



Gustavus "Gus" Gordon Bass

November 7, 1937 - January 23, 2021

Gustavus "Gus" Gordon Bass, age 83 of Waldorf, Maryland passed away January 23, 2021 at his home. Gus was born November 7, 1937 in Washington, DC to the late Adele Mary Tehaan Bass and the late Alexander George Bass.

Gus went to Eastern High School and lettered in Basketball and Baseball. He graduated in 1956 and went to work at the Library of Congress where he met the love of his life Janet Gale Summers. They married on March 7, 1959. Gus was the father of Lisa Jean Gilbert (Bruce). He was the proud grandfather to Ashley Nicole Clayton (Will) and great grandfather to Ryleigh Gale Clayton and a great grandson expected in May.

Gus made a lifelong career at DC Water and even earned the title of "Mayor" of DC Water. He retired after 59 years and he loved every single day at work. Gus was such a people person and never met a stranger. Gus was most proud of the work he did getting minority and women owned businesses into the mix of contractors regularly contracted by DC Water. He initiated and nurtured the M/WBE program over many years to great success. During his career he was honored with numerous awards and accolades.

Gus is also survived by his siblings; Georgette Lynch (Bill) of Winter Park, FL, Richard Bass (Mickie) of Asheville, NC, Nancy Newman of Winter Park, FL and many nieces and nephews.

Due to COVID, the family will not be having a service at this time.

Donations can be made in Gus's memory to the Alzheimer's Organization

Alz.org

Tribute Wall



“ *Gustavus "Gus" Gordon Bass*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Gustavus "Gus" Gordon Bass*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *I was seriously saddened to hear of his passing. Gus was a unique person but a good good guy. Whenever I came to blue plains and saw Gus we shared a laugh and a cuss!! Rest In Peace my friend. You taught me a lot about a lot.*

Raymond Haynesworth - February 03, 2021 at 06:19 PM

LT

“ The “Mayor of DC”

Gus was “The Man”. He was always there, always available, always ready with a smile and an answer. Through the years of change the decades of transitions Gus remained dependably grounded. He rarely fought change he supported and nurtured it and us through it. Our anchor at DETS. We could all count on Gus and that constancy.

When you passed by Gus’ office you would often see consultants, contractors, business owners, vendors, men, women, old, young, short, tall, sitting next to and meeting with him. Gus was quick to introduce them to the Engineering family, help them get established, help them prosper and stay connected. He brought so many new faces in who, in time, would become familiar faces and old friends. Gus was, for all people, a true friend who you would never forget and who would never forget YOU.

Gus was always about the work, the business and the “Chain of Command”. Through his patient and reassuring manner, he would maintain order in a world that was always moving a thousand miles an hour. Hundreds of contracts and millions of dollars poured through Engineering as we built the largest advanced wastewater treatment plant in the world, rehabbed pumping stations and installed thousands of pipelines throughout the City he loved. Contracts, Change Orders, Invoices, Payments, he never tired of keeping it moving, addressing the challenges and rejoicing in all the accomplishments. Engineering, always “the family” Engineering.

He would always say how lucky he was to have such a great job and work with so many great people.

Then, the occasional Golf Tournament!!! Gus in shorts! Now that was a sight to remember. □

If you never had a chance to play with Gus, you missed a lot. He was the King of the punch and roll. The best part of his game was in

the cart. Competitive but always lots of fun to be with. He was one of those golfers who never got tired of playing with anyone. Quick to offer "nice shot" or "great putt" or just a friendly word of support. A friend... on and off the course.

There will never be another "Mr. Bass" and there shouldn't be. No one could replace him. A one of a kind little Greek who loved life and us all!

If you ever do miss him, hit the elevator to the 5th floor in COF, turn left and enter the "Gus Bass" conference room and reminisce on 59 years of service by the "Mayor of DC".

God rest your soul Gus.

Skip & Tracy

Lee Tompkins - January 30, 2021 at 02:46 PM

LM

“ To the family of Guss Bass

GB that is what I called Gus. I met Gus when I started at DCWASUA in 1985. Gus always had a kind spirit toward others and would help anyone he could. He was very compassionate about the roles he held at DCWASUA and DCWASA. Although he held several important positions in the organization he never forgot about those individuals that was climbing the ladder.

*Gus helped somebody, as he traveled along
Gus helped somebody, with a word or song
Gus helped somebody, from doing wrong*

Gus' living was not in vain

Rest in Peace GB

Linda Manley

Linda Manley - January 29, 2021 at 04:43 PM

SM

“ Dear Family of Gus,

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of my friend Gus. Attached is a picture from from an annual golf outing in April of 2014. I was introduced to Gus a few years earlier by Hank Hulse and quickly grew a friendship that I will always fondly remember. Hank is on Gus' left and I am in between them in the picture. He helped me in navigating the hallways at Blue Plains and his door was always open to me. May God bless and keep his soul. God bless you also during this tough time.

*Fondly,
David Archard*

Senail Manley - January 29, 2021 at 01:01 PM

SM

“ To the family of Gus, Bruce and Lisa, I extend my condolences. I have know Gus for almost 40 years and considered him a good friend. I remember the many times I met with him in the office but cherish the times we played Golf on those trips in the spring. I will remember him and family in my daily prayers. God Bless him and take him to Heaven.

Hank Hulse


Senail Manley - January 29, 2021 at 12:59 PM

WI

“ Will miss all the great conversations and golf trips!! RIP my friend!!!

Willis

Willis - January 29, 2021 at 12:47 PM

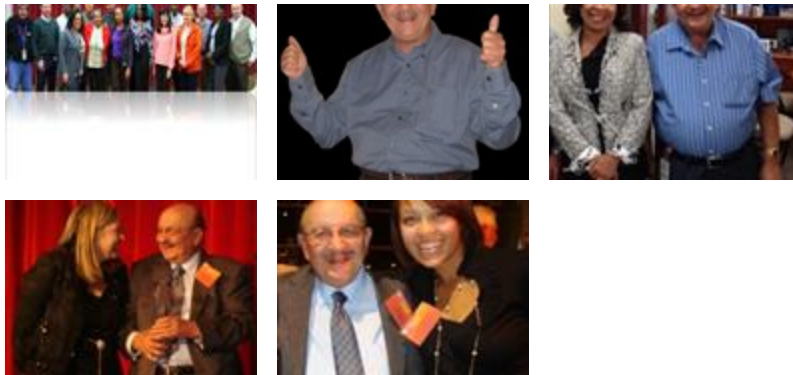

Timothy
Gronau

“ *I remember living above Gus, Janet and Lisa in Marlow Heights Apartments in the 60's. The were good friends of the family, My Mom and all of the Gronau family extend our deepest sympathies to Lisa and the entire Family. May he Rest In Peace!*

Timothy Gronau - January 29, 2021 at 12:35 PM

SM

“ *18 files added to the album Memories Album*



Senail Manley - January 29, 2021 at 12:17 PM

“ THE PASSING OF GUS BASS

Hello All,

Likely you have heard that Gus Bass passed on Saturday, January 23, 2021. As always it is sad to hear of a fellow DC Water person passing. It is even more so when they were a little bigger than life.

I feel uniquely able to write and tell everyone the ‘sad news’, and more importantly now to remind each a bit about what we may remember about Gus. I worked closely with Gus for about 40 years, and I personally called him friend for that long as well. Yet, 40 years covered only about 2/3 of Gus’ service time in DC Water. He retired in 2016 with 59 years of service. Is this an all-time DC Water record? Likely it is!

Gus came to work for DC Water’s predecessor agency, the Department of Sanitary Engineering, in 1957, during the period of the Federal Commissioner form of government for the District. Gus started work for us in a drafting room in the District Building, known now as the John A. Wilson Building. The District government was much smaller than as was just about all government. He served for a time in a field party for the Engineering design survey section, and steadily worked his way up thru the design section and eventually to a position of the de facto ‘deputy director’ of Engineering and Technical Services.

You may have known Gus as the “Mayor of Blue Plains”, or Mr. Bass, or maybe just as ‘Gus’. I do not remember who gave Gus the title of ‘Mayor of Blue Plains’ – he may well have elected himself to that exalted position. But at that time, Gus had been for a few decades the ‘face and voice’ of DC WASUA / DCWASA/DC Water’s Capital Program outreach to contractors, and for recruitment of new blood to our organization as permanent employees. And he brought

us many good people and contractors, all the way until his retirement just a few years ago. He was particularly good at finding the cream of the consulting teams who worked under contract to us and convincing them of the better life as a DC Water employee.

Gus was most proud of his work toward getting minority and women owned businesses into the mix of contractors regularly contracted by DC Water for capital work contracts. He initiated and nurtured our M/WBE program over many years to great success.

I could go on for pages – a person like Gus could get a lot done in 59 years and he did. Usually great outcomes from his efforts, sometimes funny, but always looking to make DC Water a premier water and sewer utility.

We have missed him being around since his retirement. Please keep Gus and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Gus: "Rest in Peace"!

Len Benson

Senail Manley - January 29, 2021 at 11:14 AM

SM

“A special poem to the Bass Family”

Memories Keep Those We Love Close to Us Forever

*Although words seem to say so little,
I hope they help in some small way
to ease the sense of loss
that you're experiencing today.
Hold fast to your memories,
to all of the cherished moments of the past,
to the blessings and the laughter,
the joys and the celebrations,
the sorrow and the tears.
They all add up to a treasure of fond yesterdays
that you shared and spent together,
and they keep the one you loved
close to you in spirit and thought.*

*The special moments
and memories in your life
will never change.
They will always be in your heart,
today and forevermore*

*Susan MacNeil
DC Water*

Senail Manley - January 29, 2021 at 11:12 AM

SM

“ Hello,

I was so sorry to hear about Gus's passing. He was truly one of a kind, and I'm glad to have known him.

Here is a photo of the two of us, and another with Jim Ward, taken at the Grand Opening for the Blue Plains Tunnel, March 28, 2018.

*David J. Schwartz, PE, CCM
Vice President
CDM Smith*

Senail Manley - January 29, 2021 at 11:09 AM

SM

“ Good Morning Bass Family,

I just received the news of Mr. Bass's passing! I'm so very sorry and send my deepest sympathies.

I'm grateful to have worked with Mr. Bass for 12 Years! He was quite the character & such a sweetheart to me. He will always be in my heart. 🕊️💖🕊️ Dare Johnson

Senail Manley - January 29, 2021 at 11:08 AM

SM

“ Gus Bass' Family:

Please accept my condolences for the passing of GUS BASS.

He was one of the most pleasant man I met when I worked at Blue Plains. Though he occupied a much higher position than mine, he was kind and approachable.

I wish you all good comfort and peace.

He will be missed.

Thanks.

My regards.

Michael Omosun | Civil Design Engineer | DC Water

Senail Manley - January 29, 2021 at 11:07 AM

SM

“ I have known Gus since 1981, when I was responsible for EPA’s construction grants program and had a say on projects to be funded with EPA grants. He was always helpful in untangling bureaucratic logjams. Towards the end faced with pressures to retire he and I would kvetch about ‘why do we have to retire’ and talked about people we would come across working in their eighties and beyond. He liked people who worked hard; he was a kind man and loyal to DC Water. I am glad that the main conference room in Engineering & Technical Services (DETS) is named after him.

Mohsin

Senail Manley - January 29, 2021 at 11:06 AM