



Gilbert G. "Gil" Snyder

January 9, 1953 - October 5, 2025

Gilbert G. "Gil" "Duke" Snyder, 72, passed away in his home in Trafford, Pa., Thursday, October 2, 2025. He was a lifelong musician, artist and showman and was a founding member of legendary Pittsburgh bands, The Iron City Houserockers and The Mystic Knights. He was born January 9th 1953 in Trafford, to WWII veteran father Gilbert E. Snyder and mother Isabelle (Martino) Snyder. He is survived by his son Nicolas Snyder, his daughter Tara Saunders, grandchildren Daisy and Gage Saunders, and his former wife Heather E. Snyder. He grew up playing organ in the local Catholic Church which later evolved into a profession as a rock and roll and blues keyboardist. He was a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in film and in the mid 1970's, he was nominated for a Student Academy Award for "Best Animated Film" for the experimental short "Ooze". In the late 1970's his band, then Brick Alley, which later became The Iron City Houserockers was signed to a recording contract with MCA records. They released several classic albums and performed and recorded with the likes of "Little" Steven Van Zandt, Steve Cropper of Stax Records fame and Mick Ronson, producer of Ziggy Stardust, who went on to produce The Houserocker's 1980 album Have a Good Time but Get Out Alive which contained the Gilbert Snyder penned classic "Old Man Bar", an autobiographical song about his Dad and his own struggles with alcoholism. He later went on to form the Mystic Knights with Chizmo Charles and a rotating cast of many of Pittsburgh's most skilled blues musicians. He was an incredibly talented person who lived his life on his own

terms. He loved early Chicago Blues, cooking large Italian feasts, eating chicken wings, lounging in a pool on a hot summer day and watching old monster movies. He'll be remembered for his booming laugh, his warm demeanor and his endless creativity. The family will receive friends from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, October 11, at the William Snyder Funeral Home, 521 Main St., Irwin. Friends and loved ones are welcome to share memories around 2:30 pm. Instead of flowers, in Gil's name, support your local musical artists. For online condolences please visit www.snyderfuneralservices.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 11. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

William Snyder Funeral Home, Inc.
521 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642
(724) 863-1200
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Sharing stories and remembrances

OCT 11. 2:30 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

MI

“ Was great to have known you and went to Edinboro with you. Very fun and talented and just great person. Saw you many times at The Decade and other venues. Thots are with your family. Miss you!
Mary Moran Irwin

Mary Moran Irwin - November 11, 2025 at 02:39 PM

SJ

“ I saw you at the decade many times with grushecky lots of memories

Sharon May [Keenan] - October 17, 2025 at 06:45 PM



“ see some great music and memories of the duke on film in guitars over cancer, as well as max woodhall, glenn pavone, and warren king. r i ps all around

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Nx49HigcqE&t=2459s

Skitch Lee - October 13, 2025 at 04:31 PM

DF

“ I am devastated to learn Gil has passed. He introduced me to the blues when we were teenagers. We spent many hours together playing music. Had I not moved to Philadelphia and then San Antonio I'm sure I would have played music with Gil and James Hilton. Pittsburgh has lost a very talented man. I have lost a great friend and mentor.

Dave Froberg - October 11, 2025 at 09:02 PM

EL

“ Here is a photo of Gil from the Gene's Blues Bar Reunion at Moondogs.

I remember him playing with Jimmy King.



Elaine Luther - October 11, 2025 at 06:32 PM

KZ

“ We will miss you, Gil! Say hello to Chismo for me and Lori!

Karla Zaar - October 10, 2025 at 08:10 PM

AU

“ Audra purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Gilbert G. "Gil" Snyder.



Audra - October 10, 2025 at 07:11 PM

MP

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Mario Peticca - October 10, 2025 at 05:51 PM

MP

August 25th 2013 Mystic Knights Reunion Show at TUGBOAT'S

Mario Peticca - October 10, 2025 at 05:53 PM

 Lee
Caruso

Rest in peace my friend, you will be missed.

Lee Sr. & Lee Jr.

Lee Caruso - October 10, 2025 at 08:04 PM

TG

“ *The Burgh will miss you Duke. Say hi to Gene for me. Rest in Peace*

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/7FzkJjwiSCuTkyGA8>

Thomas Graziani - October 10, 2025 at 05:08 PM

JD

Gail was a pure Joy and bright Blues light.

An artist in all things!

God Bless and keep you .

Peace be with your family.

You will be long remembered .

Joseph E Demes - October 11, 2025 at 09:51 PM

MP

“ *To our friend Gil. We always enjoyed hosting THE MYSTIC KNIGHTS for outdoor festivals and Christmas shows.*

RIP

Your friends from TUGBOAT'S Restaurant and Bar

Mario Peticca - October 10, 2025 at 04:41 PM

PS

“ DUKE!! I will miss you.. I was so glad I got to see you and perform with you at THE GENES BLUES reunion at MOONDOGS IN JANUARY OF 2024! It was a pleasure and a good night! I sang some of my best music with you in the mid eighties with BON TON ROULETTE! Great piano player, singer performer ,, the whole package! A real ARTISTE!! Ya man! Love ya! From Jackie Graham AKA PATRICK SCANGA!

Patrick Scanga - October 10, 2025 at 12:58 PM

JE

“ Gil could make a keyboard talk!! I have seen him many times with THE MYSTICK KNIGHTS. My sympathy to his family, Judy Elias

Judy Elias - October 10, 2025 at 12:50 PM

LE

“ we worked together very closely in putting together the Guitars Over Cancer blues benefit concert in 2010 for mutual friend and colleague Warren King. Gil was instrumental along with Norman Nardini in putting that musical show of 25 pgh musicians together, and making that concert happen, which ultimately became a film of the same name. i go way back to 1988 with Gil and the Mystic Knights. And as a fellow filmmaker, I appreciated his film work. He possessed a lot of talent.... Lee Kann

lee - October 10, 2025 at 12:10 AM

TB

“ He will be missed..he was a talented musician..followed him and the band for 30 years...condolences to his family and friends..Tom Brosnick and Alice Shipley

Tom Brosnick - October 09, 2025 at 02:04 PM

BB

“ Sorry to hear of Gil's passing, what a great character. Many great times hanging out and listening to his jams! The Decade of course and many local clubs & firehalls. One of my favorite memories was his shows on WRCT radio & late night craziness, he would portray a character "Count Bardahl" a takeoff of his love of horror films and a local oil company. Go figure were that came from but it was great gonzo craziness. RIP to a one of a kind man!
Deepest sympathy to Heather, Nic, Tara & family.
Byron & Dianne Bigelow

Byron Bigelow - October 08, 2025 at 04:49 PM

RJ

“ Gil with the Jaminators was one fine show. RIP my friend.

Roy Johnson - October 08, 2025 at 02:24 PM

MC

“ Gil's passing hit hard even though I hadn't seen him in almost 40 years. I first remember seeing him at the Gazebo as the wild keyboard player for the "Brick Alley Band" that later morphed into the "Iron City Houserockers". I saw so many shows at the "Decade" and other clubs around Pittsburgh (including voyages on the "Gateway Clipper") that they almost seem a blur to me now, but I have hundreds of photos of those to look back on. Seeing him sing "Old Man Bar" was always a showstopper and a song that is burned into my brain. Condolences to his family and all the Houserocker family.

Mike Chedwick
Atlanta, GA



Mike Chedwick - October 08, 2025 at 12:43 PM

W&

“ Wendy &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gilbert G. "Gil" Snyder.

Wendy &. - October 07, 2025 at 07:31 PM

WJ

“ Oh, Gil, how you will be missed! I know you're now making great music with Eddie. Sending peace and healing thoughts to the family. He was a wonderful, creative guy and he certainly left his mark on this earth.

Wendy and Autumn Justice - October 07, 2025 at 07:25 PM