



Dr. Mack H. Gillenwater

June 22, 1934 - December 12, 2017

Dr. Mack H. Gillenwater, 83, of Huntington, WV passed away Tuesday, December 12, 2017. He was the beloved son of the late John Bernard and Bertha Angle Gillenwater. Mack was also preceded in death by his sister, Mabel Louise Lambert, and his son, John Mark Gillenwater. He is survived by his wife, Linda, step-daughters, Lisa (Chris) Seaman, Tamara (Sean) Fugate, and his grandchildren, Sean, Emma, William (that he never ceased to call "the baby"), and Noah.

Mack completed his Master's Degree at Marshall University and his Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Tennessee, joining the Marshall faculty in 1968. He was the Emeritus Professor of Geography from 1995-1996 with the John Deaver Drinko Academy and participated in faculty exchange programs in Madrid, Spain and Beijing, China. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Coalways and Coal Mining Heritage projects designed to determine the feasibility of protecting and preserving significant cultural and historic sites associated with the coal mining heritage of southern West Virginia. He also coordinated a comprehensive study of historic preservation and tourism in the Greater Huntington Metropolitan area including Ashland, Kentucky and Ironton, Ohio. Additionally, he completed 10 historic preservation surveys for the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. He served on the board with the National Coal Heritage Association. His love for West Virginia and the coal industry never wavered as he aggressively studied the changes befalling the two.

However, as much as he loved his studies, his love for Jesus Christ and his church family at Christ Temple Church were where his anchor held fast. He served as the Hospital Visitation Minister for many years and loved visiting and praying for those in need. A special thank you to Hospice of Huntington for the tremendous help given by their compassionate team to him. In lieu of flowers, his desire was for you to consider a donation to Hospice of Huntington so they can continue their mission of helping many more that are suffering.

Funeral services honoring Mack's life will be conducted at 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Henson & Kitchen Mortuary, East Pea Ridge Rd. Huntington, W.Va. near Barboursville with Pastor Chuck Lawrence officiating. Burial will follow in Ridgelawn

Memorial Park, Huntington, W.Va. The family will receive friends from 6-8 PM on Friday, December 15, 2017 at Henson & Kitchen Mortuary. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family by visiting www.hensonandkitchen.com .

Cemetery

Ridgelawn Memorial Park

5547 W. Pea Ridge Road
Huntington, WV, 25705

Events

DEC 15 **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

Henson and Kitchen Mortuary
6357 East Pea Ridge Road, Huntington, WV, US,
25705

DEC 16 **Service** 11:00AM

Henson and Kitchen Mortuary
6357 East Pea Ridge Road, Huntington, WV, US,
25705

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Henson and Kitchen Mortuary - December 14, 2017 at 01:44 PM



“ What a beautiful love story told in these memories. It's so obvious how in love you both were. I love you so much Linda. Thank you for sharing these awesome memories with us.

Deborah Rockel - December 15, 2017 at 07:30 AM



“ To Dr Gillenwarer's family, my sincere sympathy for your loss. I had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Gillenwater when I worked at Marshall. He was always friendly and kind to everyone. Such a gentleman.

Charlene Hawkins - December 15, 2017 at 04:56 PM



“ Mack was a very kind man . It was a great pleasure knowing him . I love you Linda .

Wilma Cook - December 16, 2017 at 06:09 AM



“ The kindest most wonderful man i ever met Always a kind word and a wonderful heart Loved Jesus with every breaty Will be greatly missed Love you Mack and family

Jerry Delph - December 16, 2017 at 04:22 PM



“ Such a treasure of family memories with our precious husband, father, and grandfather. I savor these over and over. A special thank you to Fred Kitchen and his wonderful staff. My heart overflows with gratitude! Mack Henry we will forever love you!

Linda Gillenwater - January 05, 2018 at 06:06 AM



“ Oh I am so sorry and I feel bad that I didn't know at the time! We grew up together in Crumpler at our young age.

Anne Conte - March 29, 2018 at 01:40 PM



“ Mack Henry Gillenwater was born in Crumpler, West Virginia, where received his early years of schooling at the local elementary school but graduated from Northfork High School in Northfork, WV in 1952. The fall of the same year he attended Emory and Henry College but later transferred to Marshall University where he graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree in geography the spring of 1957. He continued in the program earning a Master of Arts degree in 1958, and quickly started his career as an educator serving the Logan and Wyoming county school systems for six years as a social studies teacher.

In 1965 he joined the academic ranks as an instructor at Pembroke State College, serving East Carolina University in the same capacity in 1966. Dr. Gillenwater then went on to pursue a PhD at The University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Under the supervision of Dr. Robert Long he served as a graduate teaching assistant his first year in the program, and in 1968 he returned to Marshall University to join the geography faculty as an assistant professor. His research culminated in 1972 with the successful defense of his dissertation where he examined the cultural and historical geography of mining settlements in the Pocahontas coal field of Southern West Virginia between 1880 and 1930. This seminal work identified four spatial morphologies of mining settlements and has been widely cited by multiple academics and books, such as:

- Hard Places: Reading the Landscape of America's Historic Mining Districts
- Restoring Women's History Through Historic Preservation
- Soft Coal, Hard Choices: The Economic Welfare of Bituminous Coal Miners
- Appalachian Aspirations: The Geography of Urbanization and Development in the Upper Tennessee River Valley, 1865–1900
- U.S. Steel and Gary, West Virginia: Corporate Paternalism in Appalachia
- Strategies for Survival: Women's Work in the Southern West Virginia Coal Camps

Dr. Gillenwater's research is fundamental in the study of mining in Appalachia. He was interviewed by prominent national outlets such as the Los Angeles Times and PBS regarding this subject. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Coalways and Coal Mining Heritage projects designed to determine the feasibility of protecting and preserving significant cultural and historic sites associated with the coal mining heritage of southern West Virginia. He also coordinated a comprehensive study of historic preservation and tourism in the greater Huntington metropolitan area including Ashland, Kentucky and Ironton, Ohio. Additionally, he completed 10 historic preservation surveys for the West Virginia Department of Culture and History.

During his tenure in the Geography Department, Dr. Gillenwater served as interim chair of the department in 1983 and was an active participant in the Southeastern Division Association of American Geographers. He took students to multiple academic meetings, organized panels where he served as lead discussant, and served the organization as State Representative for West Virginia in 1992. During his 28 years of service to the university, he taught a variety of human geography courses and advised hundreds of students. He participated in faculty exchange programs at the Universitas Nebrissenis in Madrid, Spain and at Beijing Normal University in

China. He was awarded the 1995-1996 John Deaver Drinko Distinguished Fellowship to recognize his outstanding service and contributions to Marshall University faculty and to assist him in undertaking innovative curriculum reforms and promote his research and publications. Dr. Gillenwater was a member of the American Association of Geographers, the National Geographic Society, the National Council for Geographic Education, and the West Virginia Geographers' Association. He retired Professor Emeritus in 1996.

On behalf of the current geography faculty, and the multiples of geographers in training, thank you Dr. Gillenwater. You will be missed!

James Leonard - December 15, 2017 at 08:59 AM



“ I Love Mack. He truly represented the love of Christ! I remember having lunch with him at Perkins. The waitress was new. She accidentally spilled a whole pitcher of ice tea on our table. She felt so bad. Mack consoled her and encouraged her. Then Mack left her a big tip to brighten her day! There are so many times I have had the pleasure worshipping with my Brother Mack! See you in heaven!

nathan crawford - December 15, 2017 at 06:46 AM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



RB - December 15, 2017 at 06:36 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



RB - December 14, 2017 at 10:36 PM



“ 50 files added to the album LifeTributes



Henson and Kitchen Mortuary - December 14, 2017 at 12:31 PM



“ Thinking of you Linda. I consider myself blessed to have known Mack and yourself.
Love to you,
Greg Mueller

Greg Mueller - December 14, 2017 at 10:59 AM



“ Always his kind words with a wonderful smile
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Sheila White - December 14, 2017 at 03:45 AM