



Eugene Paul Marasco

MAY 7, 1931 - MAR 18, 2022



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Obituary

Eugene Paul Marasco, age 90, of Mount Airy, Maryland, died on March 18, 2022, in Frederick, Maryland, after a long illness. Beloved husband of Edith Emily (Smejkal) for 65 years; brother of Anthony Joseph (deceased) and Rosemarie Helen (Booth, deceased); father of Laurie Jean (Michael Richards), Tamara Ann (Randy Sultzer), and Robin Lynn (Keough); Grandfather (Poppy) of Daniel Warren Richards, Matthew Gene Keough, Zachary Griffin Sultzer, and Benjamin Maxwell Sultzer.

Known as Gene to his family and friends, he was born on May 7, 1931 in Archibald, Pennsylvania, to Anthony Bernard Marasco (1898-1983) and Anna Rose (Schutttert, 1909-91). In 1940, the family moved to Newark, New Jersey, where Gene obtained his first job as a shoe salesman at Kitty Kelly Shoe Store (1945-49). After high school graduation, he and his friend, son of the shoe store owner, bought motorcycles and traveled the entire way along U.S. Route 1 from Newark to Florida. Afterward, he became a roller derby professional, skating with the Jersey Jolters of the National Roller Derby League for its 1949-50 inaugural season, until a knee injury ended his brief career. He then became an electrician working for Westinghouse (1949-52), as he would say, “my first real job.” Gene served his country after enlisting in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War (1952-54). He first served on US Navy Ship PCE-1138 Patrol Craft Escort as a sailor and electrician, afterward becoming a naval aviator (call sign “Eppie”), flying P-2V Neptune and PB4Y-2 Privateer aircraft as a Navigation Training Pilot with the 601st Navigation Training Squadron. Once he returned from military service, Gene began his long, storied career as a computer pioneer at IBM where he was a key contributor to some of the first computers, programming languages, and apps developed for automating business and training processes. He was first a computer customer engineer in Newark (1955-64). Because of the great knowledge he developed, he then became a senior instructor for developing and operating computers in New York City (1964-65). Gene moved to Endicott, New York, as a computer based instructor (1965-80). The final phase of his IBM career was as an engineer scientist at the Federal Systems Division in Washington, DC, where he developed innovative systems for the U.S. Government until his retirement in 1990.



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His instruction was not limited to his career, however. He was a natural born teacher who took great pleasure in imparting his vast knowledge on many topics to willing learners. Along with his teachings, he also included a joke or story for every occasion. He was a virtual library of jokes, and could spin a yarn with the best of them. The listener had to be careful, however, since some of Gene's stories were actually jokes.

Throughout his life, Gene developed into a master craftsman and artist, which he said came from his German grandfather Theodore Schuttert (1866-1939). Gene created both beautiful and functional objects from every imaginable material and medium; stained glass, wood, precious and industrial metals, precious stones, paints, paper, and clay were just some of the materials he used. He created jewelry, stained glass lamps and hangings, marquetry, sailing ship models, clocks, Ukrainian Easter eggs, carvings, toys, and many other artistic objects and mechanisms. It was a family saying that if it was in the house, Gene either made it or fixed it! He also raised many types of aquarium fishes, selling them to local pet stores or keeping them as pets at home. His spirit is well cast across the many pieces of art he bestowed on loved ones and sold to the public, as well as the many skills he taught to family and friends. A literal book could be written from the details behind the many adventures and accomplishments of his life.

The family will announce a memorial service that they will hold later in the spring. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Small Miracles Cat and Dog Rescue in Ellicott City, Maryland, 21042, www.smallmiraclesrescue.org.

To send flowers to the family, please visit our floral store.



Tribute Wall

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MC

Mary Crown posted:

Mr Gene Marasco was one of my favorite people. At the Library every Easter time he would give us at the circulation desk a beautiful egg. Every year I bring them for Easter and think of him. I retired 7 years ago n I still think of him . When I retired he brought me in a stain glass jewelry box which I use today n I have a beautiful angel he gave me all stain glass. Edie I always treasure both of you, Im so sorry to here of his passing. A truly great man . Fondly Mary Crown retired from our library.

April 11 at 7:39 AM

TL

Theresa Long posted:

Very sorry to hear of Gene's passing. I met Gene through my parents, Tom and Joyce Gartner. He was such a brilliant man. Gene was friendly, kind, caring, and always helpful. Our family will forever treasure all of the stories, jokes, and treasures he shared with us at Gartner's Country Store and the Train Depot. Gene reminded me of my grandfather, Upton C. Howard, who had also served in the Navy. We will forever cherish the art, the Ukranian eggs, and the jewelry he created for us. Please accept our sincere condolences.

April 1 at 2:18 PM

BG

Bob Gladhill posted:

So sorry to here of Gene's passing. Please accept my sincere condolences. Gene was extremely helpful to me when I sought help in building a sailing ship model. His assistance and insight was immeasurable. He was a greatly talented guy who loved to help others. He will be missed.

March 30 at 6:05 AM

HH

Hilary Holland posted:

Hugh and Hilary Holland send their condolences and want to let the family know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

March 27 at 7:10 AM



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Suds And Ellen Suddith posted:

Laurie, Suds has been up ever since I told him the news about your Dad. Even though he is basically just sitting, watching TV; every once in awhile he'll say something about the 'rocks' under the stairs or the 2000 gallons of fish tanks or the stain glass lamp that hangs over my kitchen table. He brings up things he learned from your Dad like the real meaning of 'so cold it could freeze the balls off a brass monkey'. And oh the stories. Two I remember especially are the one about a Tit Mouse and The Hissing Pit. And all the artistry. There isn't enough space to elaborate on all the things I saw him working on. What a Gift. Oh and talking about Gifts, we have 4 of the Eukrainian Easter Eggs. I have never known anyone who nurtured every single talent the Lord blessed him with. Never wasting a single moment. Of course I couldn't write this about your Dad without mentioning the perfect match your Mom is when it comes to talent. How awesome it to know two people who never wasted a single moment of the life they were given in 65 years. God bless you Laurie and be sure and hug your Mom for us. Please let us know the plans come Spring? Ellen and Suds too of course!

March 23 at 12:23 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Eugene by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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