

**Leo Gilson(1935 - 2015)**

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Leo Gilson, 80, died August 1, 2015 at his home in Marblehead after a long illness. Born in 1935, he was the son of the late Charles D. Gilson and Freda Hesse Gilson. Raised in Pittsfield, MA, Leo graduated from Pittsfield High School where he was class president and an accomplished athlete. He attended Deerfield Academy and graduated from Williams College in 1957. Leo's career began with General Electric. He later worked for International Rectifier before starting his own company, Nova Sales Distribution, a semiconductor business. Traveling the world extensively, Leo loved regaling friends and family with his grand adventure stories, one of which was being shipwrecked around the Fiji Islands. Besides sailing, he was a tinkerer extraordinaire and a competent carpenter and mechanic. He was proud to have built his home by the ocean in Nova Scotia. Leo is survived by his beloved wife Lucy Lincoln, his son Michael Gilson, brother Charles D. Gilson Jr. of Pittsfield, MA, sister Mary Gilson Spina of Lenox, MA, and sister-in-law Mary Fran Gilson of NY, and many nieces and nephews. Two brothers, Richard Gilson and Christopher Gilson, predeceased him. Leo was loved by family and many friends. He will be remembered for his generous spirit and philanthropy, larger-than-life personality, humor and incredible determination. There will be no calling hours. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Donations may be made to Care Dimensions (Hospice) of The North Shore, 75 Sylvan Street, Suite B-102, Danvers, MA 01923.

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