



Gene G. Wenk

FEB 14, 1940 - DEC 20, 2020



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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Mr. Gene Gordon Wenk, age 80, passed away Sunday, December 20, 2020 at home. Gene was born in Muskegon on February 14, 1940 to John and Josephine (Cooper) Wenk. After graduating high school and working his way up to manager of a fiber glass custom molding plant in his mid-20's, he became an entrepreneur in April 1969 and opened up his own business, Foremost Plastics, Inc, that he ran successfully for nearly 30 years before retiring – employing many family members and friends throughout the years. Gene was an avid sportsman throughout his life, hunting, fishing, hockey, tennis, racquet ball, water skiing, and snow skiing. Gene married the former Carol Samples in 1988 and together they cherished many years of love and laughter that included a shared passion for sailing and were both members of the Muskegon Yacht Club where they owned and raced Termagant (a J24) through the 80's with family and friends as crew. In the early 90's, Gene was diagnosed with MS, but he never slowed down. He continued to stay active working out, swimming, reading various genres of books, and both he and Carol became accomplished bridge players where they continued to play until this past spring. Gene was a fixture at Pere Marquette beach as for the last 30 years, at 10:30am sharp in all but the harshest weather until his passing, he made a round trip from their Bluffton home to the beach and back with 5 different dogs through the years: Bernadette (golden lab), Maggie (yellow lab), Millie (pembroke corgi), Mollie (golden lab – both of them made google earth street view), and Jake (jack russell terrier). He will be truly missed by all his family and friends.

Gene is survived by 5 children, DeeAnn Wenk of Lexington, Kentucky, Ted (Zoya) Wenk of Tigard, Oregon, David (Dawn) Wenk of Salisbury, Maryland, Jeff (Chris) Wenk of Caledonia, Michigan, and Jennifer Wenk of Hagerman, Idaho; 7 grandchildren, Patrick (DeeAnn) Mansfield, Russell (DeeAnn) Mansfield, Bradley Wenk (Jeff) of Boston, Massachusetts, Joel Wenk (Jeff) of Middleville, Michigan,



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Christian Wenk (Jeff) of Caledonia, Michigan, Jalen James (Jennifer) of Hagerman, Idaho, and Stephen Cordrey (David) of Toronto, Canada; 4 great grandchildren, Tristan Wenk (Bradley), Austin Wenk (Bradley), June Wenk (Joel), and Josie Wenk (Joel); 1 sister, Hazel Leiter of Norton Shores; 1 brother, Richard Wenk of Muskegon; and many nieces and nephews. Gene was preceded in death by his parents; by two brothers, John Wenk and Peter Wenk; and by 3 sisters, Annalee MacNab, Wilma Olson, and Dorothy Weller. Due to the current health restrictions, a Celebration of Life honoring Gene will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to The Walburn Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 1547 W. Sherman Blvd., Muskegon, MI 49441. Share memories with the family at www.sytsemafh.com.



Tribute Wall

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SU

Sue posted:

So very sorry to hear about Uncle Gene. We had a lot of great memories growing up with him and the family. In more recent years we used to have some pretty good Poker games with Carol and Gene as well as with my mom Wilma Olson. We so enjoyed stopping by and seeing him when we were in Muskegon. Our condolences to All of the family. Sue (Olson) Baranowski

January 16 at 5:14 PM

GB

Gene Benkert posted:

Carol and Family, I'm going to miss Gene's humor and his teaching at the bridge table. May he rest in peace. Gene Benkert

January 8 at 4:47 PM

JC

Janeyaja@Hotmail.Com posted:

Our hearts are broken. Sending love and affection to his family and especially Carole. They were our good friends for many years. I, Janey, went to school with Gene and valued his friendship. He will be missed. Janey and Said Shazly

January 3 at 2:35 PM

CG

Christine Goudie posted:

I am so sad to hear of Mr. Wenk's passing. My husband, George, and I exchanged "good mornings" with him on numerous occasions throughout the past several years as we all enjoyed our mornings along the beach sidewalks. He will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Wenk's family and especially with his wife during her recovery.

January 2 at 6:33 PM



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Laura Kolberg posted:

Kirk and I were so saddened to hear that Gene has passed away. He was a fixture of the neighborhood, and a good friend to our brother and brother in law Kevin-they both looked forward to meeting to talk, and explore the neighborhood. We liked reading about Gene's life. Hoping Carol is recovering and the family is rallying around to ease the pain of their loss. Prayers and thoughts to all of you.

January 2 at 12:23 PM



Mike Wenk August 30 at 5:20 PM

My Uncle Gene hired me to my first real tax paying job at his shop in Muskegon, one of the many times in my life where he mentored me. When he moved to Muskegon in the early 80's, he took us to movies and spent time at the lake with us. We enjoyed trout fishing and hunting adventures, always because his great sense of humor. But my strongest memory of my uncle was his dogged perseverance in the face of MS. When he first got the diagnosis, he taught himself everything he needed to combat the disease. He rode his bike, walked, and then stayed active by taking dogs for walks by the beach in his wheelchair. He was a Bluffton fixture who kept his mind active by playing bridge. I will always admire him for meeting life on his own terms.



Christine Goudie January 2 at 6:31 PM

I am so sad to hear of Mr. Wenk's passing. My husband, George, and I exchanged "good mornings" with him on numerous occasions throughout the past several years as we all enjoyed our mornings along the beach sidewalks. He will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Wenk's family and especially with his wife during her recovery.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gene by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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