



# Arthur "Gene" E. Harris

AUG 24, 1929 - JAN 4, 2020



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## Arthur "Gene" E. Harris

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**B**ig Rapids - Arthur E. "Gene" Harris, 90, of Big Rapids, passed away Saturday, January 4, 2020 at his home of natural causes, surrounded by his loving family. He was born August 24, 1929 in Flint, the son of James and Mizzie (Wilson) Harris, and was a graduate of Flint Central High School, where he played saxophone and was the drum major for the marching band. For several years, Gene worked in maintenance at AC Spark Plugs before being inducted into the US Army on January 5, 1951.

Following basic training at Ft. Sheridan in Illinois, Gene did a tour of duty on the Korean Peninsula. He served as an MP, guarding POWs, and while off duty he would explore and take pictures of the area. He also played music to entertain the troops. After his honorable discharge, Gene attended Ferris State College. While there, he met his future spouse, Eathyl Schuberg, and they were married on September 17, 1955. They returned to Flint, where Gene worked for the US Postal Service, and they were members of St. Mark Lutheran Church.

In 1965, the family moved to Big Rapids, and Gene worked as dispatcher for MichCon until retiring in 1990. They were longtime active members of Immanuel Lutheran Church. An accomplished musician, Gene was well-known for his saxophone playing, as well as being an excellent singer.

Survivors include his wife Eathyl; their four sons, Shawn of Big Rapids, Ron (Linda) of Big Rapids, Gene (Sherry) of Lansing, and James (Mary Ann) of Rockford; 9 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, January 9, 2020, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, with Pastor Jack Ferra officiating. Military honors will follow under the auspices of American Legion Post #98 Honor Guard. Spring burial will be in the Pine Plains Cemetery. Gene's family will greet friends at the church beginning at



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10:00 a.m. on Thursday, and memorial contributions in his name may be made for the church. Care and arrangements are entrusted to the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids.



## Tribute Wall

**Arthur "Gene" E. Harris**

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JW

**James Wood** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Arthur's passing. I heard him play many times and his music touched so many. This world seems a little bit dimmer with his passing but I know that heaven just got a little brighter and the music in heaven just got a little swe

January 16 at 8:00 PM

JB

**Jay Brand** lit a candle in honor of Arthur "Gene".

My deepest sympathies and condolences to the entire Harris clan. I have very fond memories of sharing time with your wonderful family to the point that I actually felt a part of it during those lovely days of youth. The good times I shared with Gene and



January 16 at 8:00 PM

AO

**Alan Obits** posted:

I'm sorry to hear of Gene's passing. I got to play with him in the General Assembly big band. He was excellent, and was a really nice person.

January 13 at 8:00 PM

JM

**Jamie Mcleod** posted:

Heaven's band is swinging even better now! Gene was such a fine man and a monster musician. I was honored to have played music with him over the years. I consider him one of my dearest musical influences. He had the ultimate saxophone sound. My s

January 8 at 8:00 PM

BL

**Bruce And Becca Ling** posted:

We're so sorry to hear of Genes passing. We had the pleasure of having him play at a number of event that we produce, and always enjoyed our conversations with him. A consummate professional, exceptional musician, and a pleasure to know. Our sincere con

January 7 at 8:00 PM



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SM

**Shawn Macfarlane** posted:

Gene was certainly loved and admired by a tremendous number of people, not only for his amazing music that entertained young and old alike, but for his kindness and the true Gentleman that he was. Heartfelt condolences to Ethlyn, family, and the countles

January 6 at 8:00 PM

DK

**Dawn Keith** lit a candle in honor of Arthur "Gene".

Ron and Linda and Shawn, We are so very sorry for the loss of your father. Dawn and Lon

January 5 at 8:00 PM



DK

**Dawn Keith** posted:

Ron and Linda and Shawn, We are so very sorry for the loss of your father. Dawn and Lon

January 5 at 8:00 PM

MQ

**Mary Quinn** posted:

Sending my sympathy and love to you Eathyl and family...He was a good man.

January 5 at 8:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Arthur "Gene" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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