



Mr. Vance Gilligan

October 1, 1948 - January 11, 2021

Vance Gilligan, 72, of Malone, died Monday, January 11, 2021 at his home. Born on October 1, 1948, he was the son of John (Jack) and Fay (Allen) Gilligan. Vance graduated from Brushton-Moira Central High School and Paul Smith's College with an Associates Degree in Forestry. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in February 1969 and was honorably discharged in January 1973 after proudly serving his country. He worked for the Department of Environmental Conservation as a Principal Fish & Wildlife Technician for 33 years before retiring in 2007.

Vance was a member of the National Trapping Association, Best Club and Milebrook Hunting Club and a longtime member of the Deer River Hunting Club as well as a member of the Brushton-Moira American Legion Post 939. He was an avid outdoorsman, hunter of both deer and turkeys and a trapper. He enjoyed many years hunting and trapping, as well as mentoring and teaching new turkey hunters.

Vance is survived by his mother, Fay; two brothers, Brad and Alan; first cousin, David (Joan) Allen; as well as several other cousins.

He was predeceased by his father, Jack and a brother and sister-in-law, Stanley and Dana Gilligan.

A celebration of Vance's life will be held on August 14, 2021 at noon at the Red Tavern, 857 County Route 14, Duane.

Donations in Vance's memory may be made to NRA-ILA.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **14**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Red Tavern
857 County Route 14
Duane, NY

Tribute Wall

DE

“ Many years ago, I met Vance at Limekiln State Campground in Inlet, NY, at night. I confronted him asking him what was going on with many flashlights everywhere. He asked me which was my site. He came over afterwards but I couldn't able to lipread him at night due to my deafness. He asked me if he could come back next day. And he gave me great advices about being safe away from bears. I slept peacefully afterwards....

He asked me if we could have lunch in Inlet next day. Before leaving for the restaurant, he removed his top uniform. I didn't understand why he had to take his uniform off and he had white t-shirt on him. It took me a while to figure out, he didn't want to be interrupted by people asking him for help with bears that time it was bad drought... he was very thoughtful of being there for me for lunch without any interruptions....

Afterwards, Vance and I become good friends for many years, I usually invited him over for dinner in Lake Placid once per year during skiing season for years and once during summer where my son attended Camp Mark for the Deaf in Old Forge, NY. Per my request, he send his friend from his department to give a presentation about bears at Camp Mark 7, all campers learned a lot.

And I stopped going up for the last few years, and out of blue, a couple of months ago I called his home to say hello, but his phone number was not in service.... I hesitated to search for him online, but I had to... and learned that he passed away.

It breaks my heart... I do love him dearly and I would like to pay the respect to him at his gravestone... please contact me for the location of his gravestone, msdak123@yahoo.com

Denise - October 22, 2022 at 02:08 AM

CK

“ I want to express my sympathy to all of the Gilligan family. I learned of Vance’s passing just yesterday upon receiving an note from David, his cousin. Vance and I were fellow Airmen and roommates while stationed in Balikesir, Turkey in 70-71. I reconnected with Vance a couple of years ago and. Was pleased that we conversed even though we had not been in touch with each other for decades. Vance was a true friend and great person to associate with. He served his Country proudly. Fly High and Rest in Peace, Gil. Clark Kent, Columbus, Ohio

Clark Kent - February 04, 2022 at 08:03 PM

EL

“ Dear Fay and family
My name is Gene Loughran
I worked at NYSDEC from April 1968 until I retired in October 2000. Vance and I started our around 1979. I first met him at Lake Alice WMA. We got to talking about the military . He said he was in the USAF. I told him, so was I from 1964 to 1968. That started a good friendship. I was transferred to the Raybrook Office in 1979. I worked in Opations Unit and Vance worked in Wildlife. What a great guy! He always had a strong handshake and a good sense of humor. He was a friend I could always count on and I will miss this humor and insight. He knew where I lived in Wilmington and one day when I was out, I got home and found a 6 pak of beer on my porch with a note "Have one on me". He loved his job and was good with the public. As mentioned, he was a good friend. Sorry to hear of his passing, but I know he is in a better place. Please let me know when the celebration of his life will be held. Regards, Gene Loughran. I am at billigen@frontiernet.net. Phone 518-946-2385.

Eugene Loughran - January 26, 2021 at 09:56 PM

FH

“ Fay,

Please accept my sincere condolences on your loss. Vance and I were always close in high school as I was part of a click with the boys. That click was Jack Mosher, Hugh Langelier Jeff Aimonetti, and Vance. I reconnected with him once he got his DEC job as he would come to Watertown every couple years for a seminar or training at the state office building, where I worked in the 70s - and we'd have a coffee break together. Over the years I remembered him on his birthday as he only turned 16 on the last day legal to take drivers Ed in that year.

My memories of you are fond too. I remember my Mom always stopped to say hi whenever our paths crossed in Malone, and she spoke kindly of you. I've had Vance in my prayers for some time now as we reconnected when I planned the 50th reunion in 2016, and not long after that Linda informed me he'd been diagnosed with Parkinson's. May you find comfort in all the tributes on this page.
Faye Delosh Hupe

Faye Hupe - January 21, 2021 at 01:32 PM

TM

“ Dear Mrs Gilligan and family,

My heartfelt condolences to you and your family. I am part of the Skaneateles crew. Vance was a great mentor to me over the many years of hunting the Red Tavern. I always looked forward to November and I am glad that I got to share my first Adirondack buck with Vance and the many dinners reliving past huntig seasons. I will keep everyone in my prayers. Tim McMahon

Timothy McMahon - January 19, 2021 at 08:58 PM

BT

“ Dear Mrs. Gilligan and family,

My deepest condolences. I was good friends with Vance and apprentice bear trapper with him for years. I spoke with him just a few weeks ago, he called to wish us a Happy New Year, we talked of going turkey hunting this spring and the great times we shared in the past. I believe I shot my largest turkey ever with Vance. I enjoyed his stories and enthusiasm for hunting, wildlife tech work, and Friday afternoon staff meetings. I am sure there are coolers of Genesee waiting for him!

Vance will be missed and his legacy will be the stories we all will continue to tell in his honor.

Rest In Peace old bear trapper, we will take it from here.

-Ben Tabor

Ben Tabor - January 18, 2021 at 04:42 PM

DA

“ Dave Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Mr. Vance Gilligan



Dave Armstrong - January 18, 2021 at 09:05 AM

JV

“ Fay - We are saddened to learn of Vance' s passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I'll call soon. Sincerely, Jim Vaugh

Jim and Pattie Vaugh - January 17, 2021 at 10:23 AM

FL

“ I worked with Vance out of the Raybrook office for many years. Even though I was a land surveyor and rarely worked directly with Vance, I found it a real treat to banter with him and always left with a smile on my face. It never ceased to amaze me how he could manipulate the english language (especially when he got excited) to get his point across with gusto. He is a true and loyal friend who will be missed by all those who were touched by his generous spirit. Via con dios my friend
Floyd Lampart - Lake Clear



Floyd Lampart - January 16, 2021 at 08:44 PM

GB

“ My sincere condolences to you After and your family. Had do many if memories of Vance in our younger years at Township 19 hunting club where he came as our guest and our camping days. R.I.P. Vance



Gina M (Sansone) Boyea - January 15, 2021 at 09:04 PM

GB

I am so sorry for All the typo's. Should of said My sincere condolences to you Faye and your family. Had so many of Vance

Gina M (Sansone) Boyea - January 15, 2021 at 09:09 PM

TP

“ TOM & KAREN PONDYSH lit a candle in memory of Mr. Vance Gilligan



TOM & KAREN PONDYSH - January 15, 2021 at 06:14 PM

GD

“ *My sincere condolences to the Gilligan family. Vance was a very good friend. May you rest in peace*

Gary Durant - January 15, 2021 at 05:54 PM

RB

“ *To the Gilligan family my thoughts and prayers are with you. Vance was a great guy and a awesome woodsman. I met Vance many years ago at the Red Tavern many great conversations about the deer woods. Rick Bartlett*

Richard Bartlett - January 14, 2021 at 09:45 PM

JL

“ *So sorry for your loss. Vance was a BMC classmate of mine. JoAnn Langdon*

joAnn Langdon - January 14, 2021 at 06:11 PM

TV

“ To the entire Gilligan family,
Please accept our offer of condolence regarding the passing of Vance. He was a true and trusted friend to us and countless others. Tom had the pleasure of working with Vance via employment with the NYS DEC. Vance never failed to greet everyone with a friendly smile, and a firm, welcoming hand shake. He had a gift for sharing his wisdom, knowledge and experience by way of colorful conversation. He was a natural when it came to spreading joy, warmth and good humor at parties and gatherings. His kindness and his genuine concern for others will never be forgotten.

We hope that all of you will find comfort in the company of family and friends at this time.

Sincerely,
Tom II & Patty Ventiquattro
Ellisburg, NY

Thomas II & Patricia Ventiquattro - January 14, 2021 at 02:10 PM

WT

“ Walter & Sue Ann Teifke lit a candle in memory of Mr. Vance Gilligan



Walter & Sue Ann Teifke - January 14, 2021 at 01:44 PM

JS

“ Dear Fay, You may not remember me, I was Judy Williams (Eva's daughter). I want to offer you and your sons my most sincere condolences for your loss. As you may remember Vance and I went to school together and he was always well-liked by all of us. My most sincere sympathy for your loss. Don and Judy Shantie

Judy Shantie - January 14, 2021 at 01:24 PM

CV

“ Fay, so sorry for your great loss. I often think about taking care of the boys when we were younger. So so sorry. Cynthia (Jock) Vanier.

cynthia vanier - January 14, 2021 at 10:41 AM

JF

“ Jack And Kathy Fraser lit a candle in memory of Mr. Vance Gilligan



jack and kathy fraser - January 14, 2021 at 05:29 AM