



Gene Raymond Kadlitz

September 26, 1945 - June 13, 2025

Gene Raymond Kadlitz (Papa) passed away at age 79 after a valiant battle with cancer . He was surrounded by his beloved four children at his daughter's home in Shelby Twp. on June 13 ,2025. Gene was born in Detroit, Michigan on September 26, 1945 to the late Mary (Pszczolkowski)Kadlitz and Adolph (Al) Kadlitz . Gene began his journey as the oldest with four siblings and he spent his early childhood in a proud, hard working Polish community / Parish in Detroit where neighbors actually swept porches, sidewalks and curbs. He had many fond memories of attending St. Stanislas Catholic Church & School. The Kadlitz's moved to a German/ Polish neighborhood mid '50's where he proudly attended and graduated from St. David's Catholic School. Gene served as an Altar Boy while in elementary school and as a Cub Scout. He had a proud patriotic moment shaking hands with then Michigan Governor "Soapy" Williams.

In High School, Gene showed extreme athleticism and he was praised in his 1964 Yearbook for having "honest to goodness 'guts' for being the first pole vaulter at SDH to ever attempt a jump, "He's a David's man." was written. Gene was also awarded several School Recognition Letters in Track & Field. The back story for this was that Gene survived meningitis as a young child and doctors predicted that he would never have the energy or stamina to ever participate in sports. While doctors speculated impairment, he made a lifetime of proving them wrong by not only participating, but by bringing "It home" with

awards, medals & trophies and thus growing his self esteem in virtually every sport from downhill skiing in Alaska, golfing, bocce, horseshoes, basketball, bowling, baseball ... and then there's his love of race cars . Gene's dream was always to become a Race Car driver. Anyone who ever drove with Gene will attest to his agility.

These are the great family stories that have become legendary... as is his Red Challenger.

Following graduation ,Gene went to work on the Assembly Line for Chrysler Corporation at the Dodge Main Plant in Hamtramck. In those days, family referred their nephews/ brothers right out of high school to earn a great wage. In 1965, Gene was drafted into the US Army 47th Infantry. He was Honorably Discharged in 1967 as a Vietnam Era Veteran after rising to E-5 Sargent serving in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Additionally, Gene proudly formed a Little League Baseball Team and was praised formally for inspiring good sportsmanship, integrity and teamwork among Alaskan/ Military youth and their families. Gene returned home to his family in Detroit and to his job at Dodge Main. Gene became engaged to Claudia Henning, also a St. David's Alumni, whom he had met while in high school. Claudia was also part of another large Catholic family. They married in 1969, became parents to four incredible children. Although they divorced after 25 years they remained lifelong friends to the very end, While sharing loving family memories, traditions, births of grandchildren and so much more .

Over the years, Gene moved on in his career to his favorite position as Set-Up Machinist just as his father had done before him. Gene was always excellent in math, drafting and precision work. He was most proud of even doing specialty work for NASA.

Gene was a lifelong Patron/fan of U of M Football, the Detroit Lions and never missed a Super Bowl Game. Also an avid Tiger's Baseball supporter. He was

passionate about all Michigan sports teams. He shared this with his children and grandchildren. Throughout his life he taught the generations the game of Chess. His great memory was winning a game from his father-in-law, Earl Henning, who had held the record for wins. Recently it was delightful to see him teach his grandchildren and "letting them win"!

Gene wanted to be remembered for his love of Family, Love of God and Country, and of being a proud Veteran. He enjoyed his time spent with family swimming, playing games, enjoying great BBQ just laughing, listening to AC/DC, scratch off tickets, watching fireworks together and sharing stories. He had a very full and wonderful life.

Gene is survived by ex-wife, Claudia Kadlitz, who shared their lifetime of family, their children, Lesley Ann Sturgess, Heather Coleen Harvard, Alexander Paul (Alicia) Kadlitz and Courtney Marie (Jared) Scheuerlein. Grandchildren are: Lacy, Ashlee and Nickolas Sturgess, Laurynn, Sophia and Jayden Harvard, Makayla, Tyler, Nathan and Trevor Kadlitz and Ryker and Everett Scheuerlein. Great-Grandchildren are Aubree and Jaxson Sturgess. Gene is also survived by his siblings, Lawrence (Carol) Kadlitz, sisters, Ann Marie Gennaro (Dr. Michael Gennari), Marlene Williams and Jeanette (John) Hartman and numerous nieces and nephews.

Family and friends will gather to celebrate Gene's life with a visitation and memorial service on Saturday, June 21, 2025 from 1-8pm with a service at 2:30pm at the Wm Sullivan & Son Funeral Home located at 8459 Hall Rd (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke) Utica, Michigan. Gene will be interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery on Monday, June 23, 2025 at 9:00am with military honors.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Celebration of Life gathering

JUN 21. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Celebration of Life Service

JUN 21. 2:30 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Cemetery Committal Service

JUN 23. 9:00 AM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery
4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Alex and the entire Kadlitz Family. We love you and are so sorry for your loss. With Love, the Baloun Family
Craig, Somer, Serena & Brayden



Somer Baloun - June 22, 2025 at 01:32 PM

SB

“ Somer B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.

Somer B. - June 22, 2025 at 01:25 PM

MP

“ Gene and I were good friends in high school and after. I remember driving with him to Ubly, MI to race his car and doing 140mph on I94, that's something you never forget. In the winter we would grab onto the bumpers of cars as they drove through the snow covered streets in Detroit and see who could stay on the longest. It was so good to see him at our 60th high school reunion in October. Rest in Peace my friend as you race to Heaven. Marlyss (Alfonsi) Perusich

Marlyss Mary Perusich - June 21, 2025 at 11:32 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.



June 19, 2025 at 10:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.

June 19, 2025 at 10:29 PM



“ Love, Ann Hartman purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.



Love, Ann Hartman - June 19, 2025 at 09:58 AM



“ With deepest sympathy, Barb Gjurgjovski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.

With deepest sympathy, Barb Gjurgjovski - June 18, 2025 at 11:20 PM



“ With deepest sympathy, Barb Gjurgjovski purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.



With deepest sympathy, Barb Gjurgjovski - June 18, 2025 at 11:20 PM

WG

“ Wishing you peace, Barb Gjurgjovski planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.

Wishing you peace, Barb Gjurgjovski - June 18, 2025 at 11:15 PM

WG

“ Wishing you peace, Barb Gjurgjovski purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.



Wishing you peace, Barb Gjurgjovski - June 18, 2025 at 11:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.

June 18, 2025 at 06:12 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.



June 18, 2025 at 06:12 PM

LJ

“ Love Daryl and Jane purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.



Love Daryl and Jane - June 18, 2025 at 01:57 PM

LJ

“ Love Daryl and Jane planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.

Love Daryl and Jane - June 18, 2025 at 01:57 PM

MT

“ Matthew T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.

Matthew T. - June 16, 2025 at 02:22 PM

GH

“ Gerard Henning purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Gene Raymond Kadlitz.



Gerard Henning - June 16, 2025 at 11:38 AM

JS

“ Gene was one of my dearest friends here at Pineridhe Villas of Shelby. We were very close. He loved his family above all. Gene had a great sense of humor - loved to tease. I will miss him at our poker table and bingo. He took me for a ride once in his red car - tried to scare the living daylights out of me when he put the metal to the pedal. Sent me flowers anonymously on Valentine Day. When I asked if he sent them, his reply was "Now why would I do that" Aubree I still wear the necklace you made for me when I visited him. Rest in peace dear friend - I know God loves you and that you are with him * - Joanne Stevens

Joanne Stevens - June 15, 2025 at 05:28 PM

LG

“ It was a pleasure working with Gene n the short period of time I was with him. I felt like I had known him for yrs with some of our conversations we had n the open arms n hospitality he gave when I came the 1st day n until my last day of seeing him..He had me cracking up with his jokes with in our convos. He definitely had me fooled when he had his eyes closed like he was sleep when I was talking to his son n his daughter n law n we was talking n he would chine in n give his opinion on wat he thought n it was hilarious I world make him smile n chuckle when I said we was finna go n dance n etc. He literally told me he loved me and his daughter Lesley heard him n we both looked at each other in disbelief but it really touched my heart n made me feel loved . I will cherish the moments n time I spent with Gene n got to know him know him

Ladell Gowens (Home Health Caretaker)

Ladell Gowens - June 15, 2025 at 05:17 PM

LG

Edit world should've been would but everyone get wat I meant !!! 😊

Ladell Gowens - June 15, 2025 at 05:24 PM

JS

“ I loved Gene, my cousin. When I was 12 we moved near Romeo Michigan. My brother Paul and sister Paulette were goofing off on the dock of a lake behind our house. This is the middle of February. Gene thought it was funny to pick each of them up and throw them into the lake. When I was visiting him, he still remembered it and laughed. I will ALWAYS remember his laugh and love for his family. Love you Gene. God Bless



Jeanette Soulliere - June 15, 2025 at 12:32 PM