



Wayne Daniel Gifford

September 30, 1955 - September 30, 2025

Wayne Daniel Gifford, son of the late Elmer Lawrence Gifford and Velma Ruth (Sayers) Gifford, was born in Lebanon, Missouri on September 30, 1955.

Wayne spent his formative years attending schools within the Laquey School District through the eighth grade. He began his high school journey at Richland High School, where he graduated with the Class of 1973 at the age of 16.

During his time in college at “Hard Work U”, Wayne took pride in holding various positions, including truck driving. After graduating, he prepared to join the United States Marine Corps, completing basic training and serving a year in the Reserves. However, when the time came to begin active duty, Wayne chose to pursue law school instead. After earning his law degree at the age of 22, he began his own legal practice in May 1978. He was elected as prosecuting attorney in August 1978 and was sworn in on January 2, 1979, at the age of 23. At the time of his swearing in, the prosecuting attorney’s position was a part time position.

On January 1, 1979, Wayne married Linda Carol Butler in Lebanon, Missouri. Their union lasted over 46 years and brought them two children: Brad and Jessica.

Wayne enjoyed collecting and operating John Deere tractors. He also loved taking road trips, reading, and watching movies, with a particular fondness for films starring John Wayne and Clint Eastwood.

Wayne was an active member of the Democratic Party and the Pulaski County Bar Association. He supported various organizations, including the USO and YMCA, and during his high school years, he was part of the FFA.

Wayne passed away on his 70th birthday, Tuesday, September 30, 2025, due to injuries sustained in a traffic accident. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Linda Gifford; his two children, Brad Gifford of Laquey, MO, and Jessica Gifford and her husband Isaac Dodson of Fulton, MO; his grandson, Henry Dodson of Fulton, MO; and four siblings: Rebecca Atwell and her husband Kenneth of Hurst, TX, Robert Gifford of Licking, MO, David Gifford and his wife Anne of Columbia, MO, and Paul Gifford and his wife Sharon of Laquey, MO. He also leaves behind several nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

In addition to his parents, Wayne was preceded in death by his brother Phillip Gifford.

Wayne was known for his big heart, touching the lives of many through his legal practice and as a host dad to several foreign exchange students. His kindness and legacy will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested in memory of Wayne Gifford to the Pulaski County Bar Association Scholarship Fund, Genesis: A Place of New Beginnings, or Gideon Bibles and may be left at Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

Sterling Road
Laquey, MO 65534

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Memorial Chapels And Crematory Of Waynesville / St. Robert

Funeral Service

OCT 4. 10:00 AM.

Memorial Chapels And Crematory Of Waynesville / St. Robert

Tribute Wall

EU

“ Our deepest condolences to Linda and the Gifford family! Wayne was a great man of character, a loving father and husband. He loved people and always stood on the right side of justice, never compromising his ethical values or integrity. Mr. Gifford you are truly missed and forever in my prayers. Until we meet again my dear friend, rest in peace 🙏
Ernest

Ernest Urquieta - February 09 at 10:55 AM

SN

“ Linda, I am so sorry for the sudden grief. May God and His comforting manifest presence continue to pour over you, day after day. God will never leave you nor forsake you. He loves you so much. May His angels comfort you and give you peace & help you sleep. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Psalm 126 those who sow in tears will reap in joy. The "Grief Share" class at Faith Baptist is a wonderful blessing. I encourage you to go.
- Susan Nazarewicz

Susan Nazarewicz - October 06, 2025 at 11:04 PM

LG

Great idea, I will look into what Grace has to offer.

Linda C Gifford - October 12, 2025 at 03:28 PM

JM

“ *My heart is with Linda, Brad, and Jessica's family.* 💙



Janet Martin - October 06, 2025 at 08:27 AM



“ *I had Wayne and Linda as one of college professor. He was a great man and always gave back to the community.*

Steve Wall - October 05, 2025 at 11:23 AM

JF

“Wayne and Linda not only opened their home to me, but have made me feel like part of the family. At my lowest, Wayne helped me, and over the years, I found that I wasn't the only one he had helped. Wayne's ways of helping those in need were as diverse as the many layers of his personality. Some he helped by doing their case pro bono, or sometimes, with cash-strapped clients, Wayne took payment for services or goods. He was paid with trailers, a washer & dryer set, and once even a mink coat. Yes, under Wayne's gruff and to-the-point exterior, inside of him was a compassionate family man who truly liked helping others.

Wayne was a great friend who sometimes treated me like a brother and other times like a son, depending on the situation, but he was always there, ready to help, whether it was with simple advice or grueling hard labor. Wayne helped if he could. Once he knew my back was not in the greatest shape, and I had trees from a storm that needed to be cut down and he spent his entire Saturday helping me. Wayne helped folks move with his big box trucks, cut down their damaged trees after storms, and helped so many in so many ways.

Wayne's strength was uncanny. He was country boy strong. Able to lift items that would normally take two men. Breaking bolts off of his tractor, that I had worked on for 20 minutes and couldn't budge. Wayne was strong and tough when he had to be, but most of the time, he was just a big teddy bear. He loved his family and would move heaven and earth to protect them.

Wayne was an intelligent man (graduated from high school and started college at age 16), he always carried a book and would read in any spare moment, and almost always during lunch. He could read a Tom Clancy novel in a day or two. When Wayne would tell a story, most of the time he gave you the information just like an author would. He would set the scene, giving you details on the weather, what day it was, who the characters are, and how they fit. I will certainly miss this about him.

Wayne was frugal, and several times when we had dinner out and he would order a hamburger meal and the waiter would ask if he wanted cheese on that, and he would ask how much more was the cheese, and once they said .55 (fifty five cents), and Wayne said no thank you, he was not paying that much for a peace of cheese...that was for himself. But he had no problem helping others who were in need or just starting. He would purchase items at auctions or at discount shops, not for himself, but for others. Wayne has furnished or outfitted so many apartments and homes, I stopped counting.

Wayne loved auctions and getting a good deal. He knew that I needed 2x6 lumber to repair my soffit at the storage business. I told him I needed about 50 boards. He found 165 boards for \$1 each. I was able to keep my 50 boards and sell the remainder for \$350, making a profit for Wayne and me. He has done the same with plywood, ceiling tiles, and so many other items. He was great at it.

Wayne also loved to shop at Sam's Club. On most of his trips, he would ask me what I needed, and he always looked for my favorite "Habitat" work shirts, and if they had my size, he would get them for me.

There are many aspects and stories about Wayne that I truly can't list them all, I just know that I will miss him. I will miss his friendship. I will miss him calling me in the late evening, telling me to wrap up whatever I was working on, that it would be there tomorrow. I will miss his humor and laugh. I will miss Wayne.

Joseph Fraley - October 05, 2025 at 09:54 AM

LG

You helped him accomplish things as well.

Linda C Gifford - October 12, 2025 at 03:31 PM

BK

“ Wayne and Linda helped raise me during the summer of several of my teenage years. Wayne used to refer to me as "Boy" and the last few years as "Son" until I left after HS for the Army. Watching MASH, Smokey and the Bandit and listening to Wayne laugh are things that I will never forget. Linda. Bradley and Jessica I am so sorry for your loss. I will forever be grateful for the love and blessings of being part a part of the journey. Wayne the truth is I was so proud and honored the first time you called me "son". You were a dad to me when you didn't have to be. Love and see you again some day.

Jeff Keller

Brian J Keller - October 03, 2025 at 10:36 PM

LG

Talking to you on October 1, was healing and helpful. These comments will help in Henry's book about his Grandpa

Linda C Gifford - October 12, 2025 at 03:33 PM

RS

“ I have fond memories of Wayne. When I was a green attorney he would pick on me to make me tougher but if I had a question he would always be there with the answer. When my Mom passed away in 1999, Wayne knew that I was really upset. He called me just about every day for several weeks to check on me. He was so smart and truly a good person. I loved our conversations down to just last week. I am praying for his family. I know Wayne is already with God.

Robyn Strange - October 03, 2025 at 01:18 PM

SA

“ I owe a lot to Mr Gifford . He helped us a lot during our custody battle and didn't really care if we had money or not . Rest in peace . May the Lord bless and keep you



Sarah - October 03, 2025 at 01:03 PM

BC

“ Brent Canterbury lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford



Brent Canterbury - October 03, 2025 at 03:12 AM

OS

“ I met Mr. Gifford in 1986, Great human being and caring. My prayers and condolences to the Family.



Orlando Soto - October 02, 2025 at 11:34 PM

JK

“ JB/Cheryl King lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford



JB/Cheryl King - October 02, 2025 at 10:27 PM

AC

“ Linda, Bill and I grieve with you and your family over the tragic loss of Wayne. You two were quite a team! You raised two wonderful kids, hosted exchange students who became part of your extended family, were pillars of your church, and befriended so many in our community. It was a thrill attending your renewal of vows banquet! We know it is a big loss for your family and this community, but we hope the good Lord will sustain and guide you through the adjustments to come. May your pictures, memories, and our prayers help.

Annette Morrison Catts - October 02, 2025 at 08:52 PM



“ Condolences from our family to yours.



Joseph James - October 02, 2025 at 08:29 PM

JS

“ Jerri Shreve sent a virtual gift in memory of Wayne Gifford



Jerri Shreve - October 02, 2025 at 04:30 PM



“ *Dawnmarie Cecora lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Dawnmarie Cecora - October 02, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ *Adam Kraemer lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Adam Kraemer - October 02, 2025 at 02:30 PM



“ *Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers Linda!*



Shada Gutierrez - October 02, 2025 at 02:05 PM



“ *Cheryl Boothe lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Cheryl Boothe - October 02, 2025 at 12:57 PM

RW

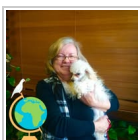
“ Wayne was my honorary grandfather , you will be missed Wayne.
Thank you for all you did when I was younger .

Renee Wade - October 02, 2025 at 12:51 PM

LG

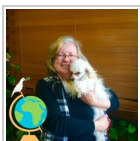
Precious girl

Linda C Gifford - October 02, 2025 at 10:33 PM



“ Curly Basham is sharing with me about Wayne being a very good man.

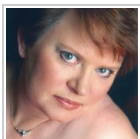
Janis Thompson - October 02, 2025 at 11:24 AM



“ Janis Thompson lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford



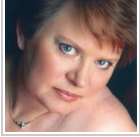
Janis Thompson - October 02, 2025 at 11:23 AM



“ Kimberly Orebaugh lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford



Kimberly Orebaugh - October 02, 2025 at 11:10 AM



“ *Jim and I are deeply sorry for your loss. He will be greatly missed.* ”

Kimberly Orebaugh - October 02, 2025 at 11:10 AM



“ *Wayne will always have a special place in my heart and he will be forever missed.* ”



Svitlana Cano - October 02, 2025 at 09:45 AM



“ *Tracy Dunken lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford* ”



Tracy Dunken - October 02, 2025 at 08:55 AM



“ *Mary Haas sent a virtual gift in memory of Wayne Gifford* ”



Mary Haas - October 02, 2025 at 08:54 AM



“ Wayne was an icon in downtown Waynesville for as long as I can remember all the way back to when I was a kid, through the time I was stationed in Missouri at FLW until now. Wow! Wayne thank you for being a great guy, our lawyer when I was young, and an icon for the community!! Heaven gained an ange!!!

Steven Holden - October 02, 2025 at 08:41 AM

CK

“ Christina Kraemer lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford



Christina Kraemer - October 02, 2025 at 08:14 AM

LC

“ Linda cole-schonbok lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford



Linda cole-schonbok - October 02, 2025 at 12:17 AM

SD

“ Susan Dyl lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford



Susan Dyl - October 01, 2025 at 11:51 PM

BM

“ So, so many memories my husband and I have with and of you. The stories you shared, and the memories of the office, and our funny breakfasts before court. No one could come into your office till you had your first breakfast sandwich and cup of coffee, unless it was John. Miss Linda, our prayers are with you for strength and peace during this journey of sadness and sorrow.
Patrick and Barbara Molloy



Barbara Molloy - October 01, 2025 at 11:39 PM

LG

Thank you

Linda C Gifford - October 12, 2025 at 03:35 PM

DM

“ *Debbie Montoya lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Debbie Montoya - October 01, 2025 at 11:35 PM

DB

“ I am shocked. And so sad. Not just for Linda and all of Wayne's family, but for all of us.

Wayne was a fine man. I never saw him treat anyone with any disrespect.

He was a fine lawyer. He quoted me a price once when I had a problem, and I paid him. That case dragged on for 3 years, but Wayne never would take another dime. A man of his word. Those are too few nowadays.

Good lawyer? The best! The way he handled a courtroom was a pleasurable dance to watch. He was so smart but never haughty.

Hillbilly? Only in the very best way. Ed Warden's comment is spot-on. Wayne always had time to visit. And his visits were worth your time. He was interesting and interested.

I will miss running into Wayne. I aspire to be more like him.

May perpetual light shine upon Wayne, O Lord. And may the Spirit wrap loving arms around his dear family.

Diana Fox Bentele - October 01, 2025 at 10:17 PM

LG

Henry will enjoy reading these stories someday.

Linda C Gifford - October 12, 2025 at 03:36 PM

RW

“ I Remember A Few Years Ago In A Bad Snow Storm There Was A Wreck On I-44 West Bound Lanes Just Before You Got To The Buckhorn Exit We Had Been Stuck In Traffic And Couldn't Make It To The Off Ramp It Was Starting To Get Dark And Wayne Was Right Ahead Of Me About Two Or Three Cars In A Suburban Type Rig We All Were Out Of Our Vehicles Talking And Wayne Was Tired Of Sitting There As Were The Rest Of UsLOL He Said “I Am Going To Jump The Road Ditch And Get On The Outer Road To Get Out Of This Mess Who Is With Me” Then He Said “For Those Of You That Don't Know Me I Am An Attorney And If Anybody Gets A Ticket Come See Me And I Will Get You Off “LOL Everyone Who Had A 4-Wheel Drive Vehicle Close To Us Started Jumping The Ditch As Wayne Led The WayAs Far As I Know Nobody Got A Ticket I Will Miss Seeing Him Around Prayers To Him Family

Robert Ward - October 01, 2025 at 10:10 PM

LG

Wish I would have known this story years ago.

Linda C Gifford - October 12, 2025 at 03:37 PM

LG

Years ago

Linda C Gifford - October 12, 2025 at 03:37 PM

TZ

“ *God bless his family*



Tonya Zeigenbein - October 01, 2025 at 09:27 PM



“ Wayne was one of a kind. Full of life. I worked at his law office for a while when my husband Tommy Walters was pastor at Briarwood Baptist. It was challenging and entertaining listening to his dictated messages. He and Linda were dear friends. Even though we haven't been in touch for a while, we have thought of you often and have cherished memories of Wayne and Linda.

Marie Walters - October 01, 2025 at 09:10 PM

LG

Ironic that we both became widows in 2025.

Linda C Gifford - October 12, 2025 at 03:38 PM

SF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Savannah D. Flynt - October 01, 2025 at 08:29 PM

IB

“ In memory of Mr. Gifford



Irma Brinkley - October 01, 2025 at 08:14 PM

SG

“ *Sandy Glass lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Sandy Glass - October 01, 2025 at 08:03 PM

DR

“ *This is very sad, Wayne and I were friends for many years. He was a good, honest man. My condolences and prayers for Linda and family.*

Dennis Ryno - October 01, 2025 at 07:57 PM

DT

“ *Deborah Tregaskis lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Deborah Tregaskis - October 01, 2025 at 07:30 PM

DF

“ *Dan and Holly French lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Dan and Holly French - October 01, 2025 at 07:21 PM

LS

“ *My Prayers & Sympathies go out to the Family, & many Friends he had. He is at rest now, no more pain or suffering, He is up in Heaven. He was an awesome person .He will be Greatly missedbut Never Forgotten.*



Linda Short - October 01, 2025 at 06:57 PM



“ *Sorry for the loss. He was a great man and will be missed by many, but will never be forgotten.*



Kevin Short - October 01, 2025 at 06:08 PM

EV

“ *Our deepest condolences Linda, Jessica, and Bradley. I have lots of fond memories of Mr. Gifford especially growing up in Waynesville and attending church with your family at Briarwood Baptist. We pray peace over your family. Until we meet again. Erika Vargas*

ERIKA VARGAS - October 01, 2025 at 06:00 PM

LG

Thank you so much.

Linda C Gifford - October 02, 2025 at 10:40 PM

WW

“ Sorry for your loss.
Prayers for the Families 🙏.



Wm & Ana Willoughby - October 01, 2025 at 05:57 PM

RP

“ Rosalind Pride lit a candle in memory of
Wayne Gifford



Rosalind Pride - October 01, 2025 at 05:56 PM

MR

“ Wayne was a great college instructor and had a big heart. Learned
a lot from him. He and Linda did a lot for us during a family tragedy
of our own. Rest in the arms of the Lord my friend.

Matthew Richards - October 01, 2025 at 05:38 PM

DM

“ Debby (Johnson) Myers sent a virtual gift in
memory of Wayne Gifford



Debby (Johnson) Myers - October 01, 2025 at 05:34 PM

MK

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Wayne's passing. I worked with Wayne for many years when he taught classes. I also had the pleasure of knowing him out in the community. Wayne could make me shake my head in disbelief and laugh my head off the next moment. He was a good man who cared about his family, community and country. He will be missed.

Linda, Brad, Jessica and family, I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers.

Margaret Kremer-Coyne - October 01, 2025 at 05:28 PM

LG

Very appreciated

Linda C Gifford - October 02, 2025 at 10:43 PM

JT

“ *Jim and Barbara Thomas lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Jim and Barbara Thomas - October 01, 2025 at 05:11 PM

BH

“ *I remember in the early 80's I worked at Witmor Farms and Wayne would come in almost every Friday night for the seafood buffet. He was always laughing and sometimes in a deep conversation with Roy Moorman. I have a feeling that they picked up where they left off.*

Barbi Surmiller Hoskins - October 01, 2025 at 05:09 PM

PM

“ *Peggy medlock lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Peggy medlock - October 01, 2025 at 05:02 PM

CD

“ *Cornelia & Robert Dodds lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Cornelia & Robert Dodds - October 01, 2025 at 04:58 PM

MM

“ *Linda and family and Wayne's siblings. You all are in our thoughts and prayers. Hugs. Love you all. Crystal Ogle-Mosier and Michael Mosier*



Michael & Crystal Mosier - October 01, 2025 at 04:39 PM

DB

“ *Wayne was my lawyer and I counted him and Linda as friends. I pray God will provide comfort over the family during this unexpected time of grief and sorrow*

Darlene battle - October 01, 2025 at 04:29 PM

SD

“ *Sheila Debo lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



Sheila Debo - October 01, 2025 at 04:20 PM

WA

“ *William anderson lit a candle in memory of Wayne Gifford*



William anderson - October 01, 2025 at 04:20 PM

BS

Wayne was my boss/employer and friend for almost 20 years. He was a good man and he loved his family dearly. People thought he was rude and obnoxious, but he had a teddy bear heart and I loved him dearly. I know he will be greatly missed in the Courts of Missouri and by his family. Prayers to Linda, Brad, Jessica and the rest of the Gifford family!

Beverly Straight - October 01, 2025 at 08:40 PM

MT

“ *The biggest thing remember about Wayne is he was always laughing and when came to our house for the holidays he would want lassares peas nothing else would do
Rest in the arms of the lord*

Mark travis - October 01, 2025 at 04:13 PM

PC

“ Pamela Cox sent a virtual gift in memory of Wayne Gifford



Pamela Cox - October 01, 2025 at 03:50 PM



“ Linda, I am so deeply sorry for your loss. He was such a good man, and his absence will be felt by many. I can only imagine he and Vickie are already catching up in Heaven. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers, and I'm here for you in any way you need.
- Phoebe (Cain) Long

Phoebe Long - October 01, 2025 at 03:11 PM

LG

That picture of them catching up made me smile.

Linda C Gifford - October 02, 2025 at 10:45 PM

EW

“ Just visited with Wayne on Saturday as he was picking up stuff he bought at the auction. It always took him longer to load up than others because he'd get sidetracked visiting and telling stories! I will miss him.

Ed Warden - October 01, 2025 at 03:09 PM