



A lasting memorial has been given to

Spirit of Hope Church

In memory of

Eugene “Gene” Fritze

September 1, 1926 - January 22, 2015

The Gentle Giant



Gene was born in LeSueur, Minnesota, in 1926. He was the second-oldest of five children. He worked at Green Giant during his youth. Gene graduated from the University of Minnesota, where he received a football scholarship while earning his degree in Economics. Gene went on to earn a Master's Degree in Statistics. Gene was a loyal American and joined the Army after earning his degrees and prior to his career in the private sector.

After the military, Gene chose to work for General Mills in the information technology department. He was the original computer “geek” and was writing code and developing programs before the general public knew what a computer was.

In the early 1960s, Gene met his wife, Sally. They were neighbors in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood of St. Paul. In 1965, Gene had to fly to Hawaii to ask Sally for her hand in marriage. Sally was on a teaching fellowship there. Gene and Sally had three children: Heather, Lianne, and Christine.

Gene's family was everything to him. Gene was very involved in the girls' childhood. He was always helping out on the softball field or at the swimming pool where they participated in activities. He took vacation time from work to take the family skiing for one week in the winter and on cross-country road trips in the summer. Gene loved to travel. Gene also kept busy with his siblings, their children, and grandchildren.



After retirement, Gene babysat three of his grandchildren. Gene was “Grandpa” to eight grandchildren. He loved to be around his extended family and cherished every athletic, artistic, and academic activity that he attended. He frequently traveled to Colorado to visit his youngest daughter and her family.



Gene and Sally joined Golden Valley United Methodist Church in 1966 and have been parishioners ever since. The Reverend Jerry Jackson baptized Gene and Sally's oldest daughter, Heather, and was also the minister who officiated at Gene's mother's funeral years earlier. All three of his children were baptized and confirmed at Golden Valley United Methodist Church. Two of Gene's grandchildren were also baptized there.