



Lanny Gillman

April 26, 1948 - October 29, 2025

Lanny Gillman, 77, of rural Akron, Indiana passed unexpectedly on Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at his residence.

Lanny Gillman was born on April 26, 1948, in Man, West Virginia, to Everett and Myrtle (Browning) Gillman. On July 7, 1967, in Clintwood, Virginia, he married Linda S. Lester, the love of his life who preceded him in death on July 4, 2025.

Lanny's work ethic was evident in every chapter of his life. He began at Kringle Farms in the chicken houses near Tippecanoe, where he first met Linda. He later worked at the trailer factory in Bourbon, at Kralis Brothers, and as a janitor at Mentone Elementary. His longest tenure was with ABC Industries, where he served in maintenance for over 45 years with dedication and pride.

A self-taught welder with remarkable skill, Lanny had a gift for fixing things and a drive for perfection. He was never afraid to take something apart just to make it right. He loved collecting Wheel Horses and hats, and he was a Denver Broncos fan. Fishing brought him peace, but his greatest joy came from time spent with family, where no one ever left hungry, thanks to the warmth and generosity he and Linda shared.

Lanny was a teacher in the truest sense, especially to his daughters. He instilled the values of hard work, gratitude, and self-reliance. He believed nothing in life was free and lived each day with optimism and intention. He listened deeply, loved animals wholeheartedly, and helped cultivate a large family garden every summer—passing down lessons in both sustainability and love.

He is survived by his daughters Chris and husband Craig Williamson of Akron, Michelle and husband Mitch Holloway of Mentone, Nicole Wareham of Bourbon, and Andria and husband Matt Smith of Akron; grandchildren Priscilla (Mason), Trenton (Toni), Miranda (Anthony), Logan (Sabrina), Brendan (Keerah), Breyton (Gracelynn), Alexis (Andrew), and Madison (Grant); 7 Great Grandchildren; brother Billy and wife Donna Gillman of Mentone; and sister Joyce and husband Jay Newsome of Columbus, Sue Adkins of Warsaw, and Donna Wadkins of Silver Lake.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Linda, sisters Shirley Adams and Judy Gillman, brother Everett Gillman Jr., as well as 2 infant brothers.

The funeral service will take place at 10:30 am, Friday, November 7, 2025 at Hartzler Funeral Home 305 West Rochester Street Akron, Indiana. [L T I] [SEP:SEP] His interment will take place following the service in Nichols Cemetery, Akron, Indiana next to his wife. [L T I] [SEP:SEP] Visitation hours will be held from 5 pm to 7 pm, Thursday, November 6, 2025 at Hartzler Funeral Home, Akron, Indiana.

Memorial contributions can be made in his memory to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105 or to the local animal shelter of your choosing.

Cemetery Details

Nichols Cemetery

Akron, IN 46910

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Hartzler Funeral Home
305 West Rochester Street
P.O. Box 856
Akron, IN 46910
(574) 893-4423
info@hartzlerfuneralservices.com
<https://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com>

Funeral Service

NOV 7. 10:30 AM (ET)

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P.O. Box 856
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Tribute Wall



“ Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Lanny Gillman



Hartzler Funeral Services - November 05, 2025 at 03:06 PM



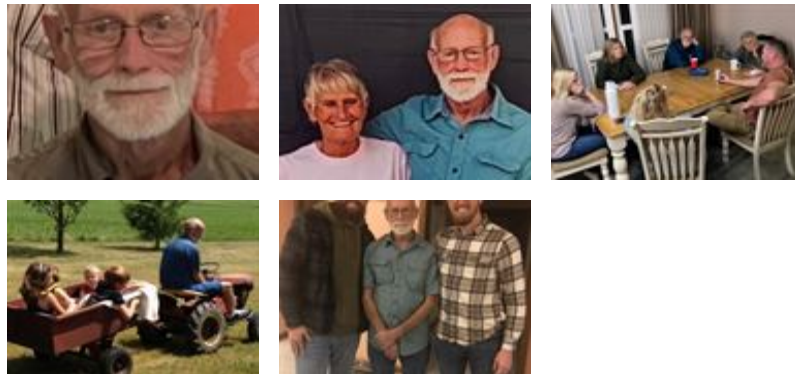
“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lanny Gillman.



November 05, 2025 at 03:54 PM



“ 152 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hartzler Funeral Services - November 05, 2025 at 03:03 PM

AU

“ All of us purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Lanny Gillman.



All of us - November 05, 2025 at 09:48 AM

KT

“ Kyle and Jennifer Turner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lanny Gillman.

Kyle and Jennifer Turner - November 04, 2025 at 07:08 PM

KT

“ Kyle and Jennifer Turner purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Lanny Gillman.



Kyle and Jennifer Turner - November 04, 2025 at 07:08 PM

KH

“ Kenneth & Chris Hunnell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lanny Gillman.

Kenneth & Chris Hunnell - November 04, 2025 at 01:54 PM

KH

“ Kenneth & Chris Hunnell purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Lanny Gillman.



Kenneth & Chris Hunnell - November 04, 2025 at 01:54 PM

MH

“ I miss you Lanny. One of my favorite memories of him and Mom, was the laughter I got the day I went to the house to ask for permission to marry Michelle. They were so amused and laughed probably the hardest I ever remember. A little humiliating, but one of my best memories of their laughter and love. That's what I get for being old fashioned.

Mitch Holloway - November 04, 2025 at 03:09 AM

LB

“ Love, Pentecostals of Bourbon purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Lanny Gillman.



Love, Pentecostals of Bourbon - November 03, 2025 at 05:19 PM

AF

“ ABC work family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lanny Gillman.

ABC work family - November 03, 2025 at 11:28 AM

AF

“ ABC work family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lanny Gillman.



ABC work family - November 03, 2025 at 11:28 AM

CM

“ I never thought that I would call a man old enough to be my grandpa, one of the best friends I've ever had. It's been a rough few days going to work without you. I already miss my morning greeting of CASSANDRA LYN!! and I always replied LANNY DALE!! I could be me sassiest self with you and you always gave it right back. You were one of a kind in the absolute best way. I'm glad you are reunited with Linda but I wish it wasn't so soon. I love you.

Cassi Masterson - November 02, 2025 at 05:20 PM

VA

“ Uncle Lanny. You were one of a kind. I'm going to miss your smile, laugh, and stories. But most of all I'm going to miss the smell of pachouli. I always told you the only reason I hugged you was because you smelled so good! I have wonderful memories with you and Aunt Linda. You both loved me like one of your own. I will be forever grateful for all the love and laughter. I can rest easy knowing you are with Aunt Linda and with God. He truly gained Angel

vanessa - November 01, 2025 at 11:51 PM

MI

Thank you Vanessa. Dad truly had his own scent. I used to tell him that all the time. Dad definitely had more than 4 children. All of you may have been his nieces and nephews but you were more like his own. He loved us all with his whole heart every day of his life. I love you V. ❤️

Michelle - November 02, 2025 at 01:25 PM

DW

“ I have known Lanny for over 60 years. I worked as a secretary at Kralis Bros., and Lanny, Billy and I believe even Linda were working there, also. Lanny was such a kind, soft spoken young man with such an impish grin. I want you all to remember the joy and love you girls brought to his life. May your memories be ones that fill your hearts with joy. Know that your dad is walking hand in hand with the love of his life and Jesus. He is whole, once again. Blessings, love and prayers as you go through yet another loss of someone so dear. Diane Warren



Diane Warren - November 01, 2025 at 10:09 AM

MI

Thank you Diane for your kind words. ❤️

Michelle - November 02, 2025 at 01:27 PM

LB

“ My prayers go out to the Gillman family. I have fond memories of him at Mentone School. He was a good man, very kind, and the staff loved him and his family. I am so very sorry for your loss. Lynn Helvey Bryant

Lynn Helvey Bryant - October 31, 2025 at 08:10 PM

MI

Thank you Mrs. Bryant for your kind words. ❤️

Michelle - November 02, 2025 at 01:32 PM

PR

“Gosh I could never put into words what both my grandpa means to me. His family meant everything to him and he was the kindest man I know. He was there for me always. Out of my whole life he only spanked me once and after he did it he cried and apologized and bought me a stuffed animal and I'm sure I deserved more than just one spanking. It truly broke his heart to discipline any of us and anytime my grandma would get onto one of the kids he would always say leave that baby alone he hated to see anyone hurting or sad. I will forever miss his stories. He would tell you stories and none of it be the truth but he would find a way to make you believe it all the while laughing and being so proud of himself for making up such a good story. I loved watching him with my kids especially Maddux that was my grandpas little buddy attached at the hip wherever pa went so did Maddux. From cleaning the lawn mowers off to singing songs together. I will cherish those memories for the rest of my life. I will forever miss both my grandparents but I find comfort knowing they are together right where they want to be. I know my grandma was waiting on him and she didn't have to wait long. I know they will both watch over each and everyone of us. Until we meet again always on my mind forever in my heart.

Priscilla - October 30, 2025 at 09:57 PM

MH

That was Dad! I remember one time I was mad about something and I hit the wall. Dad saw me do it and made me apologize to the wall for hitting it because it never did anything to me. I told him I wasn't going to apologize, then he said you'll stand there until you do. I thought he was joking so I started to walk away and he said "where are you going?" I never heard you apologize yet. So I ended up telling the wall I was sorry and that I would never hit it again! 🙄

Michelle Holloway - October 31, 2025 at 04:21 PM

JV

“ Michelle we will be praying 🙏 for you & all your family members. Love ❤️ In Christ Uncle Jim & Aunt Patricia Vigar. Madera, CA.

Jim Vigar - October 30, 2025 at 07:05 PM

MH

Thank you Aunt Pat & Uncle Jim.

Michelle Holloway - October 31, 2025 at 04:08 PM

MH

Thank you so much. I love you Uncle Jim and Aunt Pat.

Mitch Holloway - November 04, 2025 at 03:10 AM

MH

“ Where do I begin to explain how my heart is shattered. My Dad is my hero and I'm proud to say that I'm his daughter. My Dad was one in a million . Someone you could talk to without criticism, without judgement. He'd gladly give you his opinion, if you asked for it and sometimes if you didn't. He would give you the shirt off his back and be there to help you if you needed it. Dad never liked to yell (mostly) 😡 or get angry, unless it was about his family. Family meant everything to him. Thank you Dad for all you gave to me, whether it be providing me with a place to live, with the food I ate, or with keeping me clothed. But, the mental and emotional support is what I appreciate most of all. The love and understanding you gave and continued to give every day of my life. The life lessons you taught me every day have helped make who I am today. I could never thank you enough for that. Life is never going to be the same now, we have to figure out how to do life without you Dad and Mom. It's going to be a hard adjustment for all of us, but I know you're with me. I will love and miss you forever Dad. You're with Mom now and your broken heart is healed. Tell Mom hi and I love and miss her. Until I see you again, love Doodlebug

Michelle Holloway - October 30, 2025 at 05:32 PM

MH

“ *Michelle Holloway lit a candle in memory of Lanny Gillman*



Michelle Holloway - October 30, 2025 at 04:43 PM

AC

“ *I have known Lanny my whole life. Lanny was not only my uncle but he was like a father to me always teaching me he always treated like one of his own. He is also like one of my best friends. I was able to speak with him pretty much every morning got the honor of working with him for many years never a dull moment with him. I will miss his stories cause you know he could tell you a story and you knowing that not one word of it was true but he had a way too get you to believe what he was saying was true. He is a great uncle, mentor, father, and my friend. I love him dearly I miss him already. Till we meet again Captain. Love your nephew Allen*

Allen Charles - October 30, 2025 at 04:40 PM

MH

Thank you Allen for your kind words. Dad loved you too

Michelle Holloway - November 01, 2025 at 01:08 AM