



Eugene Engebretson

July 19, 1941 - October 28, 2023

Eugene Engebretson passed away on October 28th, 2023, in his home surrounded by family. Gene was born July 19th, 1941, in Minneapolis, MN to Ruth and Aldon Engebretson as the eldest of six children.

Gene graduated from Minneapolis Washburn High School, class of 1959. He joined the United States Army Signal Corps in June of 1961. He served 18 months on Okinawa as a radar and electronic technician, and then was an avionics electronics instructor for several years, while stationed at Fort Gordon, GA. Later, he served 18 months in Vietnam as a Staff Sergeant, attached to a helicopter base supporting the Fifth Special Forces Group. After he was discharged in December of 1968, he became an active participant in the VFW and American Legion in the Minneapolis area.

Prior to his enlistment, he met his future wife, Karen, on a blind date in October of 1960. They were married on December 13th, 1961, at Fort Snelling military base in Minneapolis, MN. Together they had 2 active and exuberant sons, David and Steven. As his sons were growing up, he engaged in frequent discussions regarding technology, which later inspired them to pursue careers in a similar vein.

Gene's love for computer technologies, mathematics, and space exploration was apparent to all who interacted with him. He had a way of making people

smile, no matter if he knew them or not. He claimed the title of “Grandpa” proudly, not only to his biological grandchildren, but also to their many friends. He was an avid sci-fi and all things aviation reader and continued to read up to days before his passing. His most recent book was “The Grand Design” by Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow.

Gene is preceded in death by his son, David, and survived by his wife Karen, son, Steven, daughter in-law Katy, grandchildren Stephanie (Niko) and Joshua (Brooke), brothers Mark, Kevin, Dana, and Noel, sister Andrea, and countless other loved ones. All of whom were affected deeply by his honesty, curiosity, and especially, his kindness.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory-Colonial Chapel
40 N. Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

Funeral Service

NOV 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel
40 N. Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 955-4171
info@toalebrothers.com
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Tribute Wall

KE

“ I will always remember Gene as a kind, brilliant person, who never criticized my questions because he knew I was trying to understand something. I always felt that Karan and Gene were another set of my parents that were willing to box my ears when I needed it. I've always considered Steven another brother and not just a family friend.

My last memory of Gene, he was helping me with my home built electric scooter that I was building for Ian.

Gene gave me a great idea that I hadn't thought of and it got the scooter working.

By next summer, it will be something Gene would truly appreciate. Just a bit more tweaking and power.

Gene will always be one of my parents that helped me become a geek that I've become.

Gene was another father, not just a family friend. I will never forget his kindness.

Karl Sak

Karen Engebretson - November 18, 2023 at 02:26 PM

KE

“ Read by Rev Ed Dawkins

Native American Prayer by Robin Drummond

“I give you this one thought to keep - I am with you still - I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glints on snow, I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift, uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not think of me as gone - I am with you still - in each new dawn.”

Karen Engebretson - November 15, 2023 at 07:56 PM

KE

“Look for me

I'm here

*in the glint of your eyes
and the lilt of your laugh*

*Close your eyes
there I am
where the lights glow
soft and warm*

*In the quiet moments
where your thoughts
drift*

*And in your dreams
late
late
at night*

Look for me

*In those moments
when you think you're alone
and you take a deep breath*

and wonder

"Where have you gone?"

*I'm here
by your side
holding your hand
loving you as I always have
and will*

forever more “

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Karen Engebretson - November 15, 2023 at 07:49 PM

KE

“ Read by Joshua Engebretson

“A writing by Robin Drummond

“I give you this one thought to keep- I am with you still- I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glints on snow,

I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift, uplifting rush

of quiet birds in circled flight.’

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not think of me as gone-

I am with you still- in each new dawn.”

Karen Engebretson - November 15, 2023 at 07:40 PM

KE

“ By Niko Avant

“Grandpa Gene lived his life in curiosity of the grand space above and around us, and because of that he loved reading Stephen Hawking. Today I am going to share with you a quote, by him.

“One, Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet.

Two, never give up work. Work gives you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it.

Three, if you are lucky enough to find love, remember it is there and don't throw it away.”

Karen Engebretson - November 15, 2023 at 07:39 PM

“ By Stephanie Engebretson Avant

“My first memory, as a baby, is of my grandfather singing to me in the car. Reflecting on that moment, I can still feel his voice casting a safety net for me. I’ve known, without doubt, my whole life just how loved by him I am.

He wore the title of “Grandpa” with pride, and not only for Josh and myself... but for so many more. He had a way of adopting more children, taking them under his wing and claiming them as his own. In the past few days, some of my lifelong friends have reached out to share their condolences- and each of them (Tess, Jordan, Cayo, Whitney, and Alex) have expressed in their own way that they, too, lost a grandpa on Saturday. He was always there to support all us kids as we grew up. We could count on looking out into an audience and knowing he was there to cheer us on, most likely wearing one of those silly handmade “ask me about my grandkids” tshirts.

I am so grateful for how our relationship grew over time. I am grateful for the confidence he instilled in me, for his encouragement, and for the constant nurturing to bolster who I’ve become.

Whenever I would come to him with a big life question, he would look at me with those pillowy kind eyes and tell me that I know what is best for me.

As time grew closer to his death, I had the gift to be able to work with him as I became a yoga therapist. We talked about death often. He shared with me that he truly wasn’t sure what was out there, after this life. It was humbling to see this pillar of a man discuss his insecurities about dying with me. You see, he understood the world in tangible ideals, and considered himself to be a logical and pragmatic man. So our conversations shifted away from esoteric or spiritual musings to the more scientific realm. He appreciated the notion that every atom of oxygen in our lungs, of carbon in our veins, of calcium in our bones, of iron in our blood- was created inside a star before Earth was born. We circulated on the law of conservation which states that all energy is neither created nor destroyed in the universe. Instead, it changes from one form to another.

He discussed how his only true hope for an afterlife was that his energy would continue on through the love he surrounded us with.

Dad, he wanted you to know how proud of you he is, and how thankful he was to be able to watch you turn into the man you are today.

Katy, he held dear to you as a part of this family and specifically mentioned your cooking as a way he received your love for us all.

Josh, he asked me to share with you his wish for you to always follow your dreams, no matter where they lead you and his encouragement for you to love your people well.

Niko, he thought you were one of the luckiest guys in the world for marrying me- but to be clear, not THE luckiest, because he already was for marrying my grandma.

On the day of our wedding, he pulled me aside and said to me, "If you love and take care of him half as much as Karen has done for me, then you will make him a happy man."

Grandma, he loved you more than anything, and lamented that he wasn't better at showing you that each and every day. He felt very well cared for and cherished by you- and he was so incredibly grateful for all that you did for him constantly.

There's always more conversations we wish we could have had with the dead. So, to the rest of us that have gathered here today, please know that his love is vast, and he wanted us all to wear it like a blanket on a cold night, or to hear it like a soft song whispered in our ears.

My grandpa died on Saturday October 28th, on a full moon with a lunar eclipse and I know there is no coincidence in this fact. He is now the man on the moon, and whenever it is full, we can look up, feel his energy which has merely shifted into pure love, and know that he is there."

Karen Engebretson - November 15, 2023 at 07:37 PM

JE

“ 1 file added to the album Photos



Joshua Engebretson - November 07, 2023 at 06:45 PM

CI

What a beautiful life story in photos! The love and joy shines throughout! Just beautiful ❤️

Cinda - November 09, 2023 at 01:25 AM

DT

Thinking of you, Karen and your family. May God bless you with wonderful memories. Sending our prayers and sympathy. Tracy and Diane

Diane Thompson - November 09, 2023 at 08:38 AM