



## Online Obituaries

### OBITUARIES FROM PURSEL-DAVIS FUNERAL HOME MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA

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#### **John Gillam**



Born: 3/4/1928  
Died: 5/16/2002

Services will be held at: 1:00 p.m. Sunday, May 26, 2002 at Pursel-Davis Funeral Home & Crematory

Visitation times are: Family will greet friends from noon to 1 p.m. prior to the memorial service

John Speers "Skip" Gillam, 74, of Marshalltown died at his home on Thursday, May 16, 2002. Following cremation at Pursel-Davis Funeral Home & Crematory, MEMORIAL SERVICES will be held 1:00 P.M. Sunday, May 26, at Pursel-Davis, the Rev. Gregory Ellcey, First Congregational Church, officiating. The family will be present to greet friends from noon to 1 p.m. before the memorial. NO VISITATION is scheduled; however, a guest book on Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. at Pursel-Davis. A memorial fund has been established in his name.

Mr. Gillam was born March 4, 1928, in Marshalltown, the son of John Coontz and Helene Magdalene (Tuffree) Gillam. He graduated from Marshalltown High School in 1946 and attended Grinnell College for two years. Transferring to Washington University in St. Louis, he received his bachelor's degree in retailing in 1950. He entered the family business, Gillam's Jewelry, becoming the fourth generation to do business on Marshalltown's main street. In the summer of 1950 he married Elise Richter in Kirkwood, Mo. The couple divorced in 1969. He married Ruth Watts of Marshalltown in 1971. In 1973 he and Ruth bought the family business. They divorced in 1992 and sold the store in 1993. He continued to manage it until his retirement in 1995. Mr. Gillam was a certified gemologist of the American Gem Society, a member of the Elks Lodge and Lions Club, and a founding member of the Ambassadors of the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce. From 1967 to 1969 he served as president of the Iowa Retail Jewelers Association. His hobbies included billiards, bowling, golf and researching the American Civil War. He is survived by daughter: Christine (Mark) Austin, of Naperville, IL; sons Patrick (Nancy) Gillam, of Lyndeborough, NH; Matthew (Hideko) Gillam, of Queens, NY; Steven Gillam, Des Moines, stepdaughter Pam Smaha of Marshalltown; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, ex-wife Elise, and his brother, George.