



## Eugene "Gene" Ridge Lassen

June 5, 1939 - July 8, 2020

Just a short 24 hours after a special tribute with a classic car parade, we lost a great man, Eugene Ridge Lassen on July 8, 2020 after a short battle with lung cancer. He was a loyal husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. Gene was born at home on June 5, 1939 to Wilma Ridge and Henry Eugene Lassen. He was a lifelong resident of Provo and graduated from Provo High School in 1957, an era where cars were classy and the ladies were even classier. This is where "Rebel Without A Cause" met "Snow White". He married his "bride", Nanette Christensen on November 17, 1961.

That same year Gene also served in the US Army Reserves for 1 year before transferring to the US Air Force Reserves, where he served for an additional 5 years at Hill Air Force Base in the engineering department. He was able to visit Italy while in the Reserves, but said he didn't really care for it much. He had many reasons, but the one we find most funny is . . . "the ham was so thin you could read a newspaper through it".

Gene was always mechanically inclined and started his automotive career at Mitchell's garage. He also ran a gas station and worked at Studebaker before starting his own business at Gene's Auto Repair on south University Avenue in 1970. When he wasn't working on a car, you'd often find him visiting with friends who stopped by for some good conversation and a cold beer or three before heading home. He retired after 25 years of running a successful mechanics shop. Not one to sit idle for long, after his retirement he went to work for Larsen's Auto Wrecking and Hundley's Garage before starting a boat sales and repair business with his son Darryn in 1997. Up until a few months ago you could often find Gene at the shop, sitting in his chair sleeping or reading a good book or puttering around working on various small projects.

Anytime anyone in the family broke down or needed help, Gene was always there. He had the uncanny ability to fix anything mechanical. And if he wasn't there to fix it himself, with a few "choice words" he could tell you what was wrong, even if it was over the phone 300 miles away while you were stranded in the middle of Lake Powell. He also specialized in Pinewood Derby cars, school engineering projects, fishing for fishing poles that fell

overboard and whatever else we needed his amazingly diverse skillset for. If you could get beneath that rough around the edges “Mean Gene” exterior, inside there was a man with a heart of gold.

Gene enjoyed traveling. He went on several cruises with family and friends, including a riverboat cruise in Europe. He also enjoyed riding roller coasters, visiting Six Flags in St. Louis, MO and Cedar Point in Sandusky, OH. His other loves were boating while donning his ugly hat on Sundays at Utah Lake, going to Lake Powell and for the past 10 years riding ATV's and camping at Beaver Creek. In addition, he liked reading and watching the NatGeo channel, Dr. Pol and any other program where you learned something. We're certain he knew more about animals, insects and various other topics than most.

Another real passion of Gene's was restoring classic cars. He had a dream of finding and restoring a 1957 Oldsmobile Super 88 Convertible. The same car he had when he was a junior in high school. He sold his beloved Olds to buy a Pontiac when he married, but never forgot about that car. In 1976 he restored a 1956 Ford Thunderbird for his wife and in the early 80's after much looking, he found a not so suitable Oldsmobile replacement underneath another car in a junk yard. Gene worked tirelessly on this car, meticulously restoring it back to its original “Beauty”. It is a stunning blue and white classic 2 door with a white soft top and chrome spoke wheels. This car has made appearances in the Autorama, Saturday's Warrior, multiple 4th of July parades and a Robert Redford premier. As well as, many car shows where it won numerous best convertible and best in show awards. Gene always said this car was his legacy and we most definitely agree. In addition, he restored a Mercedes SL300 Gullwing, several trucks, a 1964 Ford Fairlane for his daughter, Leanette and a 1967 Ford Bronco for his son, Darryn.

About a year ago we decided to start documenting all of Gene's clever sayings which we affectionately call “Geneisms”. While most are likely not appropriate for print here, some of his good “G” rated ones are; “you're busier than a one armed wallpaper hanger, you're wound up tighter than an 8 day clock, I've heard ducks fart under water and that smell could knock a dog off of a gut wagon”, just to name a few. In classic Gene fashion these words would roll off his tongue right up until the very end.

While we feel like a part of our world is missing, we'd imagine that the conversation at the old man's coffee table in heaven just got a little more lively. Gene used to go to coffee every morning for years with a bunch of his friends. If you didn't arrive by 7 a.m. you were late. And if you didn't show up at all, the other guys would talk about you. Or at least that's what Gene would say. That's why he never missed a morning until they disbanded because most of his friends had passed before him. Well Gene, they're not talking about

you anymore, but we sure are.

Gene is survived by his wife, Nanette; daughter, Leanette; son, Darryn (Stacy); grandchildren and lights of his life, Hunter and Kaylee Lassen; sister, JaNet Allen, Glendale, AZ; and his faithful companion Max. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Katherine.

Until we see you again Dad, Geno, Old Man, G-pa, we love you and don't forget to leave a light on for us.

UPDATE! We are planning to celebrate Gene's life on Thursday, July 30, 2020, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Gene's Shop, 370 N Draper Lane, Provo, Utah. All are welcome. If you have any questions or need additional information, please send a reply to [stacylassen@gmail.com](mailto:stacylassen@gmail.com). Condolences may be expressed to the family at <http://www.bergmortuary.com>.

# Events

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**JUL** **Celebration of Life** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**30**

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Gene's Shop

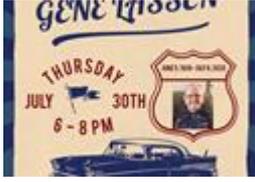
370 N Draper Lane, Provo, UT, US, 84601

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Stacy Lassen - July 20, 2020 at 04:01 PM

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“ Cheryl's Classic Large Dessert Tray was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" Ridge Lassen.



July 16, 2020 at 01:29 PM

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“ I am so very sad to hear of Gene's passing. I have so many memories of my time with the Lassen family growing up. Boating, rhubarb in the backyard, tennis on the TV while Sony and Cher played, Gene's garage, walking to the house from the mall, singing on the swings in the backyard and so many sleepovers. Wishing you all comfort in your grief and sending love your way. Denise Daley Cardwell

Denise Cardwell - July 15, 2020 at 08:31 PM

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“ Best friend I ever had. JHD

James Daley - July 14, 2020 at 01:39 PM

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“ Lassen family sorry for your loss. Gene has serviced and repair my boat for over 15 years. He's the most honest and trustworthy service man I've known. He was always so friendly and he made you feel like his best friend. He always had time to talk about anything and everything. I sure miss Gene. I'll never find a better and more knowledge and honest servicemen than Gene. RIP Gene

**Rob Nesbit** - July 13, 2020 at 11:11 PM

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“ Nanette, Leanette, Darryn we are sad to hear of Gene's passing. Gene was a man of integrity and one who always let you know where you stood and where he stood. He brought A lot of humor and laughter into my life. Gene was a good and kind neighbor who was always willing to lend a helping hand when it was needed. We are honored to have had him in our lives. Scott and Karen Smith

**Scott Smith** - July 12, 2020 at 04:10 PM

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“ Sorry for your loss Nannette. Gene was a great man. Prayers and love coming your way.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love Ron and Elna

**Ronald Heap** - July 12, 2020 at 01:13 PM

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“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



**Stacy Lassen** - July 11, 2020 at 05:58 PM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



**Stacy Lassen** - July 11, 2020 at 05:11 PM

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“ Nanette, Leanette, and Darryn, I'm sorry to hear about the passing of Eugene. I sure enjoyed the family parties, parties at the garage, and get togethers with all of you through the years I shared with your family. Eugene was a great friend and humorous guy. My thoughts and prayers are with you now.

Stella Christensen Stevens

**Stella Stevens** - July 11, 2020 at 02:36 PM

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“ Gene has always been in my life. He was so tolerant of me as Nanette's little cousin. the word "cool" defines him. His work on cars and his swagger made him the James Dean of my little world. Gene was the king of sarcasm and I loved it. I loved every 4th of July and the parade and family party in Provo because when Nanette and Gene arrived, style came with them. I guess you could say I was awe struck by them both. I know that he has been welcomed with loving arms in heaven and I pray for you, my cousins, that you might find comfort and peace. Love Melanie

**Melanie Owens** - July 11, 2020 at 01:35 AM

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“ Lassen family our sympathy I remember your dads shop under the viaduct on Univ.Ave.in Provo.

Sisneros Family.

**Victor Sisneros** - July 10, 2020 at 04:55 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Nanette Lassen** - July 10, 2020 at 04:32 PM