

The Loss of a Legend: Gil Younger,

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Whether you've ever met Gil younger you certainly know him. You may know him as the founder of TransGo, Mr. Shift, or even "Gramps"; a pen name he used on many of his non-tech letters. I had the pleasure of meeting Gil around 1990; prior to that I knew of him through his products and writings. Like many of us, I learned a lot about transmissions by trying to figure out how his "kits" made transmissions work so well. I doubt there's a person in this industry that hasn't learned a lot about their trade through the teachings of Gil.

But there's more to Gil than transmissions... a lot more. As I got to know him better we would have discussions on personal matters; about family. Much of it was spiritual in nature. It seemed that no matter the topic he always had a jewel of an idea to add, and I always left the conversation feeling better than before he called. Many times, when I'd find myself down or troubled by something I'd get a call

from Gil; sometimes at home or even on the weekends. Somehow he knew when I needed a little encouragement, and he gave that to me.

That was one of Gil's most precious gifts; the love and caring that he gave to the people he knew and came in contact with. Sometimes it would happen in very subtle ways. I remember about 20 years ago I had come across a fix for a transmission that had been plaguing the industry. I felt pretty good about having figured it out but then I got a call from Gil. He wanted to know more about this fix. Are you kidding? Gil wants to know something from me? I felt like I had finally arrived. If Gil is asking me for information I must be doing something right. I thought about it later and it occurred to me what an impact that phone call made in my life and that he probably already knew the answer.

One of the most interesting moments I shared with Gil was when I found myself on the same plane with

him on a trip to Detroit; he was about two rows in front of me. When he discovered I was right behind him he came back and switched seats with the guy next to me. We talked for about three hours.

During the last few weeks of his life we would talk several times a week. Even from his hospital bed he was giving me inspiration. "Dennis, here's an idea I think would be terrific for ATRA..."

If you're wondering why I'm writing about my experiences it's because my story is everyone's story who knew him. As an industry leader Gil was a giant. I don't believe there's a single person in this industry that hasn't benefited through Gil's work. As a person he was bigger than life.

The last time I saw him in person he said, "Everything you are, I am. And everything I am, you are". He meant that for you too.

