



## Eugene Weston Ross III

December 17, 1938 - December 2, 2023

### Eugene Weston Ross III

Gene Ross, 84, passed away from pneumonia on December 2, 2023, marking the end of a journey that started and ended in Indianapolis, with many adventures along the way, including pitstops in Tennessee, Colorado, Vermont, North Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia.

Born on December 17, 1938, to the late Eugene Weston Ross Jr. and Lois Moore Ross, Gene grew up in Irvington, attended Howe High School, and was a 1957 graduate of Warren Central High School. He received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Vanderbilt University (1961) and his master's degree in theatre from the University of North Carolina (1971).

Gene married the love of his life, Diane Wolfe, on August 5, 1961, and the lifelong bond they shared – as soulmates, best friends, traveling companions, partners, parents, grandparents, and lovebirds – is the stuff of legends.

Gene seemed to stay perpetually young with new hobbies and interests throughout his life, from acting and directing in local theaters, writing and reciting poetry, playing banjo, golfing, go-karting, camping, dancing (clog, disco, contra, line, square), and, most recently, bowling ... which he excelled at even after two strokes diminished his vision and mobility. Gene enjoyed adventurous and spicy cuisine from around the world, and took particular pleasure in assessing the hodge-podge of unusual dishes spread across the family dinner table and speculating, "I bet we're the only ones on the block eating this tonight." To the end, Gene delighted in live music, especially

bluegrass. He and Diane attended countless shows and festivals, locally and across the country, and felt fortunate to count many musicians among their friends. Combining two of his passions, Gene was the creator of Hot Food, Cool Music parties, and also founder of the NQRFPTP (Not Quite Ready for Prime Time Pickers) slow jam.

His careers were equally eclectic, including teaching theater at Radford College in Virginia, opening a dinner theater (the Druid Cellar) in Atlanta with Diane in 1974, working with youth at the Atterbury Job Corps and then the Marion County Juvenile Detention Center, and teaching speech and communication at Ivy Tech College for the last 17 years of his career.

In celebration of Gene's life, a gathering with bluegrass music, fellowship, and fond remembrances will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel, 5377 East Washington Street.

Gene is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Diane Ross, daughters, Shelley S. Ross (Jim Stewart) and Shannon L. Ross (Dean Metcalf); grandchildren, Gordon Ross McNulty and Elsie Ross McNulty; and brothers, Mike S. Ross (Mary), Phil L. Ross (Tatiana), and Jon K. Ross, and their children and grandchildren.

Gene enjoyed meeting new people and making friends along the way, shaking hands with a twinkle in his eyes and a heartfelt, "Glad to know you." As we all now continue on our own journeys without him, he would tell us, if he could, "Be careful" ... which was his way of saying, "I love you."

# Cemetery Details

## Washington Park East

10612 E. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46229

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

DEC 9. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel  
5377 E. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
(317) 357-1181  
[info@shirleybrothers.com](mailto:info@shirleybrothers.com)  
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

# Tribute Wall

DW

“ *My apologies, Shannon, Shelley, and Mrs. Ross for a late condolence.  
Please accept my sympathy for the death of Mr. Ross. I remember that he had a good sense of humor and was more patient with Shannon and I as a teenage duo then we probably deserved!  
A good man who lived a good life. Rest well, good sir.*

David Wilson - December 16, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Eugene Weston Ross III.*



December 08, 2023 at 09:39 AM



“ *Gene was the Assistant Principal and drama director in my high school in Vermont in 1967-68. We stayed in touch loosely over the years.*



Ellen Carlin - December 06, 2023 at 09:40 PM

EC

“ *Ellen C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eugene Weston Ross III.*

Ellen C. - December 06, 2023 at 09:09 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory** - December 05, 2023 at 11:59 AM

CC

*Gene got his haircuts for years at Craig's hair Care Inc. on the east side of Indy. by Ethel until She had a stroke in May . Then I did his cuts . He was interesting to talk to, very pleasant and easy going. We will miss him.  
Craig & Ethel Cramer*

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**Craig Cramer** - December 08, 2023 at 10:25 PM