



Eugene "Gene" E. Jacobson

September 13, 1924 - October 21, 2021

Eugene Elton "Gene" Jacobson passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 21, 2021 at the age of 97. A funeral service is scheduled for Wednesday, October 27th at 11 am at All Faiths Funeral Home. Dan Naranjo will officiate. Family will greet friends for one hour prior to the service.

Gene was born at the family homestead west of Wolbach on September 13, 1924, to George and Alice (Pedersen) Jacobson. Gene was baptized and confirmed at the Fairdale Methodist Church. He grew up and attended school in the Fairdale community, graduating 10th grade from Fairdale School. In 1940, the family moved to Wolbach, where he graduated from Wolbach High School in 1941. Afterwards, he helped his father with the blacksmithing business and worked at the ordnance plant prior to serving in the United States Navy from 1944-1946. Gene was a flight engineer aboard PBM's (seaplanes), rescuing downed airmen in the South Pacific, and completing bomber runs as ordered. After his discharge, Gene returned to Wolbach where he and his father were in business for 60 years. Gene also owned JM Construction, a firm building bridges throughout Nebraska. Bernard Meyer was the manager.

Gene and Wilma Rauert, daughter of Arnold and Minnie (Niemoth) Rauert, were united in marriage at Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island, on February 24, 1952. To this union, three daughters were born: Diane, Connie, and Janet. As a family, they travelled extensively in the lower 48 states, in Gene and Wilma's RV. They lived in Wolbach until 2000. Gene was a member of the Wolbach American Legion chapter for more than 60 years; and combined membership for over 80 years in Methodist Churches at Fairdale, Wolbach, and Grand Island. Gene served on the Wolbach school board and town board; trustee of Fairdale Cemetery; member of the Greeley County zoning board; treasurer of the Salvation Army- Wolbach branch; rural fireman; was a past president of Grand Island Crime Stoppers; and was an admiral in the Nebraska Navy.

Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Wilma Jacobson and their three daughters, Diane, Connie, and Janet. Other survivors include sister, Georgia (Jacobson) Schrum of Stockton, CA; and sister-in-law, Audrey (Bill) Rauert of Omaha. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Alice Jacobson; his in-laws, Arnold and Minnie Rauert; sister, Delores and Herb Galitz; brothers-in-law, Ervin Schrum, Bill Rauert, Paul and Carroll

Rauert; and sister-in-law, Bertha and Marvin Larson.

Memorials are suggested to the Veterans Cemetery Fund of Grand Island.

Previous Events

Service

OCT 27. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Tribute Wall

PW

“ *Gene's family: You have no idea who I am but I vividly remember Gene. When I was a little girl we use to go into the blacksmith shop with Dad (Anton Oeltjen) . I can still see Gene with a cigar dangling from his lips and that ole engineers hat on his head and a smile-except when we tried to walk in barefoot!! That was a big no-no! I always like that man. I am sorry for your loss.*

Pam Wells

Pam Wells - October 25, 2021 at 05:19 PM