



Eldon Gene Hammond

January 6, 1935 - November 12, 2020

Eldon "Gene" Hammond

Passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at his Minooka residence surrounded by family after a courageous battle with numerous health issues.

Born the Son of the late Eldon and Hazel (nee Allphin) Hammond.

Beloved Husband of 62 years to Mary Lou (nee Scott); Loving Dad of Robert (fiancé Carol Lazarski) Hammond and Karen (DeWitt) Buchanan; Proud Grandpa of Melinda (Jeff) Chiapello, Christopher (Megan) Hammond, Benjamin (Sheila) Hammond, Victoria Hammond, Rev. Father Andrew Buchanan and Hannah (Jeff) Kirkolis; Great Grandpa of Levi, Zeke, Addison and Avery; Dear Brother of Tom (Martha) Hammond, Sally (Mike) Edwards; Fond Brother in Law of Richard Scott and David (Cindy) Dobler; Numerous Nieces, Nephews Dear friends and "Buster" the Beloved Cat survive as well. Preceded in death by his Parents, his Dear Step Mom, Ruth Hammond, Loving Grandparents, Roll and Mayme Hammond; Daughter in Law, Patricia Hammond, his Sisters, Janet Raehal and Carol Moon; Father and Mother in Law, George and Melba Dobler; Brother in Law, Bob Scott and Sister in Law, Carol Crews. Gene was a Distinguished Veteran of the US Army. He was an

Airline Pilot for United Airlines for 32 rewarding years after retirement He continued his passion soaring Recreational Gliders and Seaplanes. An avid Golfer, Skilled Skier, both water and snow and an accomplished musician. Gene served and volunteered in many Aviation related Clubs and Organizations including, Q.B., C.B.G.C., S.S.A., S.S.F., E.A.A. and N.S.M. He was also an inductee in the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame. An Accomplished man in many ways he will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

Per Gene's Wishes Cremation Rites have been Accorded.

Due to health concerns in light of Covid-19, the Hammond family has Chosen to plan a Memorial Service in the future to properly celebrate Gene's life at a time when it is safe for all to gather.

Arrangements under the care of The Maple Funeral Home, Channahon.

Tribute Wall



“ *Eldon Gene Hammond*

January 29, 2023 at 09:53 AM



“ *My condolences to Mary Lou and the rest of the family. First met Gene as a teenager and came across him many times over the years at soaring contests and conventions. As both a competitor and a friend. He was always friendly, helpful and focused keeping our shared sport healthy and most of all, safe.*

Good finish, Golf Hotel!

Mike Finegan - November 20, 2020 at 12:08 PM



“ *On behalf of the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame, the Board and all of our delegate organizations wish to extend our condolences. Gene was inducted in 2009, and also served as a delegate to the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame on behalf of the Soaring Society of America for many years. Some of us knew him from soaring, from the airlines, or from working with him on the screening and selection of new candidates for the Hall of Fame. In addition to all of his accomplishments, and what he contributed to aviation, he was a kind person, and a pleasure to work with. We will miss him.*
Carol Para, VP Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame

Carol Para, IAHoF - November 19, 2020 at 11:29 PM

JJ

“ I want to express my deepest sympathy to you Mary Lou, Bob and Karen. Gene was a very special person to me, always willing to volunteer his help and share his knowledge making it possible for me to continue flying in this increasingly demanding and complex sea of regulations. My logbook is full of his sign-offs and I will always remember him.

Joe Jagr – November 17, 2020

Joseph Jagr - November 17, 2020 at 08:50 PM

MP

“ Mary and Art Prancan purchased the Ghirardelli Gift Basket for the family of Eldon Gene Hammond.



Mary and Art Prancan - November 17, 2020 at 07:32 PM

AM

“ I met Gene on the very first day I became a soaring student over 30 years ago. He gave a safety seminar for our club. Saw him many times afterwards, including volunteering for the SSA at the EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh WI.
Anne Mongiovi

Anne Mongiovi - November 17, 2020 at 06:41 PM

FP

“ Our Family always enjoyed meeting up with Gene, May Lou, Bobbie and Karen at various soaring contests over the years. They were always a joy to see. I really enjoy remembering Gene telling me of playing an upright bass in bands "back in the day"....

Please accept my sincere condolence on the passing of of your Husband, Father and our friend...

Fred Pakosta Jr.

Fred Pakosta - November 17, 2020 at 01:22 PM

BF

“ Bill Strathearn and Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Eldon Gene Hammond.



Bill Strathearn and Family - November 17, 2020 at 06:55 AM

RP

“ I heard of Gene's passing today and I was saddened to tears and a feeling of loss. I lost my flying buddy! For the last 30 years all we would talk about was awesome flying stories and flying craziness. I used to tease Gene - my dream would have been for us to be in the cockpit together. To Mary Lou and daughter Karen I am speechless and heartbroken and my deepest condolences go out to you and your family. May he RIP. With all my love. Dr. Bob Pick

Robert Pick - November 16, 2020 at 06:17 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eldon Gene Hammond.*



November 16, 2020 at 11:40 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Eldon Gene Hammond.*



November 15, 2020 at 08:29 PM



“ *I remember Gene coming in my office at the bank and sitting down to chat. I enjoyed his memories! I'm so sorry for your loss Mary Lou, Bob , Karen , and family.*

Jody Chiapello - November 15, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



National Soaring Museum - November 14, 2020 at 04:10 PM



Rest in Peace, my friend.

James Michael Trosky - January 10, 2021 at 05:16 PM