

Gerry J.C. Hill Obituary

Born Alva Gerry Hill at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco, California on the morning of June 26, 1934 to Alva Wesley Hill and Anna Gerba Hill. Baptized as James shortly thereafter. Mother divorced shortly thereafter and remarried to Thomas Bismark Thompson. Attended grade school as Gerry James Hill in San Bruno, California and Oakland, California then high school in Modesto, California as Gerry James Thompson. Underwent Catholic confirmation as Christopher.

Upon graduation in 1952, returned to San Francisco and joined the U.S. Navy in 1953 and trained in electronics. Served at China Lake Naval Ordnance Testing Station, then up to Adak, Alaska and finally on the U.S.S. George K. McKinsey (DD-836) in the Pacific. Honorably discharged in 1957 as Electronic Technician Second Class (ET2).

Attended U.C. Berkeley and received BS degree in Agricultural Science and PhD in Botany. Spent one year at U.C. Los Angeles as Adjunct Professor, then hired by Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota in 1971 where he spent 28 years as a professor in the Biology Department. Appointed to the Towsley Professorship.

Upon retirement in 1999, returned to San Francisco and became involved in several nonprofit organizations including Project Inform, Larkin Street Youth Services, and Magnet Clinic.