



## Parker Eugene Heikes

February 7, 1921 - December 21, 2015

Parker Eugene “Gene” Heikes, 94, died Monday, December 21, 2015 at home in Fort Collins, CO, surrounded by family. Gene was born on February 7, 1921, in Great Falls, MT, to Parker and Maude (Brewster) Heikes and grew up on a ranch near Simms, MT. He served in the Navy during World War II aboard the USS Pintado SS-387 submarine as an electronics technician's mate first class in the Pacific Ocean theater. He and his crew received several awards, including a Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary skill and heroism. He earned a bachelor's and a master's degree at Montana State University, where he also met Marion Watterberg. They were married on September 14, 1946, in Vauxhall, Alberta, Canada. Gene and Marion lived many years in Montana before moving to Fort Collins in 1961. Gene was a professor in the Botany and Plant Pathology Department at Colorado State University and worked for the Colorado Extension Service until he retired in 1984.

Gene was a wonderful husband of 69 years to Marion, and loving father to his children, Kenneth (Beverly) Heikes of Hilo, HI, Lloyd (Stacy) Heikes of Greeley, CO, Nancy (Rob) Butcher of Fort Collins, CO, and Ross (Jenny) Heikes of Fort Collins. He was also a devoted grandfather to Mara, Andrea, Kenny, Andrew, Tom, Katie, Dan, Kevin, Parker, and Indigo, and great-grandfather to Joseph, Helen, and Betty.

Gene was a gifted gardener (no weed was safe) and many peaceful hours were spent enjoying his and Marion's beautiful garden and flowers. He was particularly proud of his roses and the twenty-five blue spruce trees in their yard, some of which were brought from Montana. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on January 9, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1005 Stover St. in the small chapel. Private interment, Grandview Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Grandview Cemetery

1900 W. Mountain Ave.  
Ft. Collins, CO 80521

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN 9. 10:00 AM (MT)

First United Methodist Church  
1005 Stover St.  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ To the Heikes Family: "Gene" was my boss for several years when I worked at CSU. He was very kind and caring and always had a smile on his face. He knew I had a cook book collection and every time he went out of town, he brought back a cook book from the area he had visited. I'll treasure them forever.

*I so regret that I am not able to attend his service. My own health issues prevented me from leaving the house and driving.*

*I'll never forget this truly great man!*

*Jane Wilkins*

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**Jane Wilkins** - January 09, 2016 at 11:59 AM

RF

“ Randall/CMMAP friends purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Parker Eugene Heikes.



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**Randall/CMMAP friends** - January 08, 2016 at 12:56 PM

NM

“ Our deepest condolence to the Heikes family on the loss of Parker Heikes.

*Mike and Nancy Maller*

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**Nancy Maller** - January 08, 2016 at 10:29 AM

JO

“ Howard and I wish to extend our condolences to Marion and the Heikes family. We will miss seeing Gene out tending to his lawn, roses and beautiful dahlia flowers. I remember Gene conversing with my dad as they shared war stories. Another member of The Greatest Generation has left us, but their lessons and stories live on. Howard & Julie Ong

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**Julie Ong** - January 06, 2016 at 05:43 PM

BB

“ Gene: You were the best weed man ever. I will miss our occasional visits about life and many other things. Marion: My best to you in your loss. Bert L. Bohmont, Emeritus Professor, Plant Pathology and Weed Science, Colo. State Univ.

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**Bert Bohmont** - January 05, 2016 at 07:43 AM

RS

“ My deepest condolences to Marion and all of the Heikes family on the passing of Gene. He was truly a great representative of the Greatest Generation. My late wife and I were honored to live across the street from Gene and Marion for nearly 40 years, and better neighbors could not be found. The country is in dire need of more men like Gene - patriot, loving husband, hard worker, and friend to all. God rest his soul.

*Roger Schoumacher*

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**Roger Schoumacher** - January 05, 2016 at 12:14 AM

MT

“ So many memories, so many happy times with dancing, dinners, birthday parties, and friendship that lasted many years. Our recent dinner party, the help they gave Mike after his stroke, and I can truly say we loved this couple and this great, great Man.

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**Mike and Judy TeMaat** - January 04, 2016 at 06:06 PM

GM

“ The picture of Gene is just as I remember him. A deeply committed extension specialist and colleague ready to provide high quality assistance to his clientle. It was a special priviledge to serve as Gene's department head from 1975 until his retirement. He was a special person who will be sorely missed.

*Gary McIntyre*

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**Gary McIntyre** - January 04, 2016 at 03:31 PM

BD

“ On behalf of the United States Submarine Veterans (USSVI), I offer our sincere condolences on Parker’s passing. You and your loved ones are in our thoughts and prayers. We are forever grateful for Parker’s service to our country in the U.S. Submarine Service. To our Brother of the Phin we say, “Sailor, rest your oar. We have the watch. May you rest in peace and may God bless your loved ones who remain. Thank you for your service to our country.”

“Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way.” - 2 Thess 3:16.

*Parker Eugene Heikes Jr. ET1, US Navy, Now on Eternal Patrol.  
Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmate  
His record is now posted online in the Eternal Patrol file on the USSVI website.*

*Bill Dixon, National Chaplain United States Submarine Veterans,  
USSVI.*

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**Bill Dixon** - January 04, 2016 at 12:45 AM

DZ

“ Gene was a master gardener. We always felt that his garden & lawn should be pictured in all magazines like the "Better Homes & Gardens." As friends we have such happy memories of "Gene & Marion's" garden parties. Those special memories along with song and laughter will remain in our hearts. Our thoughts & prayers are with you & yours.

Love,

*Dick & Rose Zubradt*

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**Dick & Rose Zubradt** - January 03, 2016 at 09:28 PM

HS

“ Gene was one of the first professors that I interacted and traveled with when I joined the department at CSU in 1980. I valued his mentorship and personal approach to working with growers and colleagues in Colorado which helped shape my career here too. I am glad that I had the opportunity to know and work with Gene even for that short period. I am sorry for your loss.

*Howard Schwartz, Plant Pathology Professor Emeritus, Colorado State University*

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**Howard Schwartz** - January 03, 2016 at 09:37 AM

EL

“ It was a shock to hear of his passing. His weekly phone calls to talk about the old Simms days will be a void. We enjoyed his Montana visits. I lost a good friend. Marion: I'm thinking of you. Elerine Sequist LaRocque

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**Elerine LaRocque** - January 01, 2016 at 06:13 PM