



Eugene "Gene" Smith

August 28, 1943 - December 2, 2020

** Please note a change of location for the visitation and service.

The public memorial service for Eugene "Gene" Smith of Fargo, ND, will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 18, 2020 in the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services' Verndale Chapel, in Verndale, MN, with Pastor Ken Uhren presiding. Go Rest High On The Mountain will be sung by Dan and Tammie Reger. A public visitation with family and friends will be held at the Verndale Chapel on Friday from 12:30 p.m. until the time of the service.

Eugene "Gene" Smith, age 77, of Fargo, passed away on December 2, 2020 at his home with family at his side and under the gentle care of Red River Valley Hospice.

Eugene "Gene" was born to Philomine (Strack) and Earl Smith on August 28, 1943, in Staples, MN. He attended schools in Staples, then went into the US Air Force for eight years. His very first job was on a dairy farm. He attended the Granite Falls' Vocational Technical school for the Precision Machine program and worked for Ardell Products in the Twin City area. From there, Gene worked as a Switchman for Northern Pacific Railroad and later for Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad as a conductor, and attained 37 years of experience.

In 1969, Gene was united in marriage with Darlene (Fellman) Goodpaster on his birthday, August 28.

Away from work he filled his time with the outdoors as an avid hunter and fisherman. Gene and Darlene spent 16 winters in Corpus Christi, TX until Gene became too ill with COPD.

Preceding Gene in death were his parents Philomine and Earl; brother Denny; sister Mikki; and brother-in-law Mathias Heltemes.

Gene is survived by his wife of 51 years, Darlene of Fargo, ND; sons Scott (Shari) Iverson of Circle Pines, Michael (Dena) Iverson of Staples and Bryan Smith of Wahpeton, ND; grandchildren Jay, Meagan, Shane, Heather, Jake and Holly; six great-grandchildren; sisters Mary Heltemes of West Bend, WI, Joyce (Larry) Garland of Slayton, Karen (Harold) Duda of Keystone, SD, and Claudia Craft of Pillager; along with brothers George (Jan) Smith and Greg (Becky) Smith both of Staples.

Honorary pallbearers will be Dan Reger, Rudy Fellman, Larry Sather, Clyde Mertens, Don Strack, John Hoemberg and Jack Trusdale.

Military honors provided by the Elmer Goche Post 3922, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wadena, MN.

Burial will be in Philbrook Cemetery in Villard Township, Todd County, MN.

Cemetery Details

Philbrook Cemetery

(SW of Motley, MN)
Villard Township, Todd County, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Verndale Chapel
9 North Farwell Street
Verndale, MN 56481
(218) 445-5191

Service

DEC 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

Verndale Chapel
9 North Farwell Street
Verndale, MN 56481
(218) 445-5191

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Eugene "Gene" Smith*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - December 15, 2020 at 03:15 PM

PW

“ *See ya, Gene. Beautiful Tribute Video. So glad we got to spend the last several years with you on North Padre Island. FunFun memories. Surf fishing, Beach. Sharing meals. Time together. You and Darlene, such special friends. Miss you guys. Saw Gene walking the beach by Whitecap last week. Can hear your voices, laughs. Thank you for being there for me, as well. Wish I could do the same. You're in my thoughts and prayers, Darlene. Thanks and Love. Pauline*

PAULINE WASSLER - February 03, 2021 at 01:56 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" Smith.*



December 17, 2020 at 03:53 PM

VS

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of Gene. May God's peace surround you at this difficult time.

John & Vonnie Sandland

Vonnie Sandland - December 17, 2020 at 11:16 AM

JG

“ 3 files added to the album tribute wall



Joyce Garland - December 16, 2020 at 09:49 AM

JG

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Joyce Garland - December 16, 2020 at 09:36 AM

DM

What fabulous memories made with my Smith Family. While not always able to see them - never far from my heart, thoughts and memories. Always share the family reunion stories and times growing up with us all at Grandmas house. Uncle Gene was always part of those stories and will continue to be. Love Always, Debra Meinke (Joyce Smith Garland's #1 Daughter)

Debra A Meinke - December 25, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ 48 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - December 15, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" Smith.



December 15, 2020 at 03:08 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" Smith.



December 14, 2020 at 04:41 PM