

Robert Gilbert

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Mr. Gilbert's military service began in the U.S. Air Force with the Samuel F.B. Morse Award received while being trained to become a Non-Morse Signals Analyst. Advanced computer technology made this training obsolete, so he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Russian Linguist, graduating the Defense Language Institute just a few months before the Berlin Wall began to be torn down in November of 1989. Mr. Gilbert graduated U.S. Air Force Weather School six years later after enlisting in the Maryland Air National Guard. Because the National Weather Service no longer accepted military training and experience in lieu of college degrees in Meteorology, Mr. Gilbert transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve where he was trained in Personnel after mobilizing to support the Global War on Terrorism. Also a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Mr. Gilbert retired from the Army Reserve in 2005 as a Sergeant First Class whose assignments included Japan, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia, as well as the Headquarters for the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, Maryland. Mr. Gilbert is an honorary member of the Signal Corps and life member of the General Albert J. Myer Chapter of SCRA for his efforts honoring the regiment's pioneers of meteorology.

Connection to General Greely: Ironically, Mr. Gilbert's grandfather, Charles Baird, Jr., and General A. W. Greely were neighbors at Conway Lake, New Hampshire at the start of the 20th Century and shared a lengthy friendship perpetuated by their descendants today.

(I met the Greelys in August of 2007 at Conway Lake even though I was a total stranger. All I had to do was introduce myself as the grandson of "Chick" the World War I ambulance driver and show some of his letters & pictures from 1916-1919. Apparently, Rose Greely, the general's daughter, mailed care packages to my grandfather during the war and he called her "Aunt Rose" even though they weren't related.)