



## Francis` Eugene Cunningham

February 9, 1932 - May 22, 2021

Francis Eugene Cunningham, age 89, passed away peacefully on Saturday May 22, 2021 at home, surrounded by loved ones.

Gene, as he was known by, was born February 9, 1932 in Kansas City, MO and lived in the KC area most of his life. He left Glennon High School early to join the United States Navy, where he served from 1949-1953. He married Ellena Huffaker and had 3 daughters, Deborah Jean Cunningham, Theresa Denise (Cunningham) Sadasivan (married to Raj Sadasivan), and Mary Diane (Cunningham) Fletcher (married to John Fletcher). Gene leaves behind 6 grandchildren: Jesse Northcutt, Tracee Gulley, Jacob Northcutt, Sean Fletcher, Annie Kennedy and Shelby Fletcher; and 7 great-grandchildren: Russell Northcutt, Ian Northcutt, Dylan Northcutt, Neisan Kennedy, Ashton Northcutt, Matilda Kennedy and Pearl Fletcher. His eyes lit up any time they came to visit — they were truly the loves of his life. No amount of thank you's is enough when we thank Raj for the wonderful care he gave to Gene in the last year.

Gene worked as a truck driver all his life, first for AAA Linen, and then for Wagner Cartage, and for a short time Ryder. After retirement, he went into the antiques business with his wife, Irene, where he traveled all over the country buying and selling fine antiques. He wintered in Sarasota, Florida for several years, and we used to visit him often down there. He walked the 5-mile stretch

of beach every single day.

Gene is preceded in death by his mother, Marguerite Burke, and his father, Joseph Kessler. Gene was a fun-loving Irishman who never met a stranger. He will be truly missed.

There will be a Celebration of Gene's Life this summer and all those who knew and loved him will be invited to share in the story of his life. We know there are many good stories out there! Time and place will be announced on social media.

# Tribute Wall

KF

“ On behalf of the Knitter and Hubler families, I would like to express our sincerest condolences on your loss.

*Gene first joined our lives when he married our grandmother, Irene Knitter-Cunningham, in 1997. For nearly sixteen years, Gene stood by her side, loving and caring for her unconditionally, until her passing in 2013. The two of them were inseparable, and he brought a lot of joy to her life. We will be forever grateful to Gene for the years of happiness he brought our grandmother, and for the care he provided in her final days.*

*Beyond being a loving and terrific husband, Gene was an amazing grandfather figure for my siblings and me. We never got to know our grandfathers, as they both passed when we were at a very young age (or before we were born). Gene was the only grandfather figure we ever got to know, and it was a role he prided himself on, and took very seriously. He was a truly valued member of our family, and we are all beyond thankful he was a part of our lives. He was the kindest person you could ever meet, and a complete joy to be around. He was a person with a great sense of humor, and always had a story to tell. He welcomed us all into his life with a loving embrace, and I can only pray he felt as loved by us.*

*From Ryan, Chris, Ashley, Lindsey, Judy, Bonnie, Richard, and Bob up above.... We love you, Gene! Words can't express how thankful we all are to have known you, and for you to have been a part of our lives, and a member of our family. You will be missed.*

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**Knitter Family** - June 10, 2021 at 07:51 PM

DF

*We truly loved Irene! She was the nicest person and always made us feel welcomed in their home. She had a great sense and humor and we truly loved her! Thank you for such a kind and thoughtful message. We are having a celebration of life on July 18 at the Whispering Meadows Club House and we would love to see you all there. Diane (Cunningham) Fletcher*

**Diane Fletcher** - June 13, 2021 at 09:23 PM

DC

*I want to thank you for the pictures and message I really do miss Irene awesome person Deborah Cunningham*

**Deborah Cunningham** - June 16, 2021 at 07:05 PM

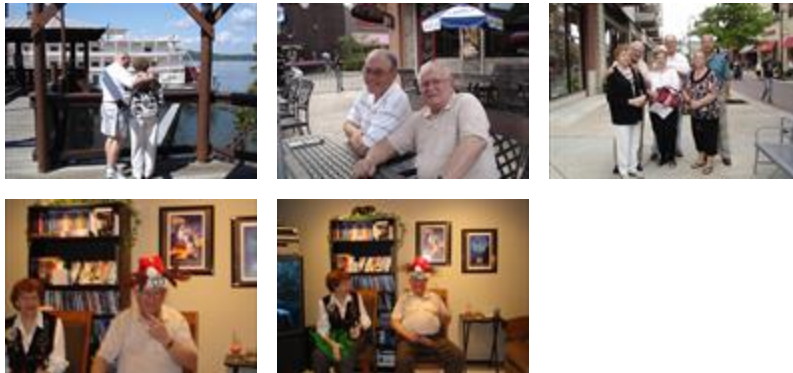
DC

*I hope to see you all*

**Deborah Cunningham** - June 16, 2021 at 07:10 PM

JK

“ 24 files added to the album *From the Knitter Family*



**Judy Knitter** - June 10, 2021 at 07:27 PM

JK

“ 24 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Judy Knitter** - June 10, 2021 at 07:23 PM