

King Raymond Browning Gill III

As Carnival Memphis celebrates our 90th Anniversary, Raymond Browning Gill III has been chosen to reign as 2020 and 2021 King to honor the Commercial Real Estate Development Industry.

A lifelong Memphian, King Ray worked for his grandfather at York Arms Co. since he was a small child starting at the store on Main Street. Completing elementary school at Presbyterian Day School in 1963, he graduated from Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee in 1969. Ray attended Sewanee: The University of the South, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English in 1973. Following college, Ray came back to Memphis and worked in the Trust Department at National Bank of Commerce. He decided to learn the real estate development business joining Edward LeMaster Co. in 1979 selling suburban acreage and industrial properties.

Having an entrepreneurial spirit, Ray founded Gill Properties in May 1983, specializing in sales and leasing of retail properties, land and developing mixed-use projects. With an emphasis on land development, the company sought opportunities in growing suburban markets. Gill Properties has built, leased and managed its retail centers, self-storage facilities, office buildings and mixed-use projects since its founding 38 years ago. The company is an active broker of commercial and income properties licensed in 17 states with brokers in Memphis, Nashville and Oxford, Mississippi.

In 1993, Ray assembled 155 acres for Cordova the Town in the historic center of Cordova east of Memphis. Ray founded Storage Towne of America in 1998 and has grown it steadily since building and acquiring facilities in multiple markets. In 2014, Gill Properties opened an office in Nashville to expand into the Middle Tennessee market.

In 2016, Ray received final approval for TraVure, an urban, mixed use development on Poplar east of Kirby Parkway in Germantown. The corporate headquarters for Mid America Apartments (MAA) at TraVure was completed in 2017. Since 2019, Ray has completed White Oak Shopping Center in East Memphis and Poplar Corners retail in Mid-Town Memphis.



*The Gill Family: Standing Left to Right: Justin Foreman, Ray, Brown, and York Gill
Front Row left to right: Lizzie Foreman, Walt, Benjamin, Betha, Browning and Kendall Gill*

Ray studied Traditional Town Planning at Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1993. He is a member of Lambda Alpha, an honorary land economics society, and has served on City of Memphis planning committees and various Chamber of Commerce committees in years past.

Ray has been married to the former Betha Hubbard for 44 years. They have three grown children Brown (Kendall), York and Lizzie (Justin Foreman) and three grandsons all of whom he is very proud. All three of their children were members of the Carnival Memphis Royal Court. The third generation of Gills will continue to honor Carnival this year. Grandsons Browning and Ben will serve as Carnival Royal Pages in this year's festivities. Grandfather Daddy Ray hopes Lizzie's newborn Walter Foreman joins in the royal family tradition.

An avid hunter, fisherman and outdoorsman, Ray is a member of the Memphis Country Club and Memphis Hunt & Polo Club and he is an aspiring pickleball player. He is also a member of the Mystic Society of the Memphi.

The most significant honor Ray has received is being chosen to be 2020/2021 King of Carnival Memphis and to represent the Commercial Real Estate Development Industry in our area.