

**PIONEER NOMINATION AND  
BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM**

BROWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
151 SOUTHWEST 2 STREET  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301  
(E-MAILING THE ANSWERS TO THIS FORM  
AS A NARRATIVE IS PREFERABLE)  
TEL. 954-765-4671 & FAX 954-765-4437  
Dcunningham@broward.org

PIONEER=S NAME: GILCHRIST

LAST MESSLER MIDDLE R  
FIRST

MAILING ADDRESS:

641 SW 4 CT.  
STREET SUITE/APT. NO.  
HALLANDALE BEACH FL 33009  
CITY ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE: 954-458-6027

E-MAIL ADDRESS: FIREMA2158@AOL.COM

SELECTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF BIRTH: YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

YEAR OF BIRTH: 1932

DATE OF ARRIVAL IN BROWARD COUNTY, IF BORN  
ELSEWHERE: JAN. 1958

SIBLINGS= NAMES:  
NONE

METHOD OF ARRIVAL:  
AUTO  
(TRAIN, BOAT, AUTOMOBILE, AIRPLANE, ETC.)

PARENTS= NAMES:  
AMELIA GILCHRIST  
(MOTHER)

MESSLER GILCHRIST  
(FATHER)

IF MARRIED, NAME(S) OF SPOUSE(S):  
ROSEMARY GILCHRIST

NAME OF CHILDREN:  
MICHAEL GILCHRIST  
STEVEN GILCHRIST  
THERESA FORREST

EDUCATION: 1974-1975 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL  
(WHEN - WHERE)

UNIVERSITY - MIAMI, FL.

MILITARY: 1953-55 GERMANY  
(WHEN - WHERE)

U.S. ARMY

WORK HISTORY/PROFESSION/BUSINESS:  
1976-2006 FLORIDA DEPT. OF  
TRANSPORTATION - SAFETY MANAGER  
2006-PRESENT INFRASTRUCTURE CORP. OF  
AMERICA - SAFETY OFFICER

MEMBERSHIPS:  
1958-1968 HALLANDALE POLICE DEPT.

HOBBIES:

REMINISCENCES OF LIFE IN BROWARD COUNTY (FEEL FREE TO CONTINUE ON OTHER SIDE AND/OR ON  
ADDITIONAL PAGES):

I REMEMBER HALLANDALE IN THE 60'S AS A VERY BUSY, TRAFFIC,  
GULFSTREAM + HOLLYWOOD DOG TRACK, TOWN. IT WAS A GREAT  
PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY. MY KIDS ENJOYED GROWING UP HERE.

## Reminiscences of Life in Hallandale during the 60's

When we moved to Hallandale in 1958, Hallandale Blvd was a two lane road between Federal Hwy. and A1A, four lanes west of Federal Hwy. to NW/SW 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. then 2 lanes to SR 9 and further west. Federal Hwy., (US #1), was four lanes divided from the county line then four lanes from Hallandale Beach Blvd. to Pembroke Rd. The bridge over the Inter-coastal Waterway was a narrow two lane turntable and was very slippery when wet.

I joined the Hallandale Police Department in October of 1958, there were approximately 30 police officers, Chief of Police Robert Aiken, Lieutenant William "Bill" Baxter and Sergeant Louis Migacz. Hallandale had it's own municipal court with Fred Ward as Judge and a city jail. The police station was in an annex at the rear of the City Hall located at 320 South Dixie Hwy. We had a 4 cell jail with some more or less regular customers. One of whom was there when I reported for duty on my first day in Oct. of 1958, he was the trustee and was still there when I retired in 1968, he was still a trustee. I think his mailing address was, "City Jail, Hallandale Fla.". He sure kept the city police vehicles clean and polished.

Herman Barnett's Hardware located on the corner of SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave & Hallandale Bch. Blvd. was the place you could get any thing that you needed for fixing any thing around the house. Herman was always there with a smile and good advice.

Hallandale had it's own weekly newspaper, The Hallandale Digest, Pete Bluestein was the editor. I remember his newsy columns very well. He gave me my entry in to journalism. I wrote a column on traffic safety for the paper for a number of years. I didn't make it a career.

Hallandale made the national news every once in a while. On Halloween the "Outhouse in the Front of the Post Office Caper", seemed to get quite a bit of coverage. I remember working the desk on Oct. 31 and getting phone calls from northern papers asking if the outhouse had appeared yet.

Hallandale had it's own Elementary School, which all my children attended, then as the population increased a Junior High was built in the SW corner of the city. Some years later it was proposed to build a High School in the Northwest corner of the City. This resulted in some debate with some of the older residents. The final vote by the city commission was preceded by a good old fashioned foot ball pep rally with band and cheer leaders. The motion passed. I was privileged to be the chairman of the parent teacher committee at that time.

As I said at the beginning of this remembrance Hallandale was a good place to live and bring up a family and is still a good place to live and raise a family.