Paul C. Gibbs, Seattle Attorney, Loved His Family And Community

By Ignacio Lobos

Prominent Seattle attorney Paul C. Gibbs was a leader in his profession, and a happy man.

It is just about impossible to find a picture of him where he is not smiling, said his wife, Marilyn Gibbs.

His smiles reflected a full life that he loved. Even with the demands of his legal career, his family and community always remained his top priorities, she said.

Mr. Gibbs, who died July 11 of a heart attack at age 68, was born in Hay Springs, Neb., on Dec. 18, 1926. His family moved to Seattle when he was 4 years old.

He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1945. Before his death, Mr. Gibbs had been organizing his 50-year reunion, which will be held in September.

He graduated from the University of Washington School of Law in 1951 and started work as a deputy prosecuting attorney for King County. In 1954, he joined the law firm that now bears his name: Williams, Kastner & Gibbs.

"He was instrumental in the growth of the firm from one office and five attorneys to over 100 attorneys with four offices in Western Washington," said his friend and law partner Randy Allment.

Gibbs was considered a leader in his profession. He was treasurer of the Washington State Bar Association and a member of the Board of Governors. He also served as president of the King County Bar Association from 1980 to 1981 and was a member of the Board of Trustees.

In 1991, he served as chairman of the task force to locate regional justice service centers in King County.

Outside his work, Mr. Gibbs was an avid sports fan. And he loved to challenge his wife to domino matches, even if she usually beat him.

He loved racehorses and owned several of them over the years. He was a member of the Washington Thoroughbred Breeders Association. He also was a member of the Washington Athletic Club and past president of the Seattle Tennis Club.

Mr. Gibbs loved boxing so much that he became a judge, presiding over 12 International Boxing Federation world-championship matches, including title fights involving Larry Holmes, Greg Haugen and Pernell Whitaker.

Mr. Gibbs is survived by his wife; his son, Ross Gibbs, and daughter-in-law, Deborah; his daughter Troy Werner and son-in-law, Ed; his daughter Robin Gibbs; his mother, Genevieve Gibbs; and three grandchildren. All are of Seattle.

Memorials can be sent to the Paul C. Gibbs Fund in care of the Washington Law School Foundation, 1100 Campus Parkway N.E., Seattle 98105.

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