

Glen G Wilson

Glenn Griswold Wilson, passed away on August 19, 2023, at age 87. He was born on Dec. 23rd, 1935 in Fort Madison, Iowa to parents Woodrow & Mae (Griswold) Wilson. He was the 1st born of 5 children. Sister Maylo (deceased), Sister Sharon (deceased), Sister Tracy (deceased), and Brother Bruce who is currently living in San Marcos CA.

Glenn lived in Fort Madison, Iowa through High School where he graduated from the class of 1953. He then was accepted to Western Illinois University where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education. While at Western Illinois University, he won the National Trampoline Championships in 1957 and was honored by being inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1984. This is also where he met his first wife, Donna. They married in Illinois and had 5 children together - Kevin, Rand, Kirby, Brock, and Reed Wilson.

The gymnastics career that propelled Glenn's life was developed through his dedication to trampolining which he started at age 11. He also inherited his desire from his show business uncle Larry Griswold. Together they authored a book titled, "Trampoline Tumbling Today".

Glenn's first gymnastics coaching job started with the Men's gymnastics team at San Francisco State University. Following this, he was hired to coach at the University of Colorado at Boulder where he earned his doctorate in education. After several successful years, he was recruited to coach at the University of Arizona. During his college coaching years, he earned his license to judge men's gymnastics competitions.

After many years coaching at the collegiate level, Glenn decided it was time to start his own gymnastics school. He moved to Tom's River, NJ, and opened several gymnastics schools in Manasquan, Point Pleasant, Silverton, and Wanamassa, NJ.

During his time in New Jersey, Glenn expanded his professional profile by being appointed to the position of meet director for the Dial American Cup in 1979 at Madison Square Garden NY, where an international gymnastics competition was held. In the same year, he was hired to be part of the World Championships in Fort Worth, TX where for three weeks he assisted in competition management. International experience included being part of the staff at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where Glenn managed gymnasts safely transitioning from the training area to the competitive floor.

Being a spectator at the Olympiads was a thrilling part of Glenn's life. In 1968 Glenn traveled to Mexico City: in 1972, Glenn and Susan traveled to Munich: in 1996 Glenn and Susan traveled to Atlanta: in 2000 Glenn and Susan traveled to Australia.

In 1980 Glenn remarried and was wed to Susan (Clancy) Wilson. They moved to sunny San Diego, where they started gymnastics schools in San Marcos, Rancho Bernardo, and Poway. Over his 63-year successful career, Glenn coached thousands of boys and girls, helping them meet their recreational and competitive goals. Many qualified to compete in national and world events. Among those athletes were his own children Rand (World Championships) and Brock (National Collegiate Championships). Glenn was age 80 when he finally retired

Overall, he helped many women and men become outstanding coaches who now have gyms of their own and continue his legacy to teach the love of gymnastics. With his joyful personality and tenacity, he made the gymnastics community a better place. For his dedication to the sport of gymnastics, he was honored by WAS (World Acrobatics Society) and inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2010. The NJGA (New Jersey Gymnastics Association) inducted him into the Hall of Fame in 2017.

He was an avid golfer and loved his ice cream and news stations.

He has 10 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren with 1 on the way.