

GH-R  
2-15-2016

## Eugene Fenske



Eugene Fenske, 82, of Grinnell, died on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, at his home, surrounded by his family.

A celebration of his life will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at the First Baptist Church in Grinnell, with the Rev. Dr. Dondrea Walker, Sr. officiating. Pallbearers will be Denny Clark, Nick Clark, Tim Bartlett, Dean McDonald, Kelly Willett and Jim King. Interment will be held at a later date in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Visitation was held on Monday, February 15, 2016, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Smith Funeral Home, with the

family present from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday evening.

Memorials may be directed to the First Baptist Church for scholarships for young members or to the Grinnell-Newburg High School to benefit a student desiring to continue their education in the science field.

Gene was born on May 16, 1933, in Cresco, Iowa, to Henry and Ruth Fye Fenske. He was raised in Cresco and attended school there. After graduation, he enlisted in June of 1951 with the United States Navy. Gene served with the VP-22/Blue Goose Patrol Squadron until his discharge in June of 1956. He received his Bachelors in Education from the University of Northern Iowa and later his Masters from Drake University.

On June 16, 1956, he married Mary Ellen Farrand in Pensacola, Florida. The couple made their way to Grinnell, where Gene taught biology at Grinnell High School for 35 years and coached wrestling. He retired in May of 1995.

Gene had a passion for woodworking, walking and working in his yard. He spent several hours tending to his rose bushes. He was a well-liked and respected man in the community. Gene was an active member of the First Baptist Church. His greatest pride and joy was his family and his dog. Gene was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Mary Fenske of Grinnell; daughter, Kathy Clark of Grinnell; son, Steve Fenske of Grinnell; five grandchildren, Denny (Beth) Clark, Andrea (Tim) Bartlett, Nick (Amelia) Clark, Carra Fenske and Kirsten Fenske; six great grandchildren, Reagan, Sam and Max Bartlett, Laynie and Katie Clark and Colin Clark; his sister, Vera Snow of Cedar Rapids; his beloved dog, Dilly; and his best friend, Dave Snyder.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Paul Fenske in 2001; a son-in-law, Dick Clark in 2013; one sister, Geneva Gager and five brothers, Lloyd, Bill, Tom, Verne and Calvin Fenske.