



Eugene Joseph Leif

October 6, 1931 - September 20, 2019

Eugene Joseph Leif, 87, of Austin, Minnesota, passed away peacefully with his loving family at his side, Friday, September 20, 2019, at Sacred Heart Care Center in Austin.

Gene was born on October 6, 1931, in Wilton, ND, to John and Frances (Feyen) Leif. After graduating from St. Augustine High School, Gene graduated from Loras College in Dubuque, IA, where he studied philosophy and theology. On May 15, 1954, Gene married the love of his life, Madonna Elaine Weis.

Gene worked at Hormel Foods for 45 years. Gene was a member of St. Edward's and St. Augustine's Parishes, Knights of Columbus, and Pacelli Booster Club. He was an active volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, weddings, funerals, fish dinners, Mardi Gras Balls, Shamrock Balls, and more. He was an avid (successful) angler with a fish story for all occasions. Gene was an athlete, best known as a catcher in his baseball days. He remained very close to his fellow high-school football referee colleagues (30+ years), his handball and racquetball pals, and recently, with his ping-pong peeps. He also enjoyed cross-country skiing, roller blading, and pheasant hunting.

Gene loves God and family. He took every opportunity to spend time with his entire family, children, nieces and nephews, their kids, and even the tiniest of their kids. Gene and Elaine were always together, going to daily Mass followed by coffee, volunteering, dancing, traveling, visiting friends and family, and just being together.

Gene is survived by Elaine, his wife of 65 years, their four children, Lois (Paul) Bloomberg, Donna (Brad) Blaser, Thomas (Diane) Leif, and Douglas (Renee) Leif; grandchildren, Elizabeth (Chris) Estling, Anne (Stephen) Froelich, Sarah Bloomberg, Ryan (Stephanie) Blaser, Kelsey Leif, Matthew (Ann) Blaser, Jeanne Bloomberg, Collin Leif, Karlie Leif; great grandchildren, Rodney Gene, Atticus, Leif, Aiden, Francis Eugene; many nieces, nephews, and their families; all loved and cherished. Eugene is preceded in death by his parents, brothers Gerald, Claude (Bud), and Robert, sisters Mary (Sis) Cummings and Gertrude Erickson, granddaughter Elisa Bloomberg, and infant daughter Baby Leif. The

family wishes to thank Dr. Lawrence Keenan for his friendship and care for Gene.

A Funeral Mass, with Father Gregory Leif officiating, will be held on Saturday October 12, 2019, at 10:30am at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Austin, MN. Visitation will begin one hour before Mass. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the donor's choice or to the family to be donated to Gene's charities.

Arrangements by Mayer Funeral Home

Condolences may be left online at www.mayerfh.com

Events

OCT **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

12

St. Augustine Catholic Church
405 4th Street NW, Austin, MN, US, 55912

OCT **Service** 10:30AM

12

St. Augustine Catholic Church
405 4th Street NW, Austin, MN, US, 55912

Comments



“ Bridget A. Wickiser lit a candle in memory of Eugene Joseph Leif



Bridget A. Wickiser - October 14 at 08:22 AM



“ You are all in my thoughts and prayers. To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is to never die.

Al Batt - October 10 at 08:44 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Elaine and the entire Leif family! Gene was a great guy with a truly kind spirit and will be missed by so many people! My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this very difficult time. Love, Tudi Yonke

Tudi Yonke - October 10 at 12:24 PM



“ When one had friendship with Gene, miles of separation were never an issue, as the reconnection each time we met was a good and welcome day. I cherished those times, because banter was always easygoing & lighthearted-- over coffee & pie at HyVee, lunch at our Texas home, or the Holiday Inn there in Austin, or its sister SunSpree in Corpus Christi. Shared chats rove everywhere, but were of a similar generation, even if I think he may've nailed me on the BB court during high school, when he was almighty in a striped shirt with the golden whistle. Be blessed, Gene Leif, and I hope, in the Lord's promise, we can pick up the thread with one another and with all our beloved on the far shore.

-Nick Dinneen

Nick Dinneen - October 08 at 10:17 PM



“ It is difficult to bid "farewell for now" to one of your betters. Gene taught me to be more gracious, more patient and more attuned to the long term of faith, family and friends. It was a "work in progress" over the course of years, with my last time sitting with he and his lovely wife, Elaine, on a bench outside of his grandson's wedding reception. But there were many such times over the course of decades, with me learning in little bits and bites.

The example set was even more powerful than his coaching...65 years of marriage to his "sweetie", humor within the context of conversation, a wonderful laugh and eyes that were dancing with the enjoyment of life!

May all the Angels, Saints, Holy men and Holy women greet him and lead him into God's eternal Grace. And may God Bless the memory of Gene Lief. I am extremely grateful that Gene let those Blessings cascade to me.

Farewell for now, my friend and my better.

Jeff & Kathy Thorsteinson - October 08 at 09:27 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to the entire Leif family.I got to know Mr Leif through his two Son's Tom and Sir Doug. I enjoyed the conversations that I had with him and It was always so good to see him and his wife at St Philips on a regular basis.

DANIEL SHEA - October 07 at 03:21 PM



“ Sending my condolences to Eugene's Family over his passing . Eugene was a great friend and fellow student at St. Augustine. He was also My Catcher on St. A's Baseball Team. He loved the game of baseball And played the game hard and well. May Gene Rest In Peace !

Jack Strong
St. A Class of 1946
E Mail: jackiestrong3@hotmail.com

Jack Strong - September 24 at 12:07 PM