



## Renee Gilligan

December 13, 1948 - March 16, 2022

Renee Louise (Carlson) Gilligan was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Monday, December 13, 1948, to Orville Hendrick and Yvonne Lynnette (Opsal) Carlson. She transitioned from this mortal coil to her eternal home in Heaven on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the age of 73.

Renee was one of three children born to the Carlsons, who were missionaries with the Assemblies of God. They spent most of their ministry in Bangladesh and the Fiji Islands. She attended high school in the Fiji Islands and graduated both high school and a concurrent enrollment business school program in 1966. Renee was brilliant, to say the least.

Renee was introduced to Bill Gilligan by his sister at North Central Bible College in January of 1970, and it was true love at first sight. Their epic love story began with their first date on Valentine's Day and they married on December 19th of that same year in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Thirteen years later they became proud parents of their daughter, Megan, and after quickly realizing they had achieved perfection, chose to not have any more kids. They were grandparents to several weird and wonderful furballs, most recently a cat, Hugh Henry William Face Gilligan, aka Huey, who preceded Renee in death by only two weeks.

Bill was an Assemblies of God Pastor, and Renee was a partner, anchor,

encourager and friend for him as she epitomized class, sophistication, and genuine Christ-like love and compassion as the pastor's wife to the congregations where they ministered. Prior to retirement, she held the position of Executive Administrative Assistant to the pastor of Tulsa Bible Church for over a decade.

Renee was a tremendous source of strength, wisdom, joy, and love to everyone who was blessed to come into her presence. She will be profoundly missed.

Left to cherish her memory and carry on her legacy of love are husband, Bill Gilligan, of the home in Broken Arrow

Daughter, Megan Gilligan of Broken Arrow

Brother, Randy Carlson (Renee) of Bokeelia, Florida

Sister, Rita Jones (Grant) of Springfield, Missouri

Nieces, Cherie Hernandez (Ricky), and Charity Boyd (Andy)

Nephews, Ben Carlson (Taylor), Ryan Jones (Mary), and Cameron Jones (Kayla)

Numerous great nieces and nephews

And dear friends, Sam and Mary Baker and their children, Sammy, Justin, and Haylee of Canfield, Ohio

She was preceded in death by her parents, Orville and Yvonne Carlson, and Sam and Mary's youngest son, Alex Barker, whom her family is exceedingly confident was the very first one to meet her at Heaven's glorious gates and then take her straight to meet the only one she loved more than her husband and daughter, her Savior, her Lord Jesus Christ, the Risen King. (The cat probably helped, too.)

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in honor of Renee's Legacy of Love to:

The Heart of the Divine at:  
[go.rallyup.com/the heart of the divine](http://go.rallyup.com/the%20heart%20of%20the%20divine)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 11. 1:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

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# Tribute Wall



“ Hayhurst Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of Renee Gilligan



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Hayhurst Funeral Home - May 11, 2022 at 11:19 AM



“ Renee Gilligan

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October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM

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“ Very early memories of Renee are a bit vague. I remember Christmases and other get togethers at Grampa and Grandma Opsal’s home in Sisseton SD. Renee, the Opsal cousins and LeAnn and I would all play like mad. We did board games and slid down the stairs from upstairs until Grandma couldn’t take it. Duane Opsal was six months older than I. Renee was six months younger. Duane and I were pretty big for our age, which made Renee seem so small.

*But then she left the US for East Pakistan. I only had a vague idea of where or what that was at first. I remember writing notes on Mom’s letters which were written on “onion skin” paper to save on postage. One Christmas, Aunts Wanda and Dimps placed a call to Pakistan. They were up very early to place the call and it took something like six or seven hours to complete. In those days, operators made the connections. I don’t specifically remember talking to Renee, but I think we got to say a very fast Hello.*

*Much later, Renee was going to school in Minneapolis, and I was in Northfield, MN. We were able to hang out a lot more. She always had a smile and a warm greeting for folks. One day we were walking outside in downtown Minneapolis. We came around a corner and nearly bumped into a lady who was obviously East Indian. Renee greeted her in Hindi (I guess). The two jabbered like long lost friends. I asked Renee if she knew the lady. No. But for those few moments they connected.*

*Renee was to spend Christmas with the Oslands in North Dakota. I had this old 54 Chev convertible that had air leaks all over. Renee and I drove the 300+ miles and I was really glad I had thrown some extra warm blankets in. She was still used the Tropics and now we were driving in a cold car through cold weather. We made it. We went out snowmobiling on borrowed equipment. I drove ok but once when I stopped, we fell off and the machine tipped. I don’t think she rode with me on a snowmobile again.*

*As adults we wound up many miles apart and with busy families just didn't get to see much of each other. Until her Mom and my Mom wound up at Maranatha Village in Springfield, MO. Renee still had her smile and wonderful spirit.*

*We will all miss her but will see her again someday. Praise the Lord.*

*Dayton Osland*

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**Dayton Osland** - May 10, 2022 at 09:54 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Renee Gilligan.*



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May 10, 2022 at 12:44 PM



“ *Osland Cousins purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Renee Gilligan.*



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**Osland Cousins** - May 06, 2022 at 04:32 PM