



Mr. Eugene Locke Baker

March 18, 1931 - February 22, 2021

Baker, Eugene "Gene" Locke 89, passed away peacefully on February 22, 2021, in Minnetonka, Minnesota. Born March 18, 1931, in Portland, Oregon, Gene spent his early years in California before leaving home at age 16 to finish high school in Bellevue, Washington. Gene served in the U.S. Coast Guard before attending the University of Wisconsin in 1953. It was there he met and married Janet Connolly with whom he shared a wonderful 61-year marriage until Janet's passing in 2016. After graduation, Gene took a job with Standard Oil in New Jersey and in 1957 went to a new Minnesota corporation, Control Data, and worked there until his retirement in 1987. Gene worked in human resources in Minnesota and Europe before being put in charge of Human Resource Management Services. In this position, he helped develop the Employee Advisory Resource (EAR) program that provided counseling services for employees dealing with personal challenges. During his career, Gene and Janet made homes for their five children in Minnesota, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium. After he retired, Gene embarked on a robust "second act" where he threw himself into a myriad of projects and causes in his new home in Tucson, Arizona and most recently at The Glenn in Minnetonka, Minnesota. Always active, he skied into his seventies and golfed into his eighties. He was a voracious reader and master housekeeper. Until his last days he could be found straightening the chairs at The Glenn's coffee shop. A past Grand Knight of the Tucson, Arizona, Knights of Columbus, he served in leadership positions in countless charities, neighborhood associations, and church organizations. Gene was a caring husband, loving father, supportive sibling and attentive grandfather to his five children, eleven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. He will be missed for the large and small joys he brought to his family and many friends. Preceded in death by his wife Janet, his brother Tom and sister Winder. Survived by his sister Katy Longo (Frank), his children Catherine Kelly, Michael (Cynthia), Patrick (Barbara), Jeffrey (Wendy) and Joanne McGarry (Robert); grandchildren Matthew, Ellie, Angela, Joshua, Hannah, Daniel, Margaret, James, Jack, Katlyn, and Molly; and five great grandchildren Emily, Bridget, Olivia, Veronica and Raymond. Interment will be at Fort Snelling Cemetery, next to his wife Janet. Memorial service to be held when it is safe to gather. Contributions in Gene's memory can be made to The Basilica of Saint Mary (mary.org/give) or Park Nicollet

Cemetery

Fort Snelling National Cemetery

7601 34th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN, 55450