



Eugene "Gene" W. Sombke

October 7, 1935 - May 7, 2022

Eugene (Gene) Warren Sombke, 86, of Indianapolis, IN, passed away peacefully on May 7, 2022. He was born on October 7, 1935, in Ferney, South Dakota, to the late Clarence and Flora (Erdmann) Sombke. Gene was a graduate of Concordia Lutheran High School and Concordia University in Steward, Nebraska. He taught at Trinity Lutheran School for nine years and in Indianapolis Public Schools for 40 years. Gene married Marcia Sue Hoff on June 16, 1962. He was a longtime member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Gene led Bible studies and volunteered at Sunrise Camp for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He participated in ten mission trips with Faith Ministry, building houses in Reynoso, Mexico. Gene enjoyed fishing and camping -- where he loved making donuts and telling stories. His children and grandchildren loved sitting around the campfire listening to him tell the story of Pee-Wee from the book Caddie Woodlawn. Gene was a true servant of Christ, being faithful to God and his family. We have been truly blessed to have him as an example to follow. We will miss him but look forward to seeing him again in Heaven. Visitation will be Thursday, May 12, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Friday, May 13, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 8540 E. 16th Street, Indianapolis, IN, 46219. Gene was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Marcia, their five children, Kim (Mark) Fangman, Pam (Mike) Booher, Lisa (Ron) Schumacher,

Mary (Joe) Carlin, and Michael Sombke, 24 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are his brother, Harlowe Sombke, sisters Deloris Sombke, Janise Mahon, Norma Wacholz, Beverly Hite, Bette Martin, and sister-in-law, Esperanza Sombke. He is preceded in death by his brother, James Sombke, brothers-in-law Butch Mahon, Marlin Wacholz, Larry Hite, and Rueben Martin, and sister-in-law, Myrtle Sombke.

Memorial gifts can be sent to Trinity Lutheran Church, designated for the church or the Friendship Bible study or they can also be sent to Faith Ministry at faithministry.org.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 12. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
8540 East 16th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Visitation

MAY 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
8540 East 16th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Funeral Service

MAY 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
8540 East 16th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Tribute Wall

KC

“ I just belatedly became aware of Mr. Sombke's passing. He was such a mentor for me when I was a young punk teacher fresh out of Marian at John J. Audubon School #38. He already had a lovely young family with 5 children he adored. He was always funny and kind and so compassionate. Our little world at 38 was challenging but we made fast friendships that transcended time. I was always a bit envious of his amazing ever expanding family. What a legacy he leaves behind! Special condolences to his incredible wife, Marcia. God be with all of you! Kathy Donahue Chilenski

Kathleen Chilenski - November 10, 2022 at 09:28 AM

RK

“ I was saddened to hear that Eugene had gone on. I believe that we were probably best friends at Concordia Seward High School. We roomed together in Room X in the basement of Miessler Hall along with 4 other guys. He was always the master of witty sayings. Once when asked, "Say Gene, all your buddies have started dating girls, why not you" -"Well, I could never date a girl I didn't respect, -and how could I respect a girl who would go out with me?" That was Gene Sombke! -Roger Kohtz

Roger Kohtz - August 25, 2022 at 03:52 PM

GC

“ I taught with Eugene at school #58 in 1968 to 77. At that time at 58 there were only two female teachers above 4th grade. We had a very pleasant and orderly school. I remember his stories about his daughters. We both loved to fish at Monroe Reservoir and shared stories on Monday. I have thought about Eugene often over the year. A GOOD MAN.
George Cannon

George Cannon - May 14, 2022 at 11:16 AM

TR

“ I have been thinking about last summer when I came to Indy to visit pam while she was home. The two of us sat with Gene and Marcia on their back porch watching all the humming birds feed at their feeders and flowers. That memory will stick with me forever. It was such a nice relaxing time. They are my second mom and dad. I love you guys.

Tina Rusk - May 13, 2022 at 10:13 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" W. Sombke.



May 11, 2022 at 06:01 PM

DE

“ Mr. Sombke, as he was always known to me, was my fifth grade teacher. It was his first year teaching and his last at school #58. I remember him bringing in the fish, from his fishing trip, for us to dissect in class.

I would not meet him again until I just happened upon him at school #57 at his retirement.

It was a chance encounter that amazed me when he called me by name. Well, my maiden name. He told me that he actually remembered everyone from that first class.

I later learned that he knew two of my brothers, who also went to Trinity. Small world.

I am now 64 years old and remember Mr. Sombke as one of my favorite teachers.

Rest in Peace, you had a great life!

Debbie Hartley Cooper

Debbie - May 11, 2022 at 03:16 PM

JP

“ Our sympathy to all the family. His welcoming smile and “Good morning, Judy!” When I walked into church is a wonderful memory.

Judy and John Pallatin - May 10, 2022 at 02:39 PM

JP

“ *Judy And John Pallatin lit a candle in memory of Eugene "Gene" W. Sombke*



Judy and John Pallatin - May 10, 2022 at 02:33 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" W. Sombke.*



May 10, 2022 at 12:42 PM



“ *Memorial Trees was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" W. Sombke.*

May 10, 2022 at 11:23 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" W. Sombke.*



May 09, 2022 at 09:25 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory - May 09, 2022 at 02:01 PM