



## Eugene "Gene" Gruber

November 4, 1931 - November 8, 2023

Eugene "Gene" Gruber, 92 year old resident of Genola, MN passed away Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at the St. Cloud VA. A Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:30 AM on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierz, MN with Father David Maciej officiating. Burial will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 PM on Tuesday and from 10AM to 11AM on Wednesday at the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Pierz. Caring for Gene and his family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Pierz, MN.

Eugene "Gene" Gruber was born on November 4, 1931 to the late Teresa (Flicker) and Frank Gruber. He grew up in Genola and helped in his father's wholesale business, shipping poultry, veal calves, potatoes and other foods to Duluth for the war effort. He graduated from Little Falls High School in 1949. He enlisted in the Navy in June, 1951 as a gunner's mate until 1955. During his time in the Navy, the Korean Conflict was raging, and he traveled throughout the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico including being stationed at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. While home on leave, he met Millie, his wife. They married on October 25, 1955 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierz, Minnesota. The couple raised their 2 daughters and 2 sons in Genola, Minnesota. Against his father's advice, Gene and Millie started their retail grocery store, Gruber's Market Platz, then added a slaughter house which combined became very successful. They also started the Rich Prairie

Shopper (now known as the Morrison County Record) and then opened the Genola Village Inn Restaurant. Gene was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was mayor of Genola for many years and purchased the land that was developed into the current Genola ballpark that is still actively used to this day. Gene was a proud member of the Pierz Lions Club, American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans. When he was 49, he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) which began to affect his ability to engage in hunting and fishing which he had grown to love and shared with his two young sons, Steve and Paul. He was honored as Father of the Year by the MS Society of MN in 1982. Gene enjoyed playing cards and drinking beer with his Mission Group. He took up oil painting and was always inventing different ways to improve tasks and how to accomplish them. Gene took great pride in the success of Gruber's Market and in particular the meat section, perfecting 21 different kinds of sausage including developing a much loved and award-winning liver pate. Gene and Millie spent their later years traveling the continental USA mainly, but also Alaska in their motorhome and at times taking their grandchildren along. Gene spent the last nine years of his life at the St. Cloud VA. They took exceptional care of him and helped him to visit Millie until she passed in 2018. He continued with his political skills in advocating for the use of the sunroom/gathering room for the patients who resided there. The family expresses immense gratitude to the staff of the VA medical center, building 49-2 for their loving and compassionate care they provided him.

Gene is survived by his children, Kathleen of Little Falls, MN, Susan (Gene) of Rice, MN, Steven (Susan) of Bemidji, MN, Paul (Denise) of Hillman, MN; 12 grandchildren, Anne, Theresa, Tammy, Danielle, Matthew, Courtney, Jake, Chase, Shelby, Mackenzie, Maggie, and Jackson; 14 great-grandchildren; his brother, Fred (Marge) Gruber and sister, Lila (Norm) Thielen.

Gene is preceded in death by his wife, Millie; sisters, Lucille, Lavina, Delirose,

and lone; and parents, Teresa and Frank Gruber.

# Cemetery Details

## Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115  
Little Falls, MN

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 22. 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
68 North Main Street  
Pierz, MN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Eugene "Gene" Gruber*



---

**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - November 15, 2023 at 10:26 AM



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



---

November 20, 2023 at 11:21 PM



“ *4 files added to the album Life Tributes*



---

**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - November 17, 2023 at 09:19 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



---

**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - November 16, 2023 at 11:33 AM

KT

“ Remember shopping there as a kid and then as an adult. Enjoyed many conversations with Gene and Millie. Sending prayers to Sue and Paul and the rest of the family. May you find some comfort in knowing he is home and with Millie

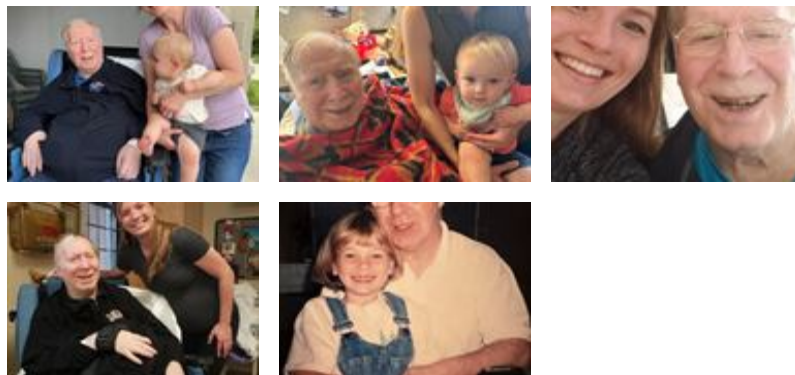


---

**Kelly Voltin Thomsen** - November 15, 2023 at 10:04 PM



“ 6 files added to the album *Life Tributes*

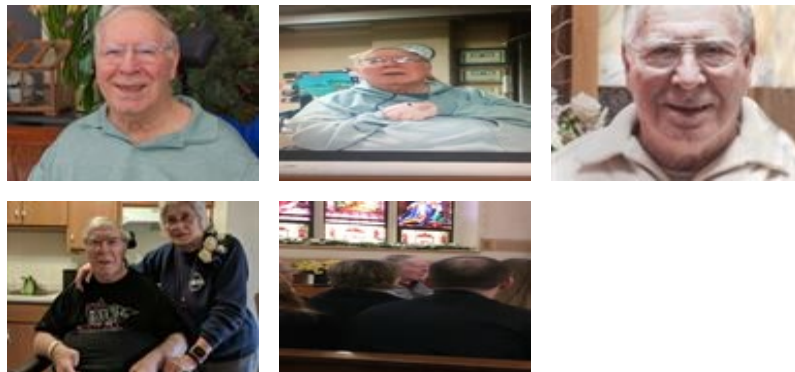


---

**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - November 15, 2023 at 12:37 PM



“ 87 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



---

**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - November 15, 2023 at 10:26 AM

DS

“ *Dan & Connie Sullivan sent a virtual gift in memory of Eugene "Gene" Gruber*



---

**Dan & Connie Sullivan** - November 14, 2023 at 06:10 PM

RS

“ *Our deepest sympathies & condolences thoughts & prayers to the Gene Gruber family in this great time of loss. Gene was a great friend, man, Husband, Dad. I knew Gene for many years. He was a very pleasant person to all who knew him. He will be sadly missed. He was a great family man. May he rest in eternal peace in heaven with our Heavenly Father. Sorry for your loss.*

---

**Richard R. Schneider** - November 14, 2023 at 06:05 PM

JM

“ Thoughts and prayers to all of his family. It was a great pleasure getting to know Gene and hearing his stories. Hugs Jessi 'Mischke' McKinnon



-----  
**Jessi (Mischke) McKinnon** - November 14, 2023 at 02:09 PM

DL

“ Our sympathy ,love and prayers to the family for their devastating loss  
Dianne and Charlie



-----  
**Dianne and Charlie Ledbetter** - November 14, 2023 at 02:04 PM

BP

“ Bill & Lori Przybilla lit a candle in memory of Eugene "Gene" Gruber



-----  
**Bill & Lori Przybilla** - November 14, 2023 at 12:34 PM

NG

“ Natalie Jim Gritzmacher lit a candle in memory of Eugene "Gene" Gruber



-----  
**Natalie Jim Gritzmacher** - November 14, 2023 at 12:26 PM

NG

*Sympathy to all of Gene's family*

---

**Natalie Jim Gritzmacher** - November 14, 2023 at 12:27 PM

RP

*Deepest sympathy to the Gruber family. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers during this time if loss.*

---

**Rosi and Joe Przybilla** - November 14, 2023 at 07:29 PM

AH

*Our deepest sympathy to your family*

---

**Arlene Hansmann** - November 15, 2023 at 09:58 PM