Everett R. Wilbur
July 16, 1920 - August 2, 1921

Everett Ray and Nelly Duncan Wilbur and their four children moved from Mesa to Gilbert in 1914. Everett's father, Dr. E. W. Wilbur, had given Everett and Nelly the quarter section of land at the southwest corner of Gilbert and Elliot Roads, where Everett began to farm. He was also a dairyman, blacksmith, machinist and inventor. He served on the Town Council for several years and was Gilbert's first Mayor. A parcel of Everett's property at the intersection of Elliot and Gilbert Roads was donated to the Gilbert School District for an elementary school. The Gilbert Elementary School was built in 1913 and is currently HD SOUTH, Home of the Gilbert Historical Museum.

E. R. Stoner
August 6, 1921 - November 1, 1921

E. R. Stoner ran the Gilbert lumber yard before it was sold to M. S. Vaughn, a later mayor. Stoner's short term would set a precedent for other mayors.

Robert "Bob" W. Merrell
November 7, 1921 - June 4, 1923

R. W. "Bob" Merrell and Gladys Freeman Merrell had three sons when he was elected to be the second Mayor of Gilbert. During World War I, he served in the Chemical Warfare Department in New York. He was a member of the Gilbert American Legion and was active in the Boy Scouts of America. He owned a service station and was active in the Chamber of Commerce. Long after his service as mayor, Merrell had a tragic ending when he was shot and killed by his own son in the 1930's.

Claude J. Cullumber
June 22, 1923 - June 1, 1925

Claude and Leah Cullumber came to Gilbert sometime between 1912 and 1917 and located on Park Avenue. They came because of Leah's health. She died during the flu epidemic of 1918. Claude worked first for Blakely's then for Serrano's. His second wife, Lela Imes, came to Gilbert in the early 1920's. She graduated from Tempe Normal (now ASU) and taught third grade in Gilbert until she married Claude. Claude was an Elder in the Church of Christ, and served as Gilbert's Mayor from 1923-25. During that time, Gilbert was one of the largest alfalfa hay producing communities in America. Claude weighed the largest load of hay ever shipped from the Gilbert Station. Claude played alto horn in the band and was active in state, church, and school affairs. He loved people and sports.

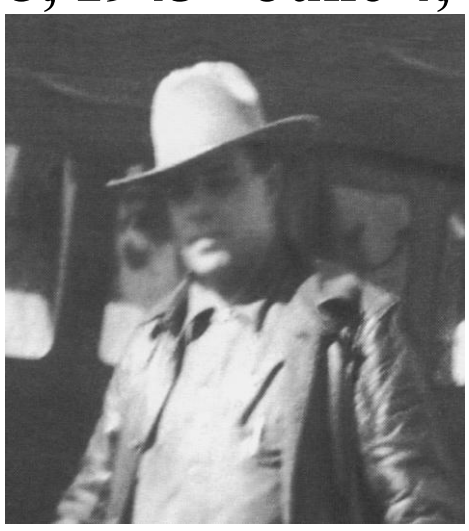
Raymond R. Creed
June 18, 1925 - June 7, 1927

Raymond R. and Etta Lord Creed came by train to Gilbert in 1912. Mr. Creed owned and operated one of the first Gilbert grocery stores. Mrs. Creed furnished room and board in their home for Gilbert teachers. They were both active in the community and in the Gilbert Methodist Church. Mr. Creed passed away in 1954 and Mrs. Creed in 1959.

Walter W. Page
June 7, 1927 - June 7, 1937

Walter W. and Mamie Page moved to Gilbert in 1919 from Silber City, NM. Walter bought part interest in Dublin's Dry Goods and Grocery Store. After a year, Mr. Page bought out Mr. Dublin. Walter was Mayor of Gilbert for 10 years. He was a Mason and served as a Sergeant in the National Guard. Walter was well-known for his croquet playing. He was instrumental in the construction of two croquet courts, one on the northeast corner of Page Ave and Gilbert Road and the other behind Town Hall. Many tournaments were played on these courts with men from the city participating. Walter also had a court on the west side of his home for practice and family use. Walter sold his store in 1943 and went to work at Williams Air Force Base. He retired at the age of 75 and moved to Tucson to live with his daughter until his death on December 30, 1957.

Ward C. Burke
June 10, 1937 - June 5, 1939
July 5, 1943 - June 4, 1945



Ward and Mildred Burk moved to Gilbert in November 1918 and started farming. A successful farmer and rancher, Ward raised alfalfa, cotton, and alfalfa seed. He also pastured sheep. In addition to serving two separate terms as Mayor, he served as a constable for two terms. He was appointed assistant fire chief in May 1926. He was very influential in the construction of the Town Hall in Gilbert. Ward and Mildred leased out their 80-acre farm land, rented their Gilbert house and moved to Newport Beach, CA in 1954. Ward died on August 8, 1956.

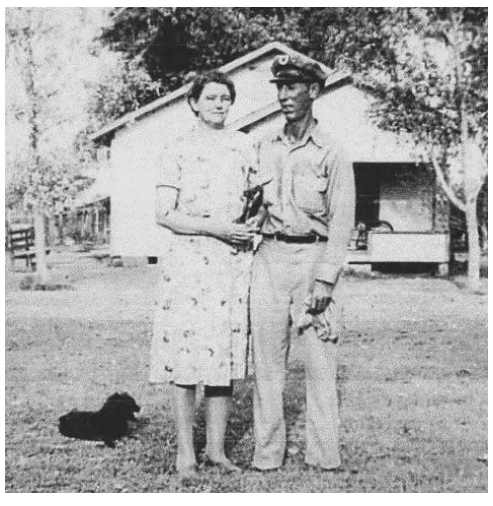
Wayne McFrederick
July 10, 1939 - June 7, 1943

Wayne was born in Gilbert and was raised on a farm. He married Pauline Creed of Gilbert. In January 1933, he was hired to teach the middle classes of the Mexican School. He was only 21 years of age; some of his pupils were 16. With their beautiful sense of humor, they called him “El Viejo” -- the old man. He taught at the Mexican School for 10 years. He farmed for a while and later moved to California.

M. S. Vaughn
June 12, 1945 - June 9, 1947

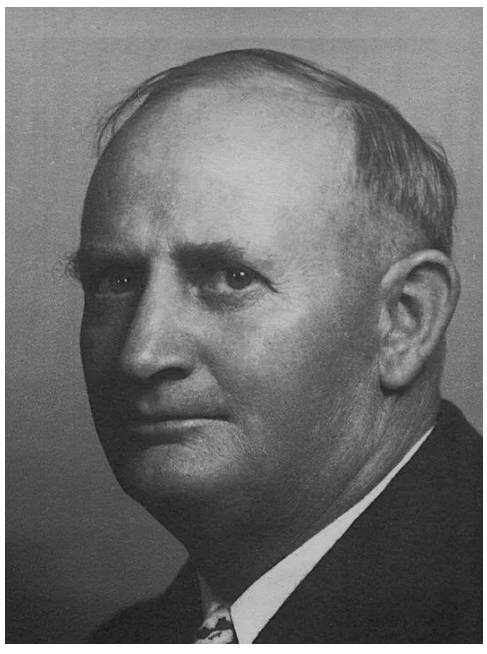
M. S. Vaughn bought the Gilbert lumber yard from E. R. Stoner, a previous mayor. He renamed it Vaughn’s Lumber Company, and he owned this lumber yard at the same time that he was Mayor of Gilbert. Vaughn’s Lumber Company later became Foxworth Lumber Company, and then it burned down. The complex that is built on the land where the lumber yard previously was is called Heritage Court.

R. D. Hearne
June 25, 1947 - January 3, 1949



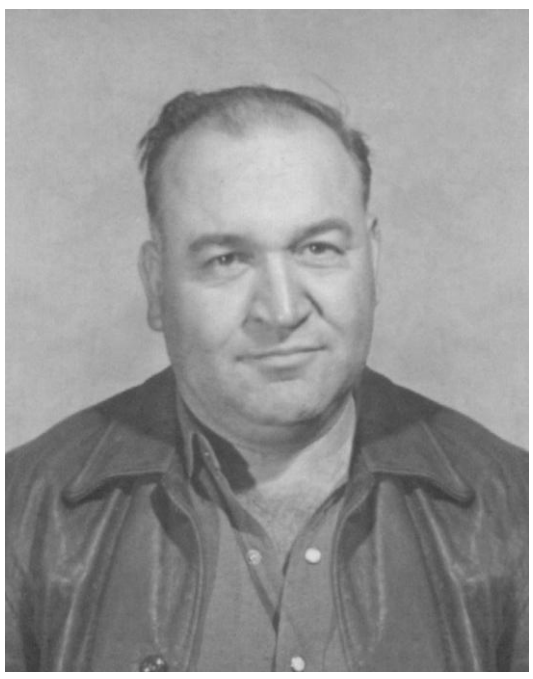
R. D. Hearne resigned from his position as Mayor of Gilbert following the death of his wife. When she died, he leased all of his land and moved to Globe, Arizona. Hearne was a businessman; he created a dance pavilion that people could pay to use, and he built one of the first fast service gas stations on his property. He also called the citizens of Gilbert to assist in giving employment to those who were disabled as part of President Harry Truman’s campaign for programs supporting disabled citizens.

Roy Fuller
February 7, 1949 - June 6, 1949



Roy Fuller managed and owned the Roy Fuller Welding Company. He was a talented welder and created many things for farmers around Gilbert. Fuller was extremely active in the town and served the community well. He was unanimously elected mayor by the council when Hearne resigned. After his time as mayor was over, Fuller was opposed to Mayor Udall's plan to pave the roads in Gilbert. His opinion was that if we added paved roads to the town, more people would come to Gilbert, and he liked it with the population it had at the time.

Tom W. Clement
July 11, 1949 - June 13, 1955



Tom Clement originally came to Gilbert to manage a garage and service station facility for his Mesa cousins, not thinking that he would stay. He ended up buying the garage from Continental Oil Company, renaming it Clement's Automotive Repair, and staying permanently in Gilbert. Before coming to Gilbert, Clement had planned on becoming a wood shop teacher. Clement was very logical and had a natural wisdom. People said that he could tell which valve had gone out in a car simply by listening to the engine running. Currently, Clement's Automotive Repair is the oldest, continuously-running business in Gilbert, after more than 80 years of operation. The highlight of Clement's tenure as mayor was when he put his mechanical skills into action and led the construction of the first sewer system of Gilbert.

George Russell
June 16, 1955 - January 9, 1956

Kenyon Udall
January 17, 1956 - June 8, 1959

Kenyon Udall was born March 6, 1925, in Thatcher, AZ. He was educated at Thatcher High School, George Washington University, Eastern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona where he became an attorney. After marrying Leona Carpenter and starting their family, they moved to Gilbert in 1952. They first lived near the Gilbert Airport; they also lived in several other homes in Gilbert. Kenyon served five years as Mayor, and under his direction, the town paved all the streets in Gilbert. Prior to his service, only Gilbert Road (Main Street) had been paved. There was opposition to his project to pave the roads, led by Roy Fuller and others who disagreed with that expensive action. This opposing group was termed the Whittle and Spit Group, and despite all of their efforts, Udall succeeded in paving the main roads in Gilbert. The enormous project cost about $240,000, which would be a little over $2 million in today's currency, and it was finished in 1958.

Morris Cooper
July 1, 1959 - June 12, 1967

Morris Cooper was born in the Mesa area but lived most of his life in Gilbert. He attended the very first school built in Gilbert located at the southeast corner of Baseline and Cooper Roads. Morris saddled up and rode his horse one mile every morning to school. In 1921, Morris married Ruth Burk. For several years they lived east of town where the Western Canal leaves the Consolidated Canal. At their farm, they had a multitude of peacocks all over the place, even in the trees. They later moved into town. Morris served eight years as Mayor, and during this time, the town prospered under his leadership. In 1964, Ruth passed away. He later married Gertrude (Trudy) Brookins Mortensen, a widow. Morris raised beautiful flowers and vegetables. Both Morris and Trudy were very active in the Gilbert Historical Society. Morris died in April 1981

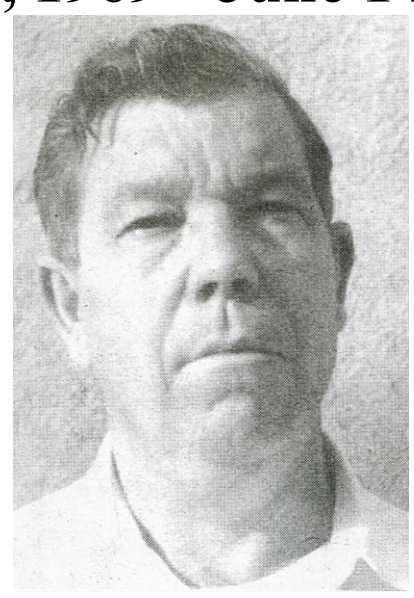
John Moore
July 5, 1967 - September 11, 1967

John Moore has the record for the shortest term as Mayor of Gilbert, as he served for less than two months. He stepped into his position from the Town Council and was reluctant to accept his position. He was known as a kind man.

Jack Smith
October 9, 1967 - June 9, 1969

Jack was on the Town Council before becoming Mayor. He was a haybuyer and worked for Capital Fuel Feed and Seed.

Vernon Gist
July 1, 1969 - June 14, 1971



Vernon Gist was born on May 29, 1918 in Spiro, Oklahoma. He came to Gilbert in the early 1930's and worked as an electrician and repairman. He later had his own television and radio repair shop in downtown Gilbert. During his tenure as Mayor of Gilbert, a new law was enacted that allowed the town council to be increased from five to seven members. The new seven-member council became effective with the election of new councilmen in 1971. Gist was a veteran of the Army Coast Artillery serving in WWII. In addition to being mayor, he was also the Fire Chief and Commander of the American Legion in Gilbert for many years. He died on September 20, 2010.

Dale Hallock
July 1, 1971 - June 14, 1976

Dale Hallock was born in Oklahoma on April 5, 1935, and his family migrated to Gilbert, arriving on October 16, 1936. Dale attended elementary school in the building now serving as HD SOUTH, Home of the Gilbert Historical Museum. The first portion of that building was constructed in 1913. He graduated from Gilbert High School in 1952. Dale married Georganne Gibson, a great-granddaughter of one of the original settlers of Gilbert. Dale served as Mayor for five years, resigning from his third term to open a title company out of state. During his tenure, he directed the strip annexation of 53 square miles of land around our small town to prevent Mesa and Chandler from running over the area that is Gilbert.

David Thompson
July 21, 1976 - August 11, 1978

David Thompson was an employee of Spreckels Sugar Company in Chandler where he was an engineer. He served as Vice Mayor to Dale Hallock before becoming mayor. After his time as mayor, he left Gilbert.

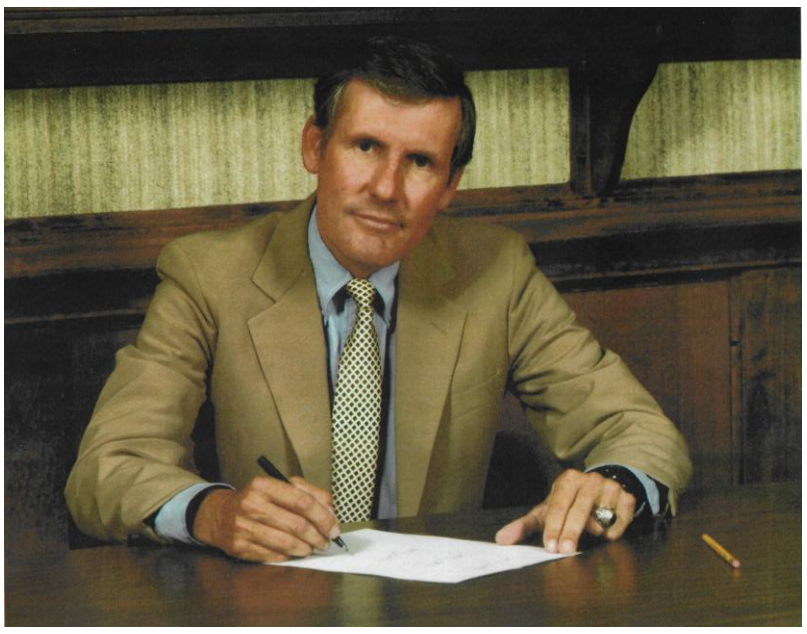
Ed Lane
August 22, 1978 - May 29, 1981

Ed Lane was a truck driver for an oil company for years.

L. J. Reed
June 2, 1981 - June 2, 1987

L. J. Reed led Gilbert in the modernization process. During his tenure, the population of Gilbert quadrupled, and Gilbert was listed as the fastest growing community in America. Reed also had input in the creation of the Chandler-Gilbert Community College, and he fought to keep Gilbert in the name. He also was essential in the creation of Freestone Park on Lindsey Road. Reed worked as a Motorola executive for a long time, and he died on September 6, 2011.

James Farley
June 9, 1987 - June 6, 1989



James Farley authorized the deannexation of certain parts of Gilbert to allow the City of Mesa to annex that land. He was mayor when the vote was first taken for the Town of Gilbert to take over the Arizona Public Service Company in just the Gilbert area. This would have allowed Gilbert to run its own electric utility and possibly cut costs on electricity. This vote gave Gilbert permission to use up to $27 million in bonds to pay for the takeover. However, later issues would lead to the takeover not happening. Farley participated in the creation of the first general plan of Gilbert, which planned much of the development and expansion of Gilbert that led to the prosperous community it is today.

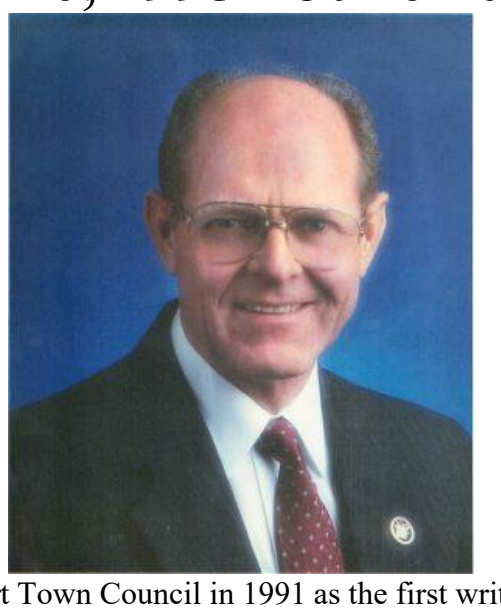
Steven Berman
June 13, 1989 - June 4, 1991
June 12, 2001 - June 15, 2009

Steven Berman was one of only two mayors of Gilbert to serve for ten years. He is native to Arizona and graduated from Arizona State University. Berman was honorably discharged from the Army at the rank of Captain. He has served as President of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport, owned his own brokerage firm for five years, and later joined De Rito Partners, Inc. He was in the telecommunication business for many years.

Jo Albright
June 4, 1991 - April 28, 1992

Jo Albright was the first female mayor in Gilbert, but not the first in Arizona, as Margaret Hance was the mayor of Phoenix in 1976. Jo was formerly an operating room nurse and then went to work in a business owned by she and her husband in the electronic industry. She strengthened the relationship between the Town and Gilbert Public Schools so they became cohesive partners in managing the growth. During her tenure, she initiated the first municipal fire department in Gilbert - it officially went into effect after she left office. She brought responsibilty, accountability, and transparency to the way Gilbert did business. The citizens of Gilbert voted to start a takeover of APS, the Arizona Public Service utility company. When the Town Council took a vote of whether or not to take over APS, Albright was the deciding vote to not go through with the takeover. Over time, this proved to be the wisest decision.

Wilburn Brown
May 26, 1992 - December 4, 1992
March 16, 1993 - June 10, 1997



Wilburn Brown was elected to the Gilbert Town Council in 1991 as the first write-in candidate ever in Gilbert, due to the fact that he missed the filing deadline to be on the ballot. He first became mayor in 1992 when the council elected him to that position, but after his election to mayor, the council changed the election rules. The new rules stated that all new mayors, starting in 1993, would be elected by a popular vote of the citizens, rather than by the town council. These rules also changed it so that instead of the mayor and council members being elected for two year terms, they would now be elected for four year terms. Following this change, Brown decided to resign and run for mayor again under the new voting rules. He beat his political opponent, Steve Berman, with 63 percent of the vote. Brown was the first Mayor of Gilbert to be elected by the community as a whole. During his tenure, Brown formed the Gilbert Fire Department and helped with the creation of what is now the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.

Cynthia Dunham
June 10, 1997 - June 12, 2001

During Dunham's term as mayor, Gilbert became the fastest growing community in the United States at over 100,000 in population. Gilbert became a cohesive town and was not split in two with a large section of county in the middle. Neighborhoods became a priority in Gilbert, and Gilbert successfully defended the First Amendment in Federal Court over "Bible Week". The Town Council, Gilbert School District, and Gilbert Chamber of Commerce all adopted resolutions in support of character education. In order to grow successfully, Gilbert formed many partnerships to leverage strengths to address needs.

John W. Lewis
June 16, 2009 - July 19, 2016

John Lewis was focused on economic development for Gilbert, striving to bring new jobs and businesses to this community. During his tenure, Gilbert achieved an AA+ credit rating, which is the best possible. Gilbert also won the Freedom Award for its efforts to support its government employees when they serve in the military. In addition, Gilbert became the second safest large community in the United States. During this time, the Town of Gilbert bought land downtown in order to direct it later. Because of these planning efforts, downtown Gilbert is now a thriving location that attracts visitors from all over the Valley. Some examples of businesses that Gilbert attracted to this area are the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, the biggest cancer fighting research facility in the world, Lo-Lo's Chicken & Waffles, satellite companies, stem cell research companies, and algae research companies. Mayor Lewis was known for recognizing citizens who made a difference in their community. He also worked to build morale in the community. His motto for planning and leading the Town of Gilbert was Clean, Safe, Vibrant.

Jenn Daniels
July 19, 2016 – August 18, 2020

Under her leadership, Gilbert thrived, becoming one of America's most vibrant towns-earning several national awards, including the Most Prosperous City in America, Most Livable City, and Second Safest City. As Mayor, she was committed to the future of Gilbert and, as part of the Town's "City of the Future" initiative, was focused on innovating local government in the areas of fiscal responsibility, infrastructure and technology, and community prosperity. Under Jenn's leadership, the Town implemented advisory groups including Advancing Education in Gilbert, ONE Gilbert, and the Executive Advisory Committee. During Jenn's time in leadership, the Town achieved AAA bond ratings from all three rating agencies, opened three new parks, and transformed the Heritage District into a regional destination with some of the best restaurants in Arizona-all while remaining the safest community in the state with the lowest cost of service in the metro Phoenix area.

Scott Anderson
August 18, 2020 – January 12, 2021

Scott Anderson was elected to the Town Council in 2016. He has been involved in the planning and development of Gilbert as a staff member since moving here in 1988 with his wife EJ, and five children. In 2013, he retired from the Town of Gilbert.

The founding father of the Gilbert Riparian Preserve, it was his idea to transform a waste water treatment site from simple water recharge into a national award winning project that has become one of the most popular visitor destinations in the state. The preserves have been studied and copied by communities around the world seeking to be more sustainable. While Director of the Riparian Institute, Scott partnered with local organizations and businesses to create the Gilbert Rotary Centennial Observatory, the only dedicated public observatory in the region.

Before his work with the riparian preserves, Scott was the Planning and Zoning Director for Gilbert for 12 years where he managed a department that saw the Town grow from a population of 20,000 to over 100,000. As Director, Scott created a general plan, managed all planning and zoning processes, including changes to the zoning code, and began work on special area plans such as the Heritage district and San Tan Area Plan.

Scott has a degree in Geography and International Relations from Brigham Young University and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Colorado.

Brigette Peterson
January 12, 2021- January 7th, 2025

Brigette Peterson began her term in January 2021. She previously served over 5 years on the Town Council, after being elected to 2 consecutive terms from January 2015 to March 31, 2020 when resigning to run for Mayor. Brigette served as Vice Mayor in 2018. Prior to running for Town Council, Brigette served on the Gilbert Planning Commission for over 14 years. She has also served as the Zoning Hearing Officer and on many Gilbert steering committees and stakeholder groups.

Brigette was born in Massachusetts and moved to Gilbert in 1995 with her husband Mark and daughter Jenn. Jenn is married to Shawn and live locally. Brigette resides in Gilbert with her husband and 4 pets from local rescues/organizations. She enjoys reading, digital photography, holiday decor and crafts and social media.

Scott Anderson
January 7th, 2025 – Present

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