



Gene Mattern

September 15, 1930 - April 15, 2004

Francis Gene Mattern was born to his parents Lambert & Mary Esther (Underwood) Mattern on Sept. 15, 1930 in Aberdeen, SD. He passed away at his home on April 15, 2004. Gene entered the US Air Force in 1948. After his discharge in 1952 he continued his military service as a Captain in the US Public Health Service until October of 1978. He was united in marriage to Darlene Janet Piepkorn on February 14, 1953 in Aberdeen. Gene and Darlene have lived in South Dakota, Nebraska, Oregon and Oklahoma before moving to rural Wadena 26 years ago. Gene worked as the Wadena County Engineer for many years until his retirement. Gene was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, Knob Hill Sportsman Club and the Berg-Nylund American Legion Post 456 of Sebeka. He enjoyed flying, hunting, fishing, building planes, being outdoors, watching sports and archery. He especially loved his time with his grandchildren. Gene was preceded in death by his wife Darlene on April 2, 2004. He was also preceded in death by his parents; son Douglas and a sister Yvonne Mattern. He is survived by his son Steve (Susie) of Fargo; daughters Jane (Bill) Langer of Thief River Falls and Mary of Fargo; grandchildren Stephanie, Jessica, Kristina & Ben; brother Jim (Carolyn) of Brandon, SD; sister Kathleen Viereck of Valley Springs, SD and many other family and friends. Funeral services will be on Tues., April 20th at 2:00 PM in the St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena with the Rev. Gary Rokenbrodt officiating. Burial will take place in the Wadena Cemetery with military honors provided by Company A 194th Armored Division of the

Minnesota National Guard.

Tribute Wall

GM

“ I am proud to be your cousin. Over the years we always enjoyed the visits with Gene & Dar. Gene & I could talk for hours about the old days in Aberdeen and we both shared a love for aviation and could talk of airplanes and flying for hours. We planned a trip to Stasburg to seek out distant relatives. I regret that we never made that trip. I will miss the visits and telephone conversations and if I make that trip to Stasburg there will be a toast in your remembrance.

As the aviators poem High Flight says, "Oh I have slipped the surly bonds of earth". You have taken that final flight and are in the hands of the good Lord.

Our love to Steve, Jane & Mary. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love George & Daisy

George Mattern - April 15, 2004 at 12:00 AM