



Joseph William Gillett was born on September 19, 1928 in Nelson, BC—the first born in a family of eight to Charlotte & George Gillett.

His family moved and lived in the river bottom in Lethbridge until flooding forced them to relocate to the north side, and like many people, they were no strangers to poverty. Joe's working career started in his early teens. In order to help the family make ends meet he took on many jobs: working in a butcher shop, a shoe repair shop, flipping burgers at the Bright Spot, acting as switchboard operator in the Lethbridge Fire Hall, delivering hats and selling pennants to the prisoners of war. Joe struck out on his own at the age of 16, when his lifelong friendship with Ken Moore began by rooming with him at the YMCA.

His first job away from home was at a lumber camp. Joe started his extensive career in construction as a labourer, working his way through the apprenticeship program as a carpenter. He was employed as a superintendent at Bird Construction for 20 years, after which he branched out on his own beginning Gillett Construction in 1966. Over the course of his working career, Joe was responsible for the construction of over 100 buildings including St. Martha's Retreat Centre, the Sportsplex, and CPR Car Shop. He was well known as an honest and ethical builder. His handshake was his word, without any exceptions.

Joe met the love of his life, Grace Bye, in the Trianon Ballroom in the forties. They spent many hours dancing to the big bands. Joe played both the violin and the banjo and entertained at many gatherings.

Joe & Grace were married on June 12, 1950, and remained married for 66 years until the time of Grace's passing in 2016. Joe & Grace were active members in the Eagle's where they formed lasting friendships. Over the years, they enjoyed many happy weekends in the family cabin at Beauvais Lake with their children and many of their friends. The couple vacationed in Hawaii, Spain and several US locations over the years, and wintered in the Good Life Resort in Mesa, AZ after retirement.

Joe was an avid golfer, and when his mobility was challenged, he became an armchair athlete watching many hours of golf on TV. He cherished the camaraderie with his golfing buddies who became his cribbage partners when weather kept them off the greens.

As a Dad, Joe was immensely proud of his family—his three children, Connie, Sandra and Joseph. He had a deep love for his grandchildren—Nicole, Ryan, Deanna and Gage—and was overjoyed with the births of his three great-grandchildren—Opal, Vienna and Andrew.

Joe touched many lives in his 91 years, and he will be greatly missed!

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Cornerstone Funeral Home | 2825 - 32 Street South, Lethbridge, AB Friday, December 13, 2019 at 11:00 A.M.

Officiant - Reverend Trevor Potter

ORDER OF SERVICE

Procession - Autumn Leaves by André Rieu
Welcome & Opening Prayer
Scripture Reading - Psalm 121
Eulogy - Greg Goodman
Musical Selection - Yesterday by Roy Clark
Words of Faith & Prayer
Musical Selection - Unforgettable by Nat King Cole
Announcements & Blessing
Recession - What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong

RECEPTION

Following the service, family and friends are invited to further share this day in the Reception Room at Cornerstone for a time of fellowship and lunch

INTERMENT

Earlier in the day, Joe was laid to peaceful rest in Mountain View Cemetery

Pallbearers

Dustin Kazakoff - Gage Gillett - Barry Bartzen - Harold Loewen Ivan Loewen - Dallas Loewen - Ken Moore (Honourary)

(Background watercolour by Connie Larson)