



Mr. Gilbert W. Meier

April 10, 1927 - April 24, 2016

Gilbert W. Meier died in Austin, TX in the early hours of April 24, 2016; he had been injured in a fall. Gil was born in St. Louis, MO on April 10, 1927 to Walter F. Meier and Mildred Kuhn. After graduating from Southwest High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and zoology from Washington University in St. Louis. His college years were interrupted by service in the United States Army. After receiving a master's in psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1949, he returned to Washington University for his 1953 doctorate, again in psychology and zoology. In his dissertation he looked at the effects of natal oxygen deprivation on behavior and EEG activity.

His career was devoted to the science of animal behavior. He first taught in the Department of Psychology at Vanderbilt University where he was promoted to associate professor in 1958. Later in his career he was variously at the National Institutes of Health, George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, the University of Puerto Rico Medical Center, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He retired from NIH in 1998. For many years (1970-1981), he edited the journal *Developmental Psychobiology*.

His research focused on the early development of brain and behavior. A 1955 paper with his student Emil Menzel in the journal *Science* looked at the effects of prenatal oxygen deprivation on subsequent behavior. A 1965 paper with his postdoctoral student Ralph Berger (published in *Experimental Neurology*) looked at the development of sleep and wakefulness patterns in infant rhesus monkeys. Later he would look at phenomena such as eye movements in the sleep of infant rhesus monkeys, the ontogeny of play (Meier & Devanney 1974 in *American Zoologist*), and dominance status within a troop of rhesus macaques (Bartlett & Meier 1971 in the journal *Primates*). He directed 26 doctoral dissertations.

Gil is survived by his son Richard P. Meier (of Austin), Richard's wife Madeline Sutherland-Meier, and their daughter Erica, and by his daughter Liese N. Meier (of Corning, NY), her husband J. T. Haran, and their children Thomas and Eileen. He is also survived by his

sisters Audrey Meitz and Loraine Tracy, and by Loraine's children Debbie, Kevin, Bryn, Sean, and Rebecca. Lastly, he is survived by his first wife Colene Van Deusen (née McKinney), whom he rejoined for the last two decades of his life.

The family asks that those who wish to honor his memory consider a donation to the Gilbert W. Meier and Colene McKinney Undergraduate Internship at Washington University in St. Louis: <https://gifts.wustl.edu/>

A graveside memorial service will be held in St. Louis at Valhalla Cemetery...on Aug 8,

Cemetery

Valhalla Cemetery

7600 St Charles Rock
Road

St Louis, MO, 63133

Events

AUG Graveside Service

09:00AM

8

Valhalla Funeral Chapel, Crematory and Cemetery
7600 St Charles Rock Rd, St. Louis, MO, US, 63133-
1320

Comments



“ It is sad to hear of Dr. Meier's (Gil's) passing. I have many enduring memories of working with him as his research assistant (ca. 1968-72) observing the rhesus colony he maintained on the roof of Peabody's Psychology Building. I learned much about the origins of human behavior from him and his beloved rhesus monkeys. He contributed to the knowledge of primate, including human, behaviors. He influenced and guided my dissertation topic and was on my committee. He was truly a gentle and wise man.

My thoughts and sympathies are with you, his family and friends, at this time.
Dino Pranzarone, Ph.D. (Professor of Psychology-Emeritus, Roanoke College, Salem, VA)



G.F. Pranzarone, PhD - July 23, 2018 at 07:15 PM



“ To the Family:
I regret the passing away of a dedicated scientist who helped the Caribbean Primate Center of the University of Puerto Rico for several years. Visitors from all over the world participated in research activities at our institution. He was an excellent administrator and researcher who helped maintain the accreditation of our Center. Rest in Peace.

Norman Maldonado MD
Former Chancellor and President of the University of Puerto Rico

Norman Maldonado - April 21, 2018 at 05:49 PM



“ Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of Mr. Gilbert W. Meier.



August 04, 2016 at 11:07 PM