



Arthur Eugene "Gene" Knoefel III

July 22, 1936 - October 18, 2021

WEAVERVILLE - Arthur Eugene (Gene) Knoefel III of Weaverville peacefully passed away on October 18, 2021. Gene was born on July 22, 1936, in Asheville, the son of the late A.E. Knoefel, Jr., M.D., and Marie Aline Eris Knoefel. He grew up in Black Mountain and was a graduate of the last class of the then Black Mountain High School. As a teen, he was active in scouting and proud of achieving the rank of Eagle, the God and Country award, and being tapped into the scouting honor society, The Order of the Arrow. Gene attended N.C. State University where he lettered in cross country, Mars Hill College, and the University of Tennessee, where he was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and received a BS in Civil Engineering. Upon graduation, he moved to Sacramento, California, and worked for the State of California for over 36 years, the majority of which he served as Chief of Long-Term Care Reimbursement. While in California, Gene's primary enjoyment was traveling around the State with the love of his life, Ellen. He also loved running and was proud to have completed 2 marathons, ran over 3,000 miles one year, and at one point kept up a continuous running streak for over 4 years.

Gene was preceded in death by his beloved parents, sister Charlotte Sarti, and nephew Kevin Clark. He is survived by his devoted wife of 44 years, Asheville native Ellen Dave Knoefel, sons Eric Knoefel (Julie), Jeff Slosman (Debra), Richard Slosman, and daughters Katina Isaacson (Jeff), and Elyse

Cyphers (Stephen); grandchildren, Caty (Robbie), Nick, Carson, Bennett, Kellon, Sienna, Dawna (Shane), Jessica, Derek (Cristina); great-grandchildren, Hannah, Aiden, Owen, Oliver, and Brooks; niece, Stacey Blackwelder; nephew Brett Clark, and lots of loving extended family and friends.

Upon retiring, Gene and Ellen moved from California back to their beloved Western North Carolina mountains and settled in Weaverville. For many years Gene was an avid golfer, especially enjoying the comradery of his regular golfing friends. He became active in Town government, was appointed to 2 terms on Weaverville's Planning and Zoning Board, and then successfully ran for and served 2 terms (8 years) as a Commissioner on Weaverville's Town Council. Here he represented the Town as Director on the Land of SKY (LOS) Regional Council and served on their Executive Committee for over 2 years. Gene became very active in programs for the aging, serving on several committees of the Area Agency on Aging, and at the recommendation of the LOS staff was appointed by the Buncombe County Commissioners as the County's delegate to the North Carolina Tar Heel Senior Legislature and to the County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee, where he was an advocate for nursing home residents.

Gene was known for his humor and especially that of his fortitude in battling the hardship and trauma of the many surgeries and infections he incurred during the latter part of his life.

A remembrance service in his honor at 1:00 pm on Sunday, October 24, 2021, at Congregation Beth HaTephila. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a meaningful charity of your choice.

Morris Funeral and Cremation Care is serving the family and to sign the online guestbook or to share a message please go to www.morrisfamilycare.com

Previous Events

Remembrance Service

OCT **24**. 1:00 PM.

Congregation Beth Hatephila

Tribute Wall



“ Arthur Eugene "Gene" Knoefel III

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ Gene was a multifaceted, passionate human being. As retired government servants we vigorously but respectfully debated policy formulation and results from contrasting political perspectives. Just as or more important, Mercedes and I both appreciated (his) good cooking as well as bluegrass! Bob Kaufman

Robert Kaufman - October 24, 2021 at 03:21 PM



“ Dear Ellen and family, Gene's "persistence" when it came to family was so obvious when he insisted on coming to see us at our Airbnb after we were at your house in July. Vicki & I & Carol were all blown away because it obviously was so difficult for him. I'm just so glad we came to Ashville when we did. Please take care & keep in touch. Love, Art & Vicki Lewis

Art & Vicki Lewis - October 24, 2021 at 03:07 PM



“ Jodi, Linda and David send our deepest condolences to the entire family. What a beautiful Celebration of Life Service online today from Temple! The Gene we knew was just a flicker of the flame he was as a younger man, but we always knew he was one of a kind! We loved hearing his stories. You were all lucky to have him in your lives. We love and miss you! xoxo

Jodi Shainberg - October 24, 2021 at 02:56 PM

KI

“ The service was beautiful...Dad would have loved it! Thank you for being our family! Love you all and I'm glad Dad is a peace now! Sending love and hugs from Nevada,
Kat, Jeff and Reilly ❤️

Kat Isaacson - October 24, 2021 at 02:32 PM

CF

“ Dear Ellen and family, You made it happen -just as Gene requested. Today was a wonderful celebration of Gene's life. Thank you for sharing all his accomplishments, the photos, the music, and the stories of his love of his family and their love of him. His generosity will always be remembered. Love from Carol, Hamilton and Lissie.

Carol Fishman - October 24, 2021 at 02:25 PM

CK

“ Beautiful celebration of life for Gene. Ellen, May you find strength and peace through family and memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Much love- Corinne & Bill Kelley

Corinne & Bill Kelley - October 24, 2021 at 02:06 PM

CS

“ dear Ellen and family.
we know this day, these words spoken by gene's loved ones were what he most would have wanted.....thinking of you today and the wonderful full life you shared with your GENE.
Love, claire and dick

claire and dick savitt - October 24, 2021 at 02:06 PM

PC

“ *Pat and Tom Crawford offer sincere condolences to the family of a very special man.*

Pat and Tom Crawford - October 24, 2021 at 02:06 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Morris Funeral Home - October 23, 2021 at 09:31 PM

DM

“ *I was in school with Gene, grew up with him. We lost a good man. My condolences to the family. Don McDougale, Lebanon, Tn.*

Don McDougale - October 23, 2021 at 01:15 PM

RB

“ *I met Gene first at a RCGC homeowner's function, and later discovered he was an Eagle Scout. He was always supportive of our Scout activities and a good man in our community.*

Rick Broadhurst - October 23, 2021 at 11:15 AM



“ 98 files added to the album Life Tributes



Morris Funeral Home - October 22, 2021 at 07:02 PM

DM

“ *I knew Gene Knoefel as a neighbor and Weaverville Town Councilperson. Gene always impressed me with his honesty, and dedication to his family and the Town of Weaverville.*

David Maynard - October 22, 2021 at 08:55 AM

JK

“ *We all soooo loved our Grampy! He was always there no matter what ... to make us ALL feel so incredibly LOVED! Hugs and kisses in Heaven! Yoyo*

Julie Knoefel - October 22, 2021 at 08:54 AM

JS

“ *Gene was a community leader, a good neighbor and a great friend. Joan and (Ron) Sussex*

Joan Sussex - October 22, 2021 at 06:25 AM

AJ

Our prayers and condolences go out to Ellen and the entire family. Gene will be missed. Ann Jolly & John Farrell

ann jolly - October 22, 2021 at 09:23 AM

AR

Gene served the Town of Weaverville with a passion on the Planning Board, Town Council and on the Board of Adjustment. He left the town a better place due to his passionate efforts

Al Root - October 23, 2021 at 07:04 PM

MW

Bill and I thoroughly loved Gene's service and all the heartfelt words of Gene's adventurous life and his strong love and friendship he had for his family and friends. So many memories of our running days, dinners together, and loved the picture of Gene at the helm when we took you all sailing in San Francisco Bay. The memories of happy times will live with us forever. We send our undying love and support to you, Ellen, and your beautiful family. Much love, Marie & Bill Wright

Marie Wright - October 24, 2021 at 02:15 PM

DB

Gene was a good neighbor and friend. May he rest in peace. Our prayers and condolences go out to Ellen and the family.

Doug and Debbie Bebber - October 24, 2021 at 02:19 PM

RL

We are all so grateful for all of the warm hospitality you have shown us as family and friends throughout the years. We will miss Gene and always remember him fondly. We love you and your family. Ros and the rest of the Allen Lewis family

Roslyn Cooley Lewis - October 24, 2021 at 04:07 PM

CD

I met Gene while serving as a delegate in the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislators. He represented Buncombe County, my husband and I represented Mitchell County. We met Ellen while going out to dinner at a statewide meeting. Following his time as Parliamentarian of the STHL he was elected President of Friends , This was a 501c group that raised money to help support the NCSTHL. I served with him as his vice chair. We collaborated frequently by phone. It was such an honor to serve with him. I am currently the Speaker for the NCSTHL and on behalf of the body would like to say, thank you for your service, leadership and knowledge shared. We all will miss you and will never forget you. May you Rest In Peace. Norma Duncan, Speaker NCSTHL.

Charles&Norma Duncan - October 25, 2021 at 05:36 PM

DK

What a beautiful service! Having only known Gene in infirmity, I am so grateful to have been able to see, via this service, the photos and the shared memories, of the vital and vibrant Gene, the adventurous one, and the depth of his love for his family. It was truly an honor to have been a small part of this family for the last year of Gene's life. He will be truly missed.

Deborah "Raven" Kelly, Caregiver

Deborah Kelly - October 26, 2021 at 09:08 PM