



Paul David Gilman

January 11, 1924 - October 24, 2018

1924-1943

Paul David Gilman passed away on November 20, 1943. He was born in January of 1924, one of eight children raised by Clarence and Sarah "Sadie" Gilman in Belen, NM. He attended Belen Senior High School, where he and his older brother, Earl, played varsity football and worked as a machinist's helper. Seventeen year old Paul joined the Marine Corps on January 5, 1942. Sadie was already worried about her other son, Earl, being overseas in the Navy, but Paul told her "Mother" it's our job to go. You just take it on the chin and smile." He fought in the battle of Guadalcanal as a member of M/38th Marines, survived and traveled to Wellington, New Zealand. While at Camp Paekakariki in the summer of 1943, Paul probably received a letter with news about his brother. Earl Gilman had died at a prison camp in the Philippines in November 1942, and word had only just reached his family. On 20 November 1943, PFC Paul Gilman's battalion was designated as a support wave to land on Beach Red 3, Betio. The flat-bottomed boats that carried the men could not cross the island's barrier reef, and became sitting targets for Japanese gunners. When the ramps went down, Marines jumped into deep water and tried to wade several hundred yards to the shore. Burdened by their heavy weapons, M/3/8 suffered many casualties on their way to the safety of the Red 3 sea wall. One of them was Paul Gilman, who was trying to help a wounded buddy to safety. He lived for only a few minutes after being hit. His buddies

wrote to Sadie Gilman that, although he knew what was to come, Paul died with a smile on his face. Paul Gilman was buried just a few yards off Red Beach 3, in what would become known as Cemetery 27. His remains were among those found by History Flight and turned over to the DPAA for official identification. Welcome home, PFC Paul Gilman. Semper Fi. Paul was preceded in death by his brother, Earl, and succeeded in death by his parents, Clarence and Sarah Gilman, brothers; Harold and William, sisters; Evelyn Gardener, Elizabeth Battaglino and Elaine Edgington. He is survived by one sister, Martha Abeyta, and many loving nieces and nephews. Paul will have a full military service on October 26, 2018, at 2:00 PM, at Terrace Grove Cemetery in Belen, NM. Please sign Paul's online tribute at www.romerofuneralhomenm.com Romero Funeral Home, 609 N. Main St. Belen, NM PFC Paul Gilman will be lying in State Thursday, 10/25/18, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Friday, 10/26/18, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM at Romero Funeral Home Chapel.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **25**. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Romero Funeral Home Chapel
609 N. Main St.
Belen, NM 87002
(505) 864-8501
romerofuneralhome@comcast.net
<https://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com>

Visitation

OCT **26**. 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Romero Funeral Home Chapel
609 N. Main St.
Belen, NM 87002
(505) 864-8501
romerofuneralhome@comcast.net
<https://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com>

Graveside Service

OCT **26**. 2:00 PM (MT)

Terrace Grove Cemetery
1200 W Aragon Rd
Belen, NM 87002

Tribute Wall

RR

“*Roseann Romero lit a candle in memory of Paul David Gilman*”



Roseann Romero - October 27, 2018 at 02:51 PM

RR

“*Roseann Romero sent a virtual gift in memory of Paul David Gilman*”



Roseann Romero - October 27, 2018 at 01:52 PM

CW

“*C.D. Williams lit a candle in memory of Paul David Gilman*”



C.D. Williams - October 25, 2018 at 10:35 AM

JS

“*Jim Sloan lit a candle in memory of Paul David Gilman*”



Jim Sloan - October 24, 2018 at 01:35 PM

GP

"Welcome Home Brother" You are not Forgotten. RIP tough Marine. GOD be wit u in Heaven.

Goat PGR - October 24, 2018 at 04:12 PM

JS

“ As a former marine from Belen, New Mexico. I offer my condolences and support to the family of Private First Class Paul David Gilman. I may not have known him, but as as a service member from belen I feel that it is my obligation to show honor and respect to past marines who have fought and died for the freedom of our country. Simper Fidelis



Sincerely

Jose L. Sanchez (Corporal USMC 2012-2016, Specialist NMANG 2016-Present)

Jose Sanchez - October 23, 2018 at 11:14 PM

ED

“ PFC Gilman and brother RM2C Gilman, you will be remembered.

Emmett Dwyer - October 14, 2018 at 06:29 PM

OR

“ *Martha & Family,*

I salute our heroes, Paul who is finally returning home to rest. And, his brother Earl who also gave his life for love of country. Earl rests across the sea. Young and in their bloom, they etched their lives during World War II to make a better world for all of us. I praise their lives that slipped away as they made the ultimate sacrifice for country. Oh, how pleasant a rest for Paul to now rest among family and in the land he loved so well! He will now rest and the sun and moon with rain light upon his soul.

I extend my gratitude to the family. Paul's and Earl's service to country was heroic! For them, their rest will forever remain undisturbed!

Oscar S. Ramirez

Oscar S. Ramirez - October 13, 2018 at 07:33 PM



DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of Paul David Gilman*



Dicky and Suzanne Romero - October 12, 2018 at 09:40 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jonathan D. - October 12, 2018 at 01:46 AM