



Eugene Levi "Gene" Hokkala

December 7, 1935 - May 1, 2020

Memorial Service:

"Gene"

Age 84 of Mounds View, MN.

Passed away peacefully surrounded by family May 1, 2020.

Okay God get your "honey do" list together. There is a new maintenance man in Heaven. Our incredible loss is your gain. Our beloved Gene Hokkala has come to join you and his parents, Lillian, Levi and Lorraine.

Born December 7, 1935 and peacefully leaving his beyond blessed family, on May 1, 2020. Gene spent the last 62 (and a half) years crafting his skills along side is devoted wife Mel, his daughters Jodi Bradshaw, Sue Nelson (Rick Shannon) & Jill Luikart (Bruce). He taught his adored grandchildren, (Derick, Sarah, Melissa, Lucas, Sally & Stella) and his great grandchildren, (Brooklynn, Olivia, Derick Jr., Ellis & Parker) that almost anything can be fixed, what it looks like to be a hard worker and what love is. His and Mel's love is what they will aspire to, for sure.

After graduating from Annandale High School on a Friday in 1954, the following Monday he began his career at Northwestern Bell as a lineman. Keeping it simple, he stayed there until he retired in 1994.

Of course, being a hard worker, he couldn't just quit, so he became a yard mower. His accounts included, The 20 (his happy place), Sunrise Church and Realife.

Gene was a loving husband, the best dad a girl could ask for and an honorary dad to several. He set the bar high as a dad and a grandpa (Bub). He will be terribly missed by many, his 5 siblings, the entire Hokkala & Nordstrom families, The Sunrise Church community, his friends at Trophy Gardens in Alamo, TX and Realife in Mounds View, MN.

Tribute Wall

CK

“ Our thoughts and Prayers are with the Hokkala Family. Gene will be greatly missed.

We have fun memories of Gene. He liked to tease me (Nancy). He always said I was an "easy target" and of course I said "a moving target" He said "yep and I will always get you and he did". I always got a smile and a wink from Gene. Mel of course would just smile as always.

Chuck and Gene always had plenty of things to talk about-when I would look at them from a distance they were always laughing. I figured they had plenty of inside jokes. May the Hokkala Family relish in the great memories/life that Gene gave to them. What a gift.

Chuck and Nancy Karth

Chuck and Nancy Karth - July 10, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Thi



Susan L Jackson-Smith - July 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Thanks for the memories and all the help you've given me these last 38 years. Mel, Jodi, Sue, Jill he truly loved you all and was genuinely concerned about your futures. The man was a true worker bee who never stopped working. My goal was to try not to get out worked by a man 27 years older than me. We cut wood together until he was 78 years old. Mel thanks for letting me have him on Saturdays in the spring & fall we were a team and I'm going to miss that. It was a true gift. We will take care of your 20 I know how you loved that piece of ground and were proud to tell anyone that you grew up there. Thanks for telling my kids stories about the grandfather they never knew. You didn't know this but I adopted you as my second father for the last 29.5 years but you weren't only that or my father in law but you were my friend. Good bye friend until we meet again.

Bruce Luikart - May 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ Mel I am so very sorry on your loss! There are no words to express what you must be going through at this time. Please reach out if there is anything I can do for you! I mean it!

Terri Evans - May 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ I learned so much from you, how to keep a truck clean , and how can I ever forget how to cut wood .. thank you for the memories. rest in peace.



Richard Nelson - May 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ We have both enjoyed our time spent with you and Gene at all of our birthday club get togethers and picnics. We will miss his presence. Bless you and family, Bill and June

Bill & June Anderson - May 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Mel and family, I was so sorry to hear of Gene's passing. My prayers and Blessings go out to you. June

June pfeiffer - May 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ So sorry. Gene will always hold a special place in my heart.

Jeannie Krantz Gross - May 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SV

“ Grandpa,

It still doesn't feel real that you are gone. I have been lucky enough to have you in my life as my Grandpa for 25 years.

You taught me to work hard and to love harder. Your love and devotion you had for Grandma, your family and your job is inspiring and I only hope to follow in your footsteps.

Our whole family has been able to enjoy the place that made you feel most at home - The 20 or The Lake. We have created a lot of lasting memories in the place you grew up and we will only continue to with generations to come. It's pretty special to say this place all started because of you. It's been hard to accept that you will no longer physically be there with us but I know every time the breeze hits off the lake, you will be sending your love to all of us.

Thank you for taking my sister and I every Tuesday during the week and spoiling us by taking us to our favorite fast food restaurant, McDonalds. Not every kid gets to say that their grandparents partially raised them and took care of them, but I am one of the lucky ones.

I smile looking back at all the milestones you were there for in my life such as starting kindergarten, graduating high school, graduating college, getting married (getting to polka with my Grandpa at my wedding) and many more. I know you will continue to watch over me as life goes on.

I will miss you greatly but we all promise to take good care of Grandma, carry your memories with us and most importantly always have Sisu.

*Love your Granddaughter,
Sullo Sally*

Sally Vijums - May 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Rick's favorite story involves 3 guys going to get their propane tanks for the park models refilled. Gene , Jerry Johnson, and Bill Danielson threw their tanks in Gene's truck cause Gene knew where to go to save \$3 on a filliup. A day or two later, Rick saw six or seven men, including Gene (our next door neighbor), over at Johnson's. Curious, Rick joined them and asked what was going on. Jerry 's heater wouldn't come on and no one could fix it. Rick asked if the gas was on to which Galen replied yes, they weren't that stupid. Rick went to check while the others went inside. The valve was turned off. He yelled in the house, "I don't know how y'all turn gas on up north, but down here we normally turn the valve on." It had been Gene's job to re-hook up the gas and he didn't turn it back on. A laugh was had by all.
I will always remember how Gene enjoyed my gluten free chocolate cake. He would say "That was really good, are you sure it's gluten free?"

Brenda and Rick Watts - May 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ I spent every summer weekend up at the lake with my parents and grandparents. The summer grandma and grandpa decided to get a golf cart I was probably 8 or 9, grandpa had to put a 4 inch thick wood block behind the gas pedal to control my speed! And to his very last day (13 years later) he always finished every text message "DC" for drive careful. I think I made him nervous, but he was always looking out for me. Love that man!

Stella Luikart - May 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *God bless*

Bob and Jean Williams - May 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *So sorry for your loss. Even though it's been many years since I've seen him, "Hokkala" was still my favorite tech from back in the day.*

Barbara Reiter - May 03, 2020 at 12:00 AM