

## William H. Gilbert

( - 27 Nov 1948)

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**Gilbert, William H.** On Saturday, November 27, 1948, William H. Gilbert. Services at Chambers' Funeral Home, 517 11th st. s.e., on Thursday, December 2, at 2:30 p.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, December 1, 1948, p. A12*

### **Rites Set Tomorrow For W.H. Gilbert, 78, Sightseeing Guide**

Funeral services for William Hull Gilbert, 78, oldest of Washington sightseeing guides, will be held at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Chambers funeral home, 517 Eleventh street S.E., with burial in Congressional Cemetery.

Mr. Gilbert, who conducted visitors about the Capital for more than 40 years, died Saturday in Gallinger Hospital after a brief illness. He lived at 606 Fifth street N.W.

A District native, Mr. Gilbert turned to the sightseeing profession after suffering ink poisoning as a printer at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. For more than 20 years he took his stand outside the White House, through which he conducted countless diplomats, American political leaders and plain, ordinary citizens. He was also one of three guides once privileged to lead tourists through the Naval Gun Factory.

James Grace, 76-year-old colleague of Mr. Gilbert, estimated Mr. Gilbert had shown more than 100,000 visitors the sights of the Capital. Many of them he brought into the lobby of The Star Building to register their names on a book once kept there for the purpose, Mr. Grace recalled.

Mr. Gilbert, who held Guide Badge No. 4, became a friend of such prominent persons as the late Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and Col. Edmund W. Starling, White House Secret Service chief.

Until a month ago he still was accompanying parties of visitors about the city, Mr. Grace said. But he long ago gave up the foot tours of his earlier years.

There are no known survivors, although the veteran guide was married twice, Mr. Grace said.