



Eugene "Gene" A. Epling

January 2, 1948 - July 31, 2021

Eugene "Gene" Epling, 73 year old resident of Swanville, MN passed away Saturday, July 31, 2021 at his home in Swanville, MN. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at the Camp Ripley Chapel inside the main gates of Camp Ripley with Rev. Jeff Lawson officiating. Burial will take place in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls, MN. A visitation will take place on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 from 4-7 P.M. at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN and from 1-2 P.M. on Thursday at the Camp Ripley Chapel. Please note, to enter the Camp Ripley Military Base all people must show some sort of identification to access. Caring for Gene and his family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

Gene was born on January 2, 1948 in LeMars, Iowa to the late Arnold and Clara (Seglem) Epling. He grew up in LeMars, Iowa where he attended LeMars High School and graduated with the Class of 1966. After graduation, he served his country in the U.S Air Force from 1966 until 1970 as an aircraft maintenance technician. He was united in marriage to Vickie LaCrosse on November 15, 1969 in Mohall, ND. After his honorable discharge from the Air Force Gene and Vickie moved to Swanville MN. During this same time frame, Gene enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard where over time he achieved the rank of 1st Sg E8 from Company A 434th Main support battalion where he retired in 2000. Throughout his life in Minnesota Gene farmed and drove

truck. Driving for Gas Service for 20 years then Viking Express Freight to finally starting Epling Trucking where he leased out to and hauled for Linsmeier Trucking, retiring in 2010. After which he worked a few years part-time for the city of Swanville. In his free time, he enjoyed hunting, riding motorcycles and going on camping trips. Gene was also a very social person who loves spending time with his friends and family and especially his grandchildren, that he loved to tease and have fun with. He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed. In his last few years Gene and Vickie loved to travel south for the winter where they made very special friends.

Gene is survived by wife, Vickie Epling of Swanville, MN; children, Laura Epling-Vogel of Sauk Rapids, MN and Al Epling of Swanville, MN; grandchildren, Mikayla Epling, Eli Epling-Van Zee, Zach Vogel and Alyssa Vogel.

Gene was preceded in death by parents, Arnold and Clara Epling and sister, Judy Lawrence.

Cemetery Details

Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115
Little Falls, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

LeMieur Funeral Home of Little Falls
214 2nd Street SE
Little Falls, MN

Visitation

AUG 5. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Camp Ripley Chapel
15000 Highway #115
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173
(320) 616-2708

Funeral Service

AUG 5. 2:00 PM (CT)

Camp Ripley Chapel
15000 Highway #115
Little Falls, MN 56345-4173
(320) 616-2708

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - August 03, 2021 at 11:32 AM



“ *Eugene "Gene" A. Epling*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Eugene lived across the road from us at Neptune. We were great friends... learned to ride motorcycles with Gene and tend to all the chickens they raised. I remember sneaking into town after dark on his 100CC Yamaha to visit girls we were interested in. I'm glad to hear his interest in motorcycles never waned. Right now I have my second Indian. Rest in peace old friend. Condolences Vicki.*

Dr. Chuck Meseck

Dr. Chuck - August 22, 2021 at 10:49 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling.*



August 05, 2021 at 12:40 PM



“ *Wendy & Dave Rutz lit a candle in memory of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling*



Wendy & Dave Rutz - August 03, 2021 at 10:00 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling.*



August 03, 2021 at 09:08 PM

AC

“ Uncle Gene - he was a great man and always was funny with his witty way. My favorite Uncle ever. My memories of him are enough to write a book. Some of them are:



Uncle would say:

Every drop of milk you spill you will have to stay another day to work it off.

Forget those city boys we need to find you a Country boy.

Bonfires in the driveway was the best.

Playing horseshoes and getting white paint on my cowboy boot my parents just bought me at the fair.

The mosquito is MN state bird.

Riding on the old horse Sandy with him.

Driving out on the frozen lake in his truck and him saying did you hear that crack.

Drinking old Milwaukee beer.

I remember him giving me ride on his motor cycle.

I remember watching him do the teeth and tails on the baby pigs.

I remember him helping with the mamma cow having the baby cow.

I remember him telling me men are like shoes you have to try them on before you buy them that I need a farm boy.

Even in May when I saw him he said he didn't want to start selling thing like his spider and 5 th wheel and then there will be a big miracle for a cure for him and he wouldn't have anything left. Also he was saying see yeh and not good bye. That was Uncle Gene he always had a great sense of humor. He was taken to young but GOD got a great new angle. Uncle Gene is up there being the class clown.

There are Soooooo many memories that I will cherish forever in my heart with him till the day I die. I love you so much uncle Gene. Till we meet again.

Amy Church - August 03, 2021 at 08:22 PM

CL

“ Charlie And Dianne Ledbetter sent a virtual gift in memory of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling



charlie and dianne ledbetter - August 03, 2021 at 04:55 PM

SK

“ Vickie and Family, We're so sorry to hear about Gene. We didn't know that he was dealing with cancer. He was always a great guy to visit with. Just want to let you know that you're in our thoughts and prayers. Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family.

Sandie & Glenn Klimmek - August 03, 2021 at 04:54 PM

FK

“ From Orlene and Ron Kitchens purchased the Sympathy Gift Vintage Wind Chime - "I Have You In My Heart" for the family of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling.



From Orlene and Ron Kitchens - August 03, 2021 at 03:28 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling.



August 03, 2021 at 02:22 PM

MS

“ *Mark And Tara Selinski lit a candle in memory of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling*



Mark and Tara Selinski - August 03, 2021 at 02:06 PM

LB

“ *Lee & Bunny lit a candle in memory of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling*



Lee & Bunny - August 03, 2021 at 01:12 PM

HN

“ *2 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Holly Nelson - August 03, 2021 at 12:11 PM

JR

Remember visiting the farm, Going out in the field to retrieve the new born calf, and having you name it John. It meant a lot to my girls. Good friends remembered always. Sorry for the loss.

John and Rory - August 13, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ 61 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



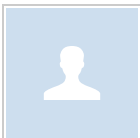
Lemieur Funeral Homes - August 03, 2021 at 11:29 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling.*



August 03, 2021 at 08:14 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling.*



August 03, 2021 at 07:26 AM

JJ

“ I have such fond memories of visiting the farm. Uncle Gene laughed and laughed when I said that I didn't know Grandma Epling was a twin (she had shown me some photos), he said well that's news to me!! The conversation took place around a huge bonfire in the middle of the driveway.

Jodi James - August 03, 2021 at 07:21 AM

JH

“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling.



August 03, 2021 at 07:16 AM

JH

“ Vicki and Family, you have my deepest sympathy. I always enjoyed visiting with Gene when he worked for the city and his drop in visits when you were grocery shopping. You are in my thoughts and prayers.



Julie Hollermann - August 02, 2021 at 04:43 PM

BS

My deepest sympathy to all of Gene's family. He was a one of a kind Guy! We always enjoyed visiting with both of you!

Brenda Schmidt - August 02, 2021 at 09:43 PM

DN

Rest in peace my friend.

David Nelson - August 02, 2021 at 10:32 PM



Vicki I am so sorry for your loss you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers

Karen Haaland - August 03, 2021 at 09:06 AM



Vickie- Our deepest sympathy goes to you and your family on Gene's passing. Keeping your family in our prayers.

Lee & Bunny Johnston

Lee & Bunny Johnston - August 03, 2021 at 01:12 PM



Vickie, you are in my thoughts and prayers. My deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. 1SG Gene Epling - always a dedicated husband, father, serviceman and patriot. A fair and steady leader who I proudly served with.

Lance Chisholm - August 04, 2021 at 08:48 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" A. Epling.*



August 02, 2021 at 04:31 PM