

James Gilliard

Veteran of U. S. Army and U. S. Army Reserves



James Gilliard "Gilly" was born in 1939 in Charleston, South Carolina. After graduating from Burke High School in Charleston, he enrolled in South Carolina State University where he was awarded a BS degree in Business Administration. He then taught at Cross High School in Cross, South Carolina.

After a year, however, he said, "the military came looking for me." So, Gilly enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1962 and served for two years at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

After discharge, he moved to New York City and became a social worker for the New York City Department of Social Services, a career that lasted for twenty-eight years.

In 1977 Gilly returned to military service and joined the U. S. Army Reserves in New York and remained in until 1998. His MOS was Medical Corpsman. He was assigned to the 74th Field Hospital in the Bronx. He was later transferred to the 315th Combat Support Hospital. Finally he was transferred to the 344th Combat Support Hospital whose mission was to provide resuscitation, initial wound surgery and post-operative treatment to soldiers and to stabilize the patients who needed evacuation. He was discharged from that unit in October 1998 with the rank of First Sergeant.

Gilly met Portia Keitt in New York at a South Carolina state University banquet. They were married in 1967 and lived in the Bronx for thirty-five years. Portia worked as a probation officer. The Gilliards have one son, an attorney in Washington, DC. Their daughter-in-law is also an attorney, and they have two children.



After retiring from Social Services in 1992, Gilly and Portia attended her class reunion on Hilton Head. While there, they visited Sun City during the early stages of completion and purchased their Sun City home in 1998.

