Bus. What a stud! Until we meet again coach! I love you.

Chad Lewis - January 31, 2018 at 11:37 PM



“ Bus Gillespie was the crew boss at Muir-Roberts, Co., in Provo during the summer of 1976 where he put me to work nailing wood lids on sweet cherry boxes. He was a good supervisor, and a likeable guy who made friends with everyone there. He also was 'better looking and more intelligent' than any of his brothers or anyone else who worked or had ever worked at the place, he told me.

Steve White
Mapleton, Utah

Steve White - January 31, 2018 at 04:43 PM



“ I am another AP Government student of Bus. We were lucky enough to win the state tournament and get to go to DC with him. I really enjoyed that class and being taught by him. He was always great to encourage us, and help us do our best, and just have fun doing it. I think my love for politics has in part come from him.

BJ Taylor - January 31, 2018 at 02:12 PM



“ When I was a senior in high school, I had Bus for AP government. I'd always been a bit of a procrastinator, but senioritis coupled with some other circumstances had turned me into a terrible student, and a major paper I should have written and submitted weeks before was yet unfinished. My grade had taken a nosedive, but that wasn't what I was worried about. I just didn't want Mr. Gillespie to think that I didn't care about the assignment, about the class, or about him. So, I finished the paper, even though it was no longer eligible for credit, and slipped it under the classroom door with a sheepish note asking not for a better grade or credit for the project, but for forgiveness. It's a rare teacher who can help a student care more about learning than about a grade. Bus was both funny and kind (a unique combination), an expert teacher and coach, and a good man. To Susan and family--may happy memories of your husband and father bring you peace and comfort as you mourn. God bless you all.

Marilee Clark - January 31, 2018 at 11:59 AM



“ While we were able to talk off and on at teaching events through the years, there are two memories that really stick out in my mind. The first was walking the mall in Washington D.C. where he was reflecting on teaching and education. I had so much to learn and I appreciated how thoughtful and influential his teaching philosophy was. I quote him to my own students. The second was driving with him to a meeting in Salt Lake City and hearing him talk about family and marriage. I was going through some hard times with my own family and he once again, put things in perspective for me. He has always been a wonderful mentor.

Axel Ramirez - January 31, 2018 at 10:08 AM



“ One summer I stayed with the Gillespie family during the living room remodel. I kept playing with the new light switches and was really annoying Uncle Bus. He said, "You want a switch, I'll give you a switch!" He disappeared into the garage and when he came back, chased me around the house. I was terrified, but when he caught me, he gave me the old light switch from the remodel.

Kimber Christensen - January 30, 2018 at 11:36 PM



“ There are times in our lives when we are graced with the presence of someone that wildly impacts who we become. Bus changed so many lives and I am so grateful to be one of them. He was a teacher, mentor, friend, coach and so much more. They say a teacher affects eternity as his influence goes on beyond measure. That is infinitely true when you think about Bus. He was so much more than what he taught. He opened minds and touched hearts through his generous spirit. I am forever grateful for the kindness and generosity he offered during those critical and trying teenage years, as they carried me through all the tomorrows. His example, kindness and love for those he taught, knew and loved was an inspiring beacon, as he truly saw not what we were then, but all that we could become. We will miss him, his infectious smile and love for others. Wishing you moments of peace and comfort as you remember him and celebrate his remarkable life.



Lisa Oyler - January 30, 2018 at 05:50 PM



“ "I have very fond memories as a kid hanging out at the Gillespie's home. Bus was always kind and fun to be around. Of course we were neighbors so if you didn't like us around you never said anything. Some comfort and peace is that I wonder what kind of mischief Bus and Lanny Norris (Dad) are going to get into now. Prayers and blessings of peace to the Gillespie family on behalf of the Norris family. He will be deeply missed.

Crystal Norris Partney - January 30, 2018 at 05:23 PM



“ Bus was the reason I always had something to use for those party games where you are supposed to share something no one knew about you. Or the "three truths and a lie" game; they never guessed right. The reason? Though female, I lettered in wrestling when I was a senior in high school. I was a "mat maid" for the OHS wrestling team and Bus said I did such a great job that he lettered me, even though I didn't actually wrestle. I still have the card he wrote me that was so complimentary. Receiving that kind of praise as a teenager is rare, and it changed me. He had a way of encouraging people that made them want to try hard and do good. Peace and blessings to his family. What a great man.

Cindee Stoker Nielsen - January 30, 2018 at 04:12 PM



“ I had the pleasure of listening to Bus teach the last four years of his career. He taught government and citizenship classes in my classroom during my prep period here at Polaris High School. I was always impressed by the breadth of his knowledge and by his ability to make complex subjects easy to understand for the diverse students here at our school. Bus was a kind and generous person and I will miss him.

Patrick Tolman - January 30, 2018 at 11:06 AM



“ Bus was such a fun guy to teach with and to coach with. I remember sophomore football practices when the kids were stretching and we would punt the ball back and forth between the players and laugh like crazy if the ball almost hit them, kept them awake. It seemed like Bus always had something positive to say and was a great influence on a lot of people, you will be missed but remembered

greg sheide - January 30, 2018 at 11:02 AM



“ If you are lucky enough, there is someone that comes into your life and makes a significant impact for good. Bus Gillespie was that person for me. As a coach and a friend he constantly gave with no expectation of return. I am a witness to his high moral character that was never compromised and I got to witness that in many aspects. He is responsible for many successes in my life including introducing me to my wife (which I am eternally grateful). I am honored to have been able to know him, learn from him, call him coach, boss and friend. Thank you Bus for making a lifelong impact on so many, but selfishly, especially on me. Never forgotten.

Mark Willis - January 30, 2018 at 10:20 AM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Bus at East Shore High School for a few years and he quickly become my dear friend. He was always so kind, so patient and such a wonderful example and strength to those around him. He supported me when a time came that I felt so hurt and alone and I will treasure that always. I am so sorry for the loss of such a wonderful man. His family was his whole life and I remember his office walls being covered with pictures of his family and grandchildren that he was so proud of and talked about often. I will miss you Bus and am so thankful for having you be apart of my life. Spread your angel wings and fly! Until we meet again sweet friend.



Chesley Breaud - January 30, 2018 at 10:14 AM



“ I will miss my friend and neighbor, Bus Gillespie. Since Leuri and I moved to our home in 2005, built on former Gillespie Orchards land, and still sporting three apple trees he once nurtured and now entrusts to me, Bus and Susan have been our friends, my home teachees, and Bus our Bishop, our fruit tree mentor, and teller of great stories of service to others in his many callings in the Church of Jesus Christ. Never did I hear Bus utter an unkind word. He taught me compassion, service, forgiveness, and the true meaning of being faithful to the end. If he feared death in the midst of his affliction with cancer, I never perceived a hint of it. After returning from LDS Hospital, his fate all but known, he said, "Going like this has it's advantages."

Bus Gillespie leaves a legacy of family, service, faith, education, compassion, forgiveness, love, and humor; but these attributes only scratch the surface. My dear neighbor and friend gave me a gift I can only repay to my Lord; how to live while enduring to the end. A finer example of a Christian would be impossible to find. Now safe in the arms of our Savior, free from the pain of this temporary realm, goes this man free from guile to rest with the Saints of God.

Stevan Ross Davis - January 30, 2018 at 01:56 AM



“ So sorry to hear of the loss of Bus Gillespie. I had him for both US History and AP Government, where under his direction, our class went to Washington DC to compete. He was an amazing man and teacher and I learned so much from him. I even majored in history in college! I remember going to a BBQ at his house and he also came to my wedding reception. What a great teacher and person! Now that I'm older and have kids of my own, I see the importance of having mentors like Bus was to me in my youth--he truly made a positive difference in my life and many, many others.



Leslie Peterson Myers - January 29, 2018 at 10:05 PM



“ One of the best! My Sr year trip to DC with Bus and his sweet wife with our Government class still stands as one of the most life-changing events of my life. I learned more about the sacredness of those who sacrificed for our freedoms on that trip than anywhere. I loved that class, loved those kids, and loved the way he taught us to love history right along with him. Oh that my kids are lucky enough to have even one teacher as good as you!

Kate Rogerson - January 29, 2018 at 09:28 PM



“ Bus didn't just teach from his head, he taught from his heart! Always giving more than asked for in return! See ya on the flip side Bus!

carlee sunshine hemmert - January 29, 2018 at 06:55 PM



“ I have nothing but love and respect for Bus and his amazing family. What a great, great man!

spencer fillmore - January 29, 2018 at 05:08 PM



“ Bus taught and influenced our entire family for good. His unique combination of humility and strong character endeared him to many. We are grateful for his release from pain & suffering but will miss his Christlike influence.

Robert K. Gardner - January 29, 2018 at 04:19 PM



“ Bus was one of the greatest men I have every had the chance to work with. I do not say this lightly...

David Long - January 29, 2018 at 02:49 PM



“ 3 files added to the album tribute wall



Toni Gaines - January 29, 2018 at 02:18 PM