



Peter J. Gillis

July 14, 1958 - March 16, 2024

On March 16, 2024, the world lost a great man. Peter James Gillis, longtime Sarasota Florida resident, was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident. Peter was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts on July 14, 1958, the beloved youngest son of the late Bernie and Natalie Gillis. He graduated from Middletown High School in Middletown, CT in 1976. During his early years in Connecticut, he could be found on the baseball field or running around with his friends from Mile Lane. As he grew, his love affair with golf began at Edgewood Golf Course where he worked for then owners, the Pierson family, to transform the Edgewood course into the TPC it is today. He was particularly proud of the 17th hole, just one of the many sources of pride for Peter. After working for several years at Black Oxide in New Britain, CT, he moved to Sarasota Florida. There he built a full life of friends and friends-who-became-family, from Marina Jack's to Patrick's restaurant. Along the way he earned a captain's license and ran the 87 foot Alicia from Key Largo north along the east coast. For many years, he was self-employed as a painter and even moved to Montana to be a fly-fishing guide. Eventually he found adventure as a driver for Stage Call Specialized Transportation where he traveled the country driving for Faith Hill, Tim McGraw and ultimately Eric Church. While Peter was a wanderer, he had a strong sense of home. He loved to travel to new places, try new golf courses, see old friends, make new ones, but he always found his way back to his people in Sarasota and his family in Connecticut. His golf game was prolific, especially if there was money

involved, and he achieved 7 holes-in-one before his passing. He loved bone-fishing on Flat-Man-Due, and he was always making plans. Prior to retirement, after months on the road, he bought a sailboat preparing for his next adventure. He was a giving, boisterous friend with a great laugh, mischievous eyes, and a ready smile. He was loved by all who knew him. He leaves behind many who will mourn his absence. He is survived by his partner Linda Holland of Sarasota, his siblings Joseph Gillis of Roatan, Honduras, Janet and Michael Cartwright of Westbrook, CT, Bernie and Maureen Gillis of East Haddam, CT and Peggy and Louis Mastergeorge of Middletown, CT as well as many beloved nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, please make time for your family and friends and toast to Peter. A celebration of life will be held at a date to be determined in the near future.

Tribute Wall



“ My memories of Peter go back to when he was still a teenager living on Mile Lane in Middletown. He was one of my first boyfriends and I met him because he was a fellow AOT member with my brother Michael from Middletown High. He used to pick me up in his old VW bus with the wood bumper! He was always so unique, warm, friendly and confident. His favorite place was to park on the hill overlooking Powder Ridge to gaze at the stars. I hope you are up there now twinkling down on all of us. I will always remember you.
Sue Pytlik Krajewski, Connecticut

Susan Krajewski - March 22, 2024 at 09:53 AM



“ The last time Peter was in CT we went to dinner and were invaded by a wagon full of adult Halloweeners. One of the pirates stole our butter but his pirate wife left us some doubloons in payment. The day after he died, I found a doubloon with the exact marking (but a different color---I still have the original 2) right outside the deck on the ground.



Maureen Gillis - March 22, 2024 at 07:48 AM

WC

“ While at my golf club here in Sarasota a friend said "hey I got a guy that wants a truck driving job, for the next few years Peter was one of the best truck drivers for Gateway and was a true ambassador of the company. Peter became a driver and a friend. We had lunches, played golf, and worked together at Gateway in Cincinnati, Ohio. With an amazing sense of confidence, he would calm a storm of all issues in this crazy trucking business. He will be missed by many of his friends, dispatchers, and drivers of Gateway. Wayne Carucci retired CEO Gateway

wayne carucci - March 22, 2024 at 06:30 AM

NM

“ I was fortunate to have spent a lot of time with Peter over the years. He was a great friend. The first time that I met Peter was when I started working with him at Patrick's in Sarasota. He asked where I was from. I told him I was from a town just south of Boston called Weymouth. He looked me straight in the eye and in that deep PJG voice he loudly said, "I was born there!" Right then and there I was hooked. He had a way with people. Everybody loved him. How couldn't you, he was Peter Gillis!
This is a tragic loss for everyone. The loss is immeasurable, but so is the love he left behind. My prayers are with all Peter's friends and family.
To a life well lived my friend, I love you and I'll see you again when it's my time to see you again.

Neil McStravick - March 21, 2024 at 03:44 PM