

# *Celebrating the Life of*

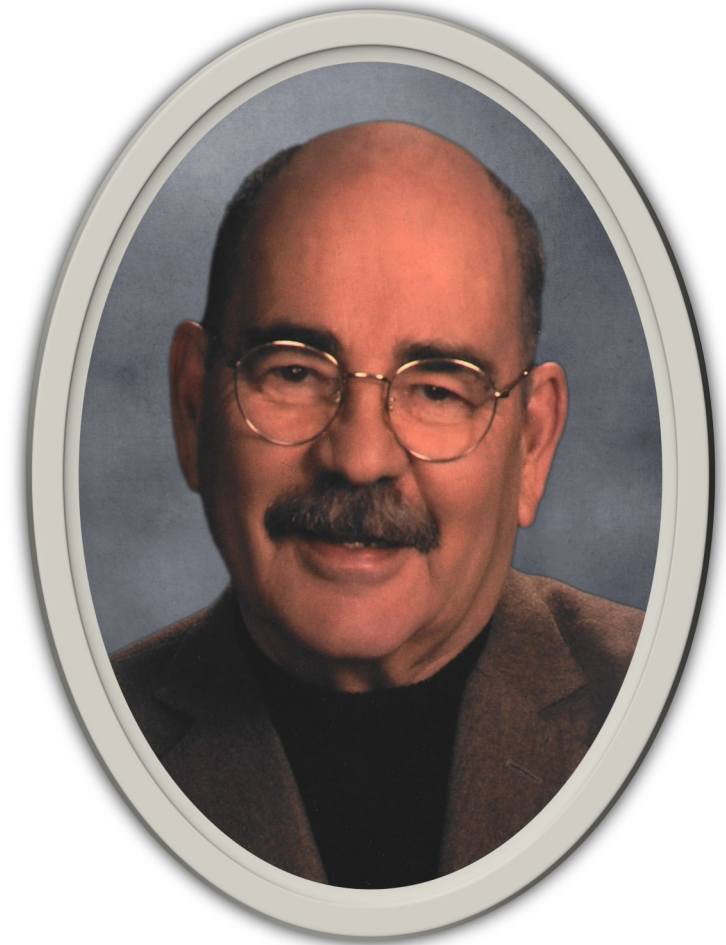
John Melvin Gilbertson was born on February 12, 1946, in Willmar, Minnesota, the son of George and Irene (Berg) Gilbertson. John graduated from Willmar High School in 1964; Concordia College, Moorhead in 1968 and the University of Minnesota Dental School in 1972. John was united in marriage to Karin Bakken on June 14, 1969, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar.

During his summers in college and Dental School, John worked at Burlington Northern Railroad in Willmar and St. Paul. After graduation from Dental School, John enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a general dentist in Fort Riley, KS. Upon discharge from the Army, John and Karin relocated to Willmar where he started his dental career as a partner with Gilman, Quale and Gilbertson Dental Office.

John practiced dentistry for a total of 36 years before retiring in 2010. He was active as a member of the Willmar School Board, 30 years of teaching confirmation at Calvary Lutheran Church, Mason's and Shriners, Family Promise, United Way and many another community organizations. John enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing and growing orchids and roses.

John is survived by his wife: Karin Gilbertson of Willmar; daughter: Kirstin (James) Howell and their children, Emily and Anna, of Bridgman, MI and son: Joseph Gilbertson of Sioux Falls, SD. He is also survived by his sister: Ellin (David) Wentzell of Willmar, and a sister-in-law: Carol Gilbertson of Willmar; along with numerous nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents: George and Irene Gilbertson and brother: Stephen Gilbertson.



*John M. Gilbertson, D.D.S*

*1946 - 2023*

In Loving Memory Of

*John M. Gilbertson, D.D.S.*

February 12, 1946  
Willmar, Minnesota

November 4, 2023  
Willmar, Minnesota

*Life is amazing. And then it's awful.  
And then it's amazing again.  
And in between the amazing and the awful  
it's ordinary and mundane and routine.*

*Breathe in the amazing,  
hold on through the awful,  
and relax and exhale  
during the ordinary.*

*That's just living heartbreaking,  
soul-healing, amazing,  
awful, ordinary life.  
And it's breathtakingly beautiful.*

- L.R. Knost

**Celebration of Life Service**

Thursday, November 9, 2023 - 2:00 p.m.

Calvary Lutheran Church  
Willmar, Minnesota

Prelude		Naomi Baker
Processional		
Welcome and Opening Prayer		
Hymn	" <i>Borning Cry</i> "	No. 732, ELW
Scripture Readings	Matthew 25:23 & Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	
Time of Remembrance		
Hymn	" <i>Canticle of the Sun</i> "	see insert
Meditation		Rev. Dean E. Johnson
Song	" <i>You Are Mine</i> "	Mary Jo de Cathelineau
Apostle's Creed, Prayers & The Lord's Prayer		
Commendation		
Hymn	" <i>Sent Forth by God's Blessing</i> "	No. 547, ELW
Recessional		
Postlude		Naomi Baker

**Military Honor Guard**

Austin F. Hanscom American Legion Post #167  
Willmar, Minnesota

**Interment**

Calvary Lutheran Cemetery  
Willmar, Minnesota

Arrangements By  
*Peterson Brothers Funeral Home*  
"Celebrating A Life Remembered"