



# Gene Wilbur Short

April 14, 1930 - October 24, 2024

Gene Wilbur Short, 94, transitioned from this life to the next on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, IL. Gene was born on April 14, 1930, in Peoria, to George and Dorothy (Lukehart) Short.

He graduated from Woodruff High School in 1949. Gene's ROTC involvement during high school led him to nine years of service in the Illinois Air National Guard, where he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant in the 169th Fighter-Intercept Squadron. During his service, he worked as an aircraft mechanic. His superior aptitude led him to be offered a full-time job.

Instead, Gene chose to attend Bradley University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1954. While attending Bradley, he worked at Pabst Brewing Company to pay for his tuition.

Upon his graduation from Bradley, he accepted a position at R.G. LeTourneau Company. During his 40+ year career, he watched LeTourneau change over the years to WABCO, American Standard, Dresser, and finally Komatsu. Gene worked in the Engineering and Marketing departments, showing a mastery

and aptitude in both. Upon his retirement in 1994, he held the position of Chief Engineer of Loaders and Excavators in the Haulpak Division.

Gene was a very curious man and was always eager to learn new things. His hobbies and interests included: woodworking, painting, antique clock repair, yoga, meditation, camping, fishing, and drinking an ice-cold beer. He was also an avid reader and history buff. Always active, always busy, and a true handyman, Gene was known to work diligently on home improvement projects inside and outside, car maintenance, and literally anything that needed to be done. Gene was physically active and in his late 60s took up cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, and bicycling. He loved taking annual ski trips to various locations in Colorado and took over 40 long-distance bike rides with his friends.

Many people in the Peoria area may remember the lemonade stand shaped like a lemon that graced the Heart of Illinois Fair for many years. Gene designed and built that lemonade stand.

Gene grew his deep Christian faith during the 30+ years he attended Northwoods Community Church. He also spent many years attending community Bible study at Grace Presbyterian Church. He volunteered for many years at Northwoods and at Samaritan's Purse. Through his faith, he developed many close friendships with pastors, staff, and congregations and lent his talents by volunteering for many church-related projects.

Gene is survived by his wife of 47 years, Shirley, son Chris (Susan) Short of Greenfield, MO, daughters Julie (Randy) Henderson of Pleasant Plains, IL,

Sue (Dave) Salrin of Peoria, and Karen (Bret) Johnson of Peoria, seven grandchildren, Jenny Short, Angie (Shawn) Cranford, Ellie Salrin, Allison (Justin) Ernisse, Nicole (Tyler) Beard, Cody Short, and Casey Short, six great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild, six grand-dogs, two cousins, and two nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Dottie Dunn. Gene was a shining example of what a son, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great grandfather should be...kind, generous, humble, hard-working, always thinking of other people and how he could help. We loved him very much and miss him tremendously.

Gene's family would like to give very special thanks to the staff of OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home. They treated Gene both physically and spiritually with unwavering care and compassion. They are truly angels on Earth.

A Memorial Service will be held at The Chapel at Northwoods Community Church on Friday, November 15, 2024, at 4:00 pm, with Visitation 3:00-4:00 pm, Pastor Kirk Moser officiating.

Memorials may be sent to Northwoods Community Church, 10700 N. Allen Rd., Peoria, IL 61615. Please note "Gene Short Memorial" on the memo line, as the donations will be used to support Operation Christmas Child.

Words of comfort can be shared with the Short family at [www.SchmidtHaller.com](http://www.SchmidtHaller.com)

# Tribute Wall

G4

“ *Military Funeral Honors proudly presented by the American Legion Post 47 Funeral Honors Team from Greenfield, MO. His dedicated and honorable military service will not be forgotten, may he now rest in peace.*

Greenfield American Legion Post 47 - June 07, 2025 at 12:14 PM

AN

“ *We are here for your family at this time and always! Love, The Land of Lincoln Pink Warriors -Diane, Jane, Carla, Wendy, Stephanie, Amy, Jean & Carol*

Anonymous - November 14, 2024 at 11:30 AM

JS

“ *So sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with your family. Jeremy. Dan and the Williamsville McDonalds team.*

Jeremy Stelte - November 14, 2024 at 08:56 AM

JH

“ *My condolences to Julie, Sue, Chris, and Karen. Your Dad was a man of great accomplishments and was a blessing to all that knew him. The four of you know this better than anyone and I know you will all support each other during this difficult time.*  
*Sincerely,*  
*James Hagler*

James Hagler - November 13, 2024 at 07:23 PM

JB

“ Many years ago, a smiling Gene Short invited me to participate in spreading the Good News of Jesus through Operation Christmas Child. All these years, we have celebrated what God does with these shoebox gifts. I trust that many many folks greeted him in Heaven and let him know how they came to know Jesus because of the work he did for OCC. Jeanne Barclay.

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**Jeanne Barclay** - November 10, 2024 at 10:09 AM

S1

“ The Woodruff HS Warrior Nation mourns the loss of a fellow alum.

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**S. D. Anderson, WHS Class 1965** - November 07, 2024 at 07:29 PM

MI

“ Uncle Gene ... always thought of him as the 'cool dad'. Seemed like he always had a smile on his face and was so, so ready to laugh. Michael D.

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**Michael** - November 07, 2024 at 06:20 PM

PP

“ I always enjoyed working with Gene at Operation Christmas child and camp good news. I'm so sorry for your loss.

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**PJ Polley** - November 05, 2024 at 09:55 AM

AN

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Anonymous** - November 04, 2024 at 06:51 PM

MK

“ Our Sincere Condolences

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**Mike & Breanne Kasprzyk** - November 04, 2024 at 12:29 PM

RA

“ *Will always listen, Thank you*

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**Randy** - November 04, 2024 at 12:08 PM