



Gene Gregory Schoonveld

September 23, 1937 - September 23, 2022

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our dad, Gene Gregory Schoonveld.

He was born to Herman & Eleanor Schoonveld on their kitchen table in Cheyenne, Wyoming on September 23rd, 1937, and passed away exactly 85 years later at his Fort Collins home where he had raised his family and resided for more than 50 years.

Gene spent his childhood years in Evergreen Park, Illinois and his adolescence in Aurora, Colorado where he developed his life-long love of hunting, fishing, traipsing through the mountains, and all things great outdoors. He was a star wrestler in high school, where he also became fast friends with a group of young men (and eventually all of their wives). This rowdy group of guys called themselves the Dingleberries. They remained close and created memories together throughout their lifetimes.

After high school Gene attended Emily Griffith Technical College where he earned his airplane mechanics license, a skill he utilized to put himself through college by following in his father's footsteps and working as an aircraft mechanic for United and Frontier Airlines. He earned his BS in Business Administration from DU in 1960. Following graduation Gene joined the US Navy, receiving his commission as an Ensign through Officer Candidate School (OCS). He spent 2 years as an officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, followed by 2 years stationed in Oahu, Hawaii. Though he worked for the Fleet Operations Control Center, he claimed his job title with the Navy

in Hawaii was the Recreation Officer. He said he was charged with ensuring the sailors were well entertained while they were on shore leave. It's unclear as to whether Recreation Officer was his actual job title, but we're super certain he excelled at these duties.

He was married in 1963 and honorably discharged from the US Navy in 1964, after which they moved to Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, where he worked as a district manager for General Motors. They returned to Colorado in 1967 where Gene earned his Masters Degree in Animal Physiology and Nutrition from CSU. Following grad school, he was employed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (now Colorado Parks & Wildlife) as the Regional Wildlife Manager for Northeastern Colorado for 32 years until his retirement in 2003. In this role, he researched big horn sheep, mule deer, mountain goats, elk - all the various Colorado critters. He helped relocate the wood duck, river otter, lynx, and wild turkey to the state. Most notably, he played a vital role in reintroducing moose to the North Park region in 1978. When we see these majestic creatures roaming the Colorado Rockies, we will forever think of our father and one of his greatest legacies.

Never one to ever sit still, Gene stayed very busy in retirement. He fully rebuilt and restored a 1956 Chevrolet Belair convertible and a 1953 MG TD (with some help. And a lot of blood, sweat and tears. And profanity); he served on the board of directors of Child's Wish, where he escorted terminally ill children on their "last wish" hunting and fishing trips. He organized and detailed these events from top to bottom and embarked on more than 15 (often heartbreaking) trips; he enjoyed multiple fishing adventures in beautiful Bamfield, British Columbia; he planted and tended his expansive fruit, flower, and vegetable gardens where he proudly cultivated so much to share, and so much more to pickle and can each year; he mastered the art of baking perfect pies; he did a LOT of grandkid babysitting, complete with diaper changes and endless PB&J's; and hauled all of his grandkids back and forth to his lake house in Nebraska to share with them his love of boats and water and instigating all of the trouble he could get into with the boats and the water and

the grandkids.

He is survived by his three children: Bradley Schoonveld (married to: Melinda Sharkey), Teri Greiman (married to: Chad Greiman), and Tricia Burton (married to: Brian Burton), and his seven beloved grandchildren: Andrew & Kathleen Schoonveld, Delaynie, Destrie, & Teagen Greiman, and Tanner & Ainsley Burton. He also survived by his younger sister Arlene Smith, and his kids' mom, Joan Schoonveld, who he remained close with.

We will miss him every single day.

Services will be held in his honor on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 1:00 at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 1200 S. Taft Hill Road, Fort Collins, Colorado, 80521 with receptions to follow at the church and at Gene's home.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
1200 S Taft Hill Rd
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall

HN

“ Gene played a very important part in the lives of my children - especially for my youngest, Meadow. We moved out of state for my last step of schooling and Gene and his family gave Meadow the wonderful opportunity to share a year in their home so that she could enjoy her Senior Year with her high school friends in Colorado. He was "Dad" to her and , though I missed her terribly, I never worried about the love and care she had from his home. Gene, you are forever in our hearts. 💕💕

Helene Noyer - November 02, 2022 at 07:46 PM



“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Gene Gregory Schoonveld.



November 02, 2022 at 07:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gene Gregory Schoonveld.



November 02, 2022 at 12:19 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gene Gregory Schoonveld.*



October 31, 2022 at 05:47 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Gene Gregory Schoonveld.*



October 31, 2022 at 09:35 AM



“ *While I didn't know Gene well, he was a great friend to my brother, Don Griffiths, and he took Lori Roland under his wing after Don passed. For that I will always be grateful to him. He was a kind and wonderful person and will be missed. Rest in peace, Gene.*

Judi Garrelts - October 30, 2022 at 12:48 PM



“ *Jean Slee and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gene Gregory Schoonveld.*



Jean Slee and Family - October 26, 2022 at 07:07 PM

ST

“ *To Gene's Family: My condolences to the family for the loss of Gene. I knew Gene when I was a grad student in wildlife at CSU. He was a good friend, although he could be pretty unpredictable and tough. He allowed me to participate in several DOW actions and was a big supporter of our pronghorn research in eastern Colorado. He will be missed and I send my sympathies out to you.*

Stephen Torbit

Stephen C Torbit - October 11, 2022 at 10:59 PM

JK

“ *To the Schoonveld Family,
I worked with your dad at the Colorado Division of Wildlife in the 1980's.
He was a good man and knew so much about his job and enjoyed meeting people out in the field. I had the honor of going with him during hunting season one year and it was the best time of my life. We laughed, we joked we enjoyed our day together.
He will be missed by many and my memories of him will always be happy times.
My Sympathy to your family and friends that he leaves behind.
Julia Koepsell*

Julia Koepsell - October 11, 2022 at 09:40 PM

JS

“ *In the early days of my tenure with Division of Wildlife, out of the Fort Collins office (317 West Prospect), I spend more than a few coffee breaks downstairs in the Research Center break room hearing stories from a lot of folks but Gene's were rich and well told. At the time one under-estimates the value of those "yarns" but they represented real world experiences and were both seen and told through the eyes of the experienced. Thanks Gene many good years and many good stories. Rest in Peace*

John

John F Smeltzer - October 11, 2022 at 02:56 PM

LR

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Lori Roland - October 08, 2022 at 07:44 PM

MG

“ *To the Gene Schoonveld Family, Our hearts go out to each and every one of you. May your Faith bring you comfort, peace, and understanding. A tree will be donated and planted in memory of Gene. The type of tree and the location will be the Schoonveld Family's choice. Sincerely, Margo Greiman and Family*

Margo Greiman - October 07, 2022 at 10:52 AM

PD

“ To the Family of Gene Schoonveld,

My deepest sympathy and condolences to you all. I hope you are comforted knowing what a kind and generous father you all are blessed to have in your life and to call him Dad. May God bless you all and give you comfort.

Peter J Dunphy (CSU)

Peter J Dunphy - October 07, 2022 at 12:08 AM

RC

“ To the kid's of Gene Schoonveld,

I'm so sorry for the loss of your Dad. He was an amazing man, father, grandpa & Coloradoan. He was a father figure to not only you three but to any friends you brought to the house and girlfriends and boyfriends. He will truly be missed. Everywhere you look will be a legacy he left you. Love you all, Ronda Roberts Cherrie

Ronda Cherrie - October 06, 2022 at 05:47 PM

SS

Great friend and boss. Always there for me. You are truly missed.

steven steinert - October 17, 2022 at 05:56 PM

BS

Had not been in touch with Gene for months and just saw this sad information. We met in 1978 when I was on sabbatical at CSU from Univ of Alberta. We became instant good friends....and I was part of the moose introduction to North Park from Jackson WY. Gene led that successful initiative. My sympathies to the family. Wish I had known; would have been there. A great human he was in so many ways.

Bill Samuel - August 17, 2023 at 08:33 PM