



## Willard Selleck Gideon

June 3, 1931 - October 10, 2016

Col. Willard Selleck Gideon, 85, of Mt. Pleasant, widower of Jeannine H. Gideon, passed away on October 10, 2016 at his residence.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Omar Shrine Convention Center, 176 Patriots Point Road, Mt. Pleasant on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 beginning at 6 o'clock PM. Burial will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA.

Col. Gideon was born on June 3, 1931 in Takoma Park, MD, son of the late Willard Gideon and Eloise (Selleck) Gideon. He graduated from Washington and Lee High School in Arlington, Virginia in 1949. After attending Butler Prep School, Col. Gideon enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1952. It was in the Air Force that Col. Gideon discovered his passion for flying. He started flight training in 1952 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt and awarded his pilot wings in March, 1954.

Col. Gideon flew a number of aircraft (F-80, F-86, F-100) in his early years in the Air Force. Because of his superior skill as a pilot, Col. Gideon was selected to be part of the Europe Aerial Demonstration Team (European version of the Thunderbirds) from 1960 to 1962. After his tour in Europe, Col. Gideon transferred to Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada and became an instructor pilot in the F-105 Thunderchief.

In 1965 Col. Gideon was transferred to Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa as a F-105 pilot. During this time Col. Gideon also flew combat missions over North Vietnam. In August 1966, while on his 55th combat mission 25 miles northeast of Hanoi, Col. Gideon was shot down and taken prisoner of war.

After 2,402 days in captivity, Col. Gideon was released during Operation Homecoming in March, 1973. He was briefly hospitalized to recover from his injuries at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and then attended the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama. Col. Gideon then attended the University of Nebraska and was awarded his bachelor's degree in 1976.

Col. Gideon then served as Chief of Supply for the 437th Supply Squadron and Deputy Commander for Resource Management for the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base from 1976 until his retirement from the Air Force in June 1983.

During his time in the Air Force, Col. Gideon received numerous awards including the Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Both the Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross were awarded to Col. Gideon due to his superior skill, aggressiveness, and determination to complete assigned missions even while facing heavy enemy fire.

During his retirement, Col. Gideon continued his interest in aviation, worked on his tennis game, traveled, and most importantly; he loved to spend time with his family and friends.

Surviving are: two children: Willard Gideon, II (Catherine) of Ballston Spa, NY and Georgia Gideon of Glenville, NY; three stepchildren: Bruce Orme (Kimberly) of Hanahan, Craig Orme (Pamela) of Charleston and Renee Orme Orander (Andrew) of Charleston; one sister: Eloise Collins (Harry) of

Barrington, RI; eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101-9908 or to the Salvation Army, 4248 Dorchester, Road, North Charleston, SC 29405.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at [www.jamesadyal.com](http://www.jamesadyal.com).

ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT **19**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Omar Shrine Convention Center  
176 Patriots Point Road  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ Hi. I hope someone reads this. I live in New Mexico and purchased a box of estate sale jewelry. This bracelet was in with the jewelry. When I was younger I wore a bracelet with a soldier's name on it I'd love to return it to his family. Mitzi



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Mitzi Wyatt - March 29 at 07:12 PM



“ Willard Selleck Gideon

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September 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM

TW

“ Will was my friend and mentor and all-round "good guy". Jeannine was my favorite confidante and I loved them both dearly. Of course, I miss each of them and there will be a hole in my heart until we are all together again. I know in my heart that they are both cruising around the clouds in a fiery red Corvette with the top down...Will driving and Jeannine's white hair waving in the air ... just waiting to see us all.

God speed and peace, my friend.

Terry Williamson

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Terry Williamson - October 19, 2016 at 07:34 AM

MW

*Hi. I found a POW bracelet that was worn by someone when he was a POW. I would like to return it to his family. You can call me 575-640-1974 I posted a picture of it here*

**Mitzi Wyatt** - March 29 at 07:26 PM

LI

“ *Condolences to the family. I am sorry for your loss. I pray God comforts the family during this difficult time. Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength. A help that is readily found in times of distress." The family is in my prayers.*

**Lisa** - October 19, 2016 at 07:04 AM

SL

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



**Samuel Lassiter** - October 18, 2016 at 08:37 AM

MW

*Hi. Not sure if anyone will receive this message. I found a POW bracelet in a box of jewelry I purchased. Bracelet someone wore while your friend was a prisoner. I would like to return it to his family. My name is Mitzi. 575-640-1974. I live in New Mexico*

**Mitzi Wyatt** - March 29 at 07:29 PM

AP

“ Addie, Deanna, Dina, Pam purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Willard Selleck Gideon.



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**Addie, Deanna, Dina, Pam** - October 17, 2016 at 02:39 PM

NE

“ Will and I were in aviation cadet class 54-E. He was a great fighter pilot and a truly fine gentleman . He represented the definition of integrity .

*A gentle warrior and natural leader. I will miss him immensely.*

*Maj. Gen. Neil L Eddins, USAF Retired*

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**Neil L Eddins** - October 14, 2016 at 11:56 AM

PG

“ To whom it may concern,

*I live just down the street at 1279 S Barksdale, and just learned of your loss. I regret to say that I did not know Mr. Gideon, beyond a brief wave as I was driving or jogging by his house. That being said, I just read the obituary for Mr. Gideon and I wanted to send a brief note to thank the family for his service to our country. It sounds like he led a very exciting life, and I am sorry I did not stop and get to know him better. Please except condolences on behalf of my family and others in the neighborhood who have expressed their admiration of his military service after reading this brief summary of his life.*

*Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help the family with his residence/estate, we are just down the street if you need extra pair of hands, or need to borrow a tool. I have been through this with several family members, and I know the process can be overwhelming, especially if the family is not local.*

*Sincerely,  
Paul and Reid Green  
617-851-9814  
mail@pcgreenjr.com*

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**Paul Green** - October 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM