



## George Michael Gottfried

February 4, 1937 - July 1, 2020

A recording of the funeral service on July 25th, 2020 can be found at this link:  
[https://youtu.be/39AhruV\\_EGU](https://youtu.be/39AhruV_EGU)

George Michael Gottfried of Northfield, MN died on July 1st at the age of 83. He was born in 1937 in Minneapolis to Rose (Christman) and Henry Gottfried. The second oldest of eight children, George grew up in St. Cloud and was raised from age nine at the St. Cloud Children's home. He was an Eagle Scout. George graduated from Cathedral High School and St. Cloud State University, and received his masters degree from Catholic University of America.

In 1961 George married Nancy Heiber and together they created a loving and vibrant home where they raised eight children. As parents they built a solid, compassionate, and supportive family. They were married for thirty years.

George pursued his PhD in Social Work in 1989 at Case Western Reserve University and wrote his dissertation on his experiences being raised by the Franciscan Sisters at the Children's Home. George was instrumental in starting the social work department at the College of St. Benedict and was a professor there for 22 years. He then became an internship advisor at the University of North Carolina before retiring in 2007.

George married Kimberly Strom in 1995 and they were married for 24 years. After his retirement George and Kim enjoyed traveling across the United States, Europe, and China. They met and connected with many cherished friends and colleagues across the globe and had a fulfilling and joyful life together.

George was an intelligent man who instilled a high value of education and life-long learning in his kids and his students. He was a lovable curmudgeon who was funny and kind, was genuinely curious about people, a great storyteller, and a supportive listener. His sometimes gruff and impatient exterior belied his big heart: he was generous with his time, thoughtful with his intentions, and patient where it mattered most—as a teacher, friend,

and father.

He loved to fish, spend time at his cabin, play poker with his friends, read books, and write stories about his life. He enjoyed painting and puzzles of all kinds, and was an avid birdwatcher. George was a proud father who loved his kids and grandkids dearly. He will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and siblings Eugene, David, Robert, and Jerome.

Survived by: Siblings Margaret Finger, Richard Gottfried, and Jeanette Golland, and sister-in-law Marlene Gottfried, and many nieces and nephews.

Former wives Nancy Gottfried and Kim Strom.

Children Julianne (Jamer) Malcolm, Elizabeth Tilak, Michael (Lisa) Gottfried, Kathryn (Steve) Gottfried Randall, Andrew (Connie) Gottfried, Benjamin (Debra) Gottfried, Nathan (David) Gottfried, and Sarah (Kaylynn) Gottfried.

Grandchildren Zach, Lucas, Kyra, Kaeden, Emma, Abigail, Nicholas, Jack, Samuel, Ethan, Sydney, Ani, Norah, Greta, Elijah, and Ezra.

With current restrictions on large gatherings, there will be a funeral for immediate family on July 25th.

The family is deeply grateful to Ben and Deb Gottfried for their loving care of George in his final years. Special thanks also to the staff at Northfield Retirement Community.

Memorials preferred to the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, 116 8th Ave SE, Little Falls 56345, [www.fslf.org](http://www.fslf.org)

# Comments

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“ Jeanette wishes to send her deepest condolences to all of George’s family, children and grandchildren. Jeanette has fond memories of staying with George when she was 14 in St. Cloud, and she used to babysit his daughters and take them for walks. She has always looked up to him because he was a hard worker and had good work ethics, he was a wonderful father and a wonderful person. She wishes that through all the distance and living far away that she could have had more time to spend with him, and was very encouraged by the recent calls they had and his gift of a copper bracelets to help her arthritis. To his last day he was giving, encouraging and caring of his siblings. - From Jeanette's son Barish Golland.



**Barish Golland** - July 26 at 04:59 PM

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“ George was always interested in how others were doing before sharing details of his own life He had that ability to zero in on what was most important to each of us. How we made contributions to something larger than ourselves. Thanks George for that interest and caring. It will be long remembered. Thinking of his family on this day.

**Harvey Lawlor** - July 25 at 09:03 AM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of George Michael Gottfried.



July 21 at 05:51 PM

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“ Uncle George joined us for our annual family fishing trip to Cut Foot Sioux/Winnebigoshish. To celebrate our success we had a traditional fish fry with all the fixings. When it got down to the last piece of fish I remember tales of the Christman uncle's faking each other out to swipe things from their brothers/nephews. With this in mind I devised a devious plan. As I was looking out the window I commented "look at that hottie" (referencing one of the attractive cleaning girls at the resort). Of course she was nowhere to be found. As uncle George was looking out the window, trying to view the "eye candy". I glanced at my father (Jerome) with a twinkle in my eye, and quickly snagged that last piece of fish. Uncle George seemed dumbfounded as he looked out the window for what would turn out to be a figment of my imagination. As he looked back at me, I was feasting on that piece of fish and he had a sheepish look on his face because he knew he had been had. We all chuckled at my shenanigans and it is one of my fondest memories of him.

**Erich Gottfried** - July 19 at 06:42 PM

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“ I first met George Gottfried when I started teaching social work at St. Ben's. He was my first social work teaching mentor. The students loved him for good reason: he cared about them deeply and inspired them to greatness in their profession.

**Ralph Holcomb** - July 19 at 12:13 PM

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“ George was a dear and kind friend. My favorite memories of George was watching him play poker with the “garden club”. He loved to joke and tease the other players that created outrageous laughter in our house. His presence was the glue that kept this disparate group into a wonderful friendship.



**Angela Johns** - July 18 at 01:33 PM

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“ Lovely tribute only missing his love of golf as George could hit the ball a mile when he got ahold of one! Great memories of those games as well as travel, APPLE teaching in Lithuania and many Thanksgivings and Christmases. Thanks George for being one of the good guys.



**greg strom** - July 17 at 01:00 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of the wonderful man. Prayers for all of his family.

**Carol Weber** - July 17 at 09:10 PM



“ So sorry for your loss Julie. Heartfelt condolences from Cristina and Mike.

**Mike** - July 17 at 09:40 PM



“ I was fortunate to have George as my freshman Symposium teacher at CSB/SJU back in 1984-85. He had a way of challenging you yet putting things in perspective and making learning fun. He initially came across as strict and serious only to find him to be a simply great guy. Many fond memories and friendships came from that class. So sorry for your loss! George was a great man!

John Ellis

**John Ellis** - July 19 at 11:56 AM



“ Our sincere condolences to all friends and family. George was a special person. He was interested in learning the personal histories of people he met and places newly seen. He loved to ask questions to learn and understand them better. He was a good listener as well. He loved being introduced to special places along the ME coast, esp. the lighthouses. He enjoyed the many rivers, lakes and mountains, always wondering about presence of wildlife, fish, and small town places to eat - rarely passing up a chance to check one out. He loved to go boating on “the big lake” a.k.a Penobscot Bay. He would look out the window to check if conditions were good to go, or a good day to fish for mackerel or striped bass. He was very competitive in our 4 game competitions - ping pong, air hockey, skittles and cribbage - always with enthusiasm and laughter. We have so many memories and lots of photos to refresh them. He was impatient! at times, but usually someone would set him straight. His appreciation for kindnesses shown him or little gifts given was evident. We send our thoughts and prayers to all, Jean and Mort

**Jean Strom** - July 24 at 04:45 PM



“ Everything that Jean Strom said about George’s connection to people is exactly how my husband Tom and I found George to be. He was such a special person and you must be so proud of him. I hope that helps to lesson your grief just a little bit.

Pam Carson and Tom Sear

**pam carson** - July 25 at 04:17 PM