



## In Memoriam

HUTTON, Gilbert Jerome (Gil) (1928 - 2010) Age: 82

UNTD STAR 1946 U-36450



November 12, 2010 Location:  
Hamilton  
HUTTON, Gilbert Jerome (Gil)  
Peacefully, surrounded by his  
family, at the Hamilton General  
Hospital. Gil will be sorely missed  
by his son Nick Hutton (Margaret  
Webster-Hutton), and daughters  
Susan Hutton (Richard Haché),

Esther Clark (Garry Clark) and Rachel Hutton (Darren Brewer). Beloved grandfather of Shwaan and Blake Hutton, Gillom and Robyn McNeil, and Andrew and Laura Burney. Dear friend and brother of Donald (Stephney). Survived by nephews and nieces Don Jr., Lisa, Virginia and Glenn. Gil grew up in Hamilton. His father, Gilbert (Bert) Lawrence Hutton, played First Cello for the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and Gil enjoyed a lifelong love of classical music. His mother, Edna Eloise Hutton (née Jerome), was a graduate of the University of Toronto and taught home economics in the Hamilton Board for over 40 years. Gil was proud of his United Empire Loyalist roots and was a member of many historical organizations. He received his Bachelor of Science from McMaster and did his graduate work in metallurgy at the University of Toronto. He was a Don at Hart House and lectured at Royal Military College (RMC) in Kingston. While at Mac, he joined the UNTD (University Naval Training Division) and later interrupted his graduate work to serve in the Royal Canadian Navy during the Korean War, including a tour of duty in the Pacific aboard HMCS Huron. While at RMC after the war, he noticed a picture of Catherine May on her brother's dresser and asked for an introduction. Catherine and Gil were married for 20 years and had four children. He accepted a position with the Defence Research Board (DRB) - Atlantic and the newlyweds relocated to Halifax in 1960. Gil loved Halifax and the Maritimes in general and was able to avoid being transferred back to HQ in Ottawa for 14 years. During the Halifax years, he and Catherine played a pivotal role in the civic effort to save the Historic Properties on the Halifax Waterfront from demolition. Gil served as president of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and as chair of the Halifax Landmarks Commission and single-handedly wrote the Call For Proposals when the project was finally given a window of opportunity. While at DRB, he worked extensively in the Canadian Arctic including one memorable field study conducted from tents outside CFB Alert in February. Following retirement from the Department of Defense, he returned to Hamilton and was active in many local historical groups. He also participated in the Naval Officers Association of Canada (NOAC) and was a founding member of the UNTD Association. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of Canadian and naval history and enjoyed organizing tours, talks and contributing articles on the many topics that interested him. He was awarded the NOAC gold medal for his years of service in many roles including organizing several national conventions. In 2002, he asked former WREN Eileen Church on a date to see the Buffalo Symphony. They were quickly inseparable. On June 7, 2008, Eileen and Gil celebrated their combined 170th birthdays (his 80th and her 90th) and were married at HMCS Star in Hamilton. Unfortunately, shortly after their honeymoon, Eileen contracted a rare condition (polyarteritis nodosa). She fought courageously for 18 months before she passed away last January. Gil seldom left her side and poured the last of his enormous energy and vitality into her care. Despite his failing health, he was determined to attend his daughter Susan's wedding in Ottawa on October 2, just over a month ago - and convinced the doctors to release him from hospital in order to do so. With the help of many people,

including his attendants Donna Baxter and Katalin Dyke, he went to Ottawa and for three days he enjoyed the type of large social gatherings he thrived on - his last big hurrah. On November 11, surrounded by his children and grandchildren, with good humour and great affection, he made his final goodbyes, before falling asleep for the last time. He left us peacefully the next day. A celebration of Gil's life will be held at HMCS Star in Hamilton (650 Catharine St. North) at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 27. All who knew him are invited to attend. The family asks anyone wishing to share stories or photos being collected for the Celebration to please send them to [memoriesofgilhutton@hotmail.ca](mailto:memoriesofgilhutton@hotmail.ca). For more information, please contact Dodsworth and Brown Funeral Home in Burlington: 905-637-5233. Gil strongly supported the following organizations, but in lieu of flowers donations to any charity of your choosing would be entirely appropriate: 1. The Endowment Fund of the Naval Officers Association of Canada <http://www.noac-national.ca/noac/endowform.html> 2. The Canadian Naval Memorial Trust (HMCS Sackville) PO Box 99000 Station Forces, Halifax, NS, B3K 5X5, Tel: Winter (902) 427-2837, Summer (902) 429-2132, [secretary@hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca](mailto:secretary@hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca) 3. The Friends of HMCS Haida, 658 Catharine Street North, Hamilton, ON L8L 4V7, 905-523-0682, [hmcshaida@bellnet.ca](mailto:hmcshaida@bellnet.ca)

Gil served in the following Ships and Establishments:

HMCS Star; HMCS Portage; HMCS LaHulloise; HMCS Swansea; HMCS Crescent; HMCS Huron; HM Dockyard, Halifax; HMCS Stadacona; HMCS Magnificent: as staff to the Commander, Maritime Command; and as Director, Operational Research Division, Maritime Command.

He also served as a Director and President of the Naval Officers Association of Canada, Toronto Branch, and Chairman of its Hamilton Area Group; as a Director of the UNTD Association of Canada; and as a Life Trustee of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust (HMCS Sackville).

WAC  
November 24, 2017