

Thursday, February 19, 1998

Robert Monroe Gilbert

Former CU Regent Robert Monroe Gilbert of Greeley died Feb. 11 at North Colorado Medical Center. He was 85.

Mr. Gilbert was born March 31, 1912, in Greeley to Carson Gilbert and Sarah Carroll Gilbert. He married Frances Goodwin in Sidney, Neb., on June 20, 1942.

He graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1938. While at CU, he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta social fraternity and Phi Delta Phi honorary scholastic legal fraternity. He was a football player at Greeley High School and at CU. He was president of the CU Alumni "C" Club.

Mr. Gilbert ran his own law practice from 1938-55 and was in partnership with John Clayton from 1955-63. He served on the board of directors of the First National Bank of Greeley from 1958 until he became the bank's president in 1963, and was president and chairman of the board of First National from 1963-75. He served as chairman of the board and chief executive officer at the bank until his retirement in 1977. He also served as director of the First National Bank of Denver.

Mr. Gilbert was appointed to the CU Board of Regents by Gov. John Love in 1968. He was elected to a full six-year term in November 1968 and was the first regent elected by the regents to serve as chairman of the Board of Regents. He retired after serving seven years.

He was a member of the CU Foundation Board and was elected president of the University of Northern Colorado Foundation in 1975. He also was a member of the Union Colony Pioneers, the Kiwanis Club, the Elks, the Masonic Lodge, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Episcopal Church. He belonged to the Weld County and American bar associations, and was a past president of the Weld County Bar Association. He was a former Greeley city attorney and director of the Greeley Public Library board.

Mr. Gilbert served with the Navy as a gunnery officer in World War II.

He is survived by his wife of Greeley; two daughters, Jane Johnson of Castle Pines and Ann Allison of Boulder; and a granddaughter.

Memorial services were held Feb. 15 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Greeley. Interment was at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Memorial contributions may be made to the University of Colorado Foundation or the University of Northern Colorado Foundation, in care of the Macy Chapel, 702 13th St., Greeley, CO 80631.