

# In Memoriam: Gilbert E. Kinyon, M.D. 1921-2010

*By John Hattox, M.D.*

**G**il Kinyon died February 18, 2010, of pulmonary embolus following a cholecystectomy four days earlier. He also had amyloidosis. By any measure, Gil lived a full and productive life.

He was born in Tipton, Iowa, and while an undergraduate student at the University of Iowa, joined the U.S. Army. Gil was enormously proud of his service in 94th Division, 302nd Infantry regiment, and he deserved to be. He was awarded two Bronze Stars and had three Purple Hearts. He was part of Patton's Third Army and in the Battle of the Bulge. Some of the stories he related to me about those days can only be described as hair-raising. Following his war service, he became very active with the 302nd reunions.

After his release from the Army in 1945, he resumed his education at the University of Iowa where he graduated from medical school in 1950. After an internship in Indianapolis, he finished his residency in anesthesiology under Dr. S. Cullen at the University of Iowa in 1953. He joined our Anesthesia Service Medical Group in San Diego in 1953 and engaged in a very busy practice at Scripps Hospital for 11 years. Toward the end of this time period, Gil experienced an unbelievable tragedy—he lost his wife, Jesse, and two of his children in an auto accident, and a later auto accident claimed the life of one of his remaining three children. These events appeared to change his life profoundly. He saw a need for service at the San Diego County General Hospital where there were no anesthesiologists. He remained there for several years becoming the Chief of the Anesthesia Division of Surgery briefly during the establishment of the new medical school. While there he was responsible for altering the treatment of tetanus and doing some of the pioneer work with the ventilating bronchoscope.

Gil then became associated with Mercy Hospital here in San Diego and established a very successful residency program where he trained more than 40 residents. Many of these residents remained in the San Diego area in private practice. While at Mercy, he was very influential in the establishment of a training program for paramedics. He published a number of original papers and presented work at international meetings including the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists. And along the way, he married Mary who was a great support for him and helped fill a huge void in his life.

## **In Memoriam: Gilbert E. Kinyon, M.D. (cont'd)**

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Gil became interested in organizational medicine very early on. He became an influential member of a large number of committees of the CSA including the Guedel Library and was a good friend of Bill Neff. He served as president of the California Society in 1972-73 and was awarded their Distinguished Service Award in 1987. He was very committed to the *CSA Bulletin* and served as its editor for 12 years.

Gil served on numerous committees of the ASA over a long period of time. Perhaps his greatest interest was in the establishment of the preceptorship program in the days when recruitment into the specialty was lagging. He served as a delegate to the ASA House for 17 years and was elected Assistant Secretary of the ASA from 1984-1987 and Secretary from 1988-1991. He was very proud of his membership in the Academy of Anesthesiologists. He had looked forward to attending their annual meeting which was being held in San Diego the week following his death. Many of the members of the Academy attended his funeral on February 27th. Gil funded a named professorship of Anesthesiology at the University of Iowa last year as a reflection of his deep appreciation for the education he had received there.

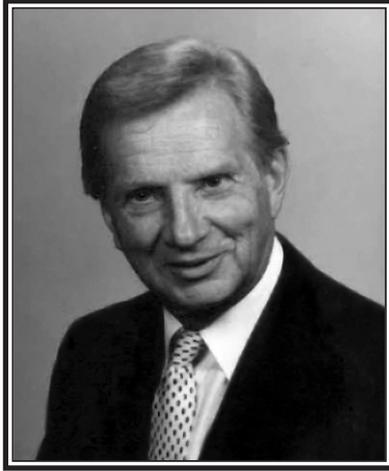
Gil was an activist. He believed in certain principles and did not hesitate to let you know about them. He had a position on just about everything in life. He and I were not of the same political persuasion which led to many interesting and lively discussions. And he had the ability to make me think about his point of view and to respect him for it. Gil was small in stature, but he had a heart of gold which might not have been obvious to the casual observer. But he had it. He was always a straight shooter. Bill Barnaby said it well when he heard about Gil's death—"Gil Kinyon always exuded the same upbeat, happy, optimistic zest for life. Just being around him made one feel good. His contributions during CSA's early years were many. His wry smile and twinkle in the eye will be long remembered."

Gil lived a full, productive life and made his mark in this world. He crammed as much into his 88 years as one could possibly imagine. It left me breathless. He traveled extensively, visiting his many friends and colleagues overseas on multiple occasions. Those of us who were lucky enough to be a part of his life and he to be a part of our lives are indeed fortunate. Surviving are his wife, Mary, his daughters Michele and Leslie and their families with two grandchildren, Matthew and Alice Minor.

Donations may be made to University of Iowa Foundation, Anesthesia - Gilbert E. Kinyon, M.D. Professorship, Box 4250, Iowa City, Iowa 52244, or Gilbert Kinyon Men's Scholarship Fund, La Jolla Presbyterian Church, 7715 Draper Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037 or Kinyon Memorial Library, Scripps Hospital, 9888 Genesee Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037.

# Gil Kinyon has passed away ...

*By Peter L. McDermott, M.D., Ph.D.*



*Gilbert E. Kinyon, M.D.  
1921 - 2010*

Gil Kinyon has passed away and has left behind a host of friends and innumerable fond memories. In his long, eventful life, he lived many different lives. One can imagine a bucolic childhood growing up in the mythic splendor of a small Iowa town—butter and bacon and corn. America before World War II may have had its economic problems, but there was a simplicity to life, an inextinguishable confidence in a better tomorrow, and the generally shared belief in personal values, mutual respect, honesty, and decency.

Gil served his country in the war from 1942 to 1945. To say he served with distinction is an understatement. Bronze Star with V and Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, over 125 German soldiers captured single-handedly—this is an Audie Murphy moment and more. He once told me that they were looking for someone to surrender to and he just happened to come along. Receiving his M.D. from the University of Iowa in 1950, he completed a residency in anesthesiology there in 1953 and came to San Diego to begin practice. Once seen, who would want to leave San Diego? Not Gil and not

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many others. His long successful practice at Mercy Hospital gained him the respect of his colleagues and the affection of the nuns who sponsored the hospital. He and I shared nuns, since the Sisters of Mercy ran both our hospitals and got transferred back and forth. We also shared stints as editors of this *CSA Bulletin*, though he did it better and longer.

Those of us blessed to be on Gil and Mary's Christmas card list enjoyed the red or green letters with the annual summary of trips taken, people and places visited, adventures with old war buddies, and the countless friends he collected during his many years. He never lacked energy, curiosity, optimism, and kindness. He detected fools and knaves, but for the most part, he saw the goodness in others. We shared a love of limericks. He sent me a collection of rather salty rhymes. I seem to recall one of his favorites—"There was a young man from Nantucket" ... but I digress. We also shared a belief in the honor and value of anesthesiology. He loved this specialty and being a physician. His contributions to the development of the specialty and to the organizations that serve it compose several pages in his curriculum vitae.

In the nearly 50 years I knew Gil, I, like so many others, benefited from the relationship. That he will be missed is obvious. That he left the world a better place for having been with us is also too true. We move on, satisfied in the knowledge that we shared in his life and were privileged to have known this wonderful man.

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