



Gene Frank

July 21, 1946 - April 2, 2010

Alvie Eugene “Gene” Frank, 63, of Fort Collins died peacefully Good Friday night April 2, 2010 in the comfort of his home. He had been diagnosed with multiple myeloma cancer in November 2009. Gene was born in Flagler, Colorado on July 21, 1946 to Wilma (Yates) and Johnny Frank. He grew up with three siblings on the family farm north of Arriba, Colorado where his parents raised dry land wheat. Gene credited his “rural life” on the farm for his strong work ethic. After graduating from Arriba High School in 1964, he moved from the farm to seek employment in Denver and to experience city life. Gene enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1965 specializing in aviation electronics and served on active duty four years. His duty stations included Pensacola, FL, Memphis, TN and Quonset Point, RI. Upon completion of his military service in 1969, Gene returned to Colorado and married his high school sweetheart, Julia J. “Julie” Kemp. Gene and Julie were married December 7, 1969 at Hope Lutheran Church in Aurora, Colorado. They made Fort Collins their home in 1971. While working in sales for Ghent Motor Company, Gene grew to be a truck and car enthusiast enjoying the latest models with all the new bells and whistles. In 1972, Gene began his professional career with American Family Insurance as a sales agent. He served his policyholders for 38 years focusing on solid customer service, agency profitability and policy retention. Many long and lasting friendships grew through his daily association with insurance clients. Gene was voted #1 in the state for the calendar year 2009, for customer satisfaction by his loyal clients when they responded to J.D. Power surveys. On March 5, 2010 American Family honored Gene for this achievement at a company awards program. He also earned multiple honors as a state profit leading agent for his thorough underwriting. Gene was respected by his industry peers and regarded with deep affection by his fellow agents. Gene made his commitment to the Lord when he was baptized and confirmed in 1968. For the past 25 years he was a faithful servant at Peace With Christ Lutheran Church where he and Julie served on a mission committee which supports seminarians. In his leisure time Gene enjoyed golfing at Mountain Vista, big-game hunting, mountain retreats, sports, family gatherings and cruise ship vacations. Gene is survived by his wife, Julie, and two sisters, Darlene (Ron) Bernard of Craig, CO and Donnetta Phillips of Aurora, CO and a brother, Terry Frank of Kenmore, WA; one uncle, Alvie Frank of Scott City, KS who was his namesake and several cousins; two

brother-in-laws, Gary Kemp of Aurora, CO and Bruce (Melissa) Kemp of Fort Collins, CO and two sister-in-laws, Kathrine Kemp of Aurora, CO and Sherry (Virgil) Reed of Cincinnati, OH. He is preceded in death by his parents, Wilma and Johnny Frank, grandparents and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Gene reveled in his role as uncle and is survived by his nieces and nephews including Darlene (Ron) Bernard's family: Ellen Bahre, Steven Bernard, Alvin Bernard and Kathleen Del Torro; Donnetta Phillips' daughter Tonya Lawson; Bruce (Melissa) Kemp's family: David Kemp, Andrew Kemp, Nicholas Kemp, Heidi Mitchell and Amy Helzer; and Sherry (Virgil) Reed's family: Eric Reed and Stephanie Reed. He is also survived by three great nieces and seven great nephews. The family wishes to express very sincere and special thanks to our church family, our American Family Insurance family, clients and friends for their prayers, love and support. The family also extends sincere appreciation to Gene's special caregivers Cheryl, Deborah and Teresa and to Pathways Hospice. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Peace With Christ Lutheran Church, Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation or Pathways Hospice in care of Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80524. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, April 16, 2010 at Peace With Christ Lutheran Church, 1412 W. Swallow Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526. Interment will occur at a later date.

Comments



“ Gene you were an incredible man. I looked up to you a lot. Always a voice of reason and calm. Thank you for all of the insights you shared with me. And Thank you for the many laughs on the golf course! We miss you

Kevin Ross - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Gene was truly a fine man. Bill and I trusted his advice and appreciated his honesty. His true sense of caring about his clients was very endearing.

Julie, I appreciated so much when you both attended Bill's memorial service. I want you to know that I am here for you if you need to talk - I found it was comforting to talk to others who have experienced the same loss.

May you hold in your heart all the wonderful memories of your time together and may those memories comfort you.

Sharon

Sharon Held - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Although no words can really help to ease the loss you bear, Just know that you are in our every thought and prayer. Gene will always be remembered, He touched everyone he knew. He was loved by all. May your memories give you strength.
Love the Manyik's

Conrad & Heather Manyik - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dearest Julie,

It was with great sadness we learned of Gene's death yesterday. I came in with our usual business and asked if Gene was excepting visitors when I was told he had already passed.

We are truly sorry for your loss Julie. You and Gene have taken care of all our insurance needs for the past 19 years and for your service, we are eternally grateful. When we arrived in Fort Collins from MA in 1991 we were pretty poor and had allowed our insurance to lapse. Gene was the only agent willing to give us a chance and insure our vehicles. Since then, we have insured our every need under American Family and never once considered changing insurance companies for any reason because of your excellent services and all the help you provided to our family over the years.

We will truly miss Gene. What a great man he was! It was always a pleasure to come in and see you both, take care of our business and share the days news or the happenings of our families. You both acknowledged our loss of Ben even though you were struggling yourselves with Gene's illness and we love you for that.

Thank you Julie for all you and your wonderful husbands friendship and services all these years. We will be forever thankful for you both and will miss Gene terribly. If there is anything we can do to help you, please let us know.
Much love and God's Blessings to you.
Gary, Kim and the Brooksmith family

Gary and Kim Brooksmith - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ The Burrill family sends sympathy and condolences to your family on Gene's passing. May God give you peace as you grieve the loss of your dear family member.

Jim Burrill - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ We want to express our deepest sympathy for your loss, Julie. Gene was a warm and friendly man and we enjoyed his friendly waves when he drove passed.

Please know that Art or I are available to help you in any way that we can.

Warmest Regards,

Art & Sherry

Arthur and Sherry Lobato - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Gene looked after my insurance needs for house and car for almost 25 years. During that time, he was always available for questions or concerns. I was treated with respect and felt that he went the "extra mile" to get the answers I needed. My deepest sympathies to his family for your loss.

Cherrie Thornton - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie,
Please accept our condolences. We are unfortunately not at home at this time. So we are unable to attend the services.

We were sad to hear of Gene's passing. It was our pleasure to know him and to do business with you both. We knew that Gene conducted himself very professionally and did all he could to make our experience with American Family Ins. comfortable.

He will be missed by many people. Julie, we know that he is with our Savior now. And for that we are happy.

Bless you,

Irvin & Eva

Irvin and Eva Lieser - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie we are so sorry for your loss. All of us on Yale Avenue will miss Gene's warm smile and kind waves. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Michele, Brian, Isabel and Will Betsill

Michele Betsill - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I want to express how sorry I am with the loss of Gene as I have known him since 1976 and my family knew him before that time. I always knew that he was a special person with down to earth values that I greatly appreciated since I came from Nebraska and everyone was treated as family. I will greatly miss him and am wishing all the family the very best With sympathy.

Trish & Mike Smilie

Trish & Mike Smilie - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Gene was a wonderful brother-in-law, friend, neighbor, and supportative uncle to David and Andrew. He was kind, generous, patient, and had a wonderful sense of humor. He presents here on earth will be miss, but the wonderful memories of time spent with him will last our lifetime. It was an honor to know him. Jerry & Diane

Jerry & Diane Salgado - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie & family,
My deepest sympathies to you. I pray that God's word & love will comfort you in this difficult time. I really enjoyed taking care of Gene when I was still working at Dr. Lynch's and of course for all our time together at church.

Linda & family

Linda Drovdal - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. We were so blessed to be able to visit with Gene again after so long at our reunion last year.

God be with you and all the family.

Love, David and Donna

David and Donna Fruhling - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie, We are so saddened by the news of Gene's passing and hold you up in our prayers. Gene was a man of integrity and will be missed tremendously. We have enjoyed over 30 years of service from your agency and today we have lost a friend. May you find the peace that only God can provide during this time. Our deepest condolences and prayers are with you.
David and Sue

David and Susan Jestes - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ We extend our sincere sympathy. We will always remember Gene's dedication to the Lord and know that he is now at home with his Saviour. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.
Norm & Shirley Partch

Norm & Shirley Partch - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dan and I met Gene in 1972, we shared the same office space and I answered the phone for Gene when he was out of the office. He has always been helpful with our insurance needs, and there were always many, especially with children drivers.

I will fondly remember him going next door to Ulrich Blueprint and bringing me a bottle of pop a couple of times a week.

Were so sorry Julie for your loss.

Starla and Dan Greenfield - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Although I only met Gene last November, I quickly realized why everyone who has known him for years loved him. He had a quiet strength and dignity throughout his illness that is to be greatly admired. His loss will be felt by everyone who knew him, whether for a lifetime or just a short time. And, my love and prayers are with Julie, who has been a constant strength to Gene.

Deb Kilgore - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ We valued Gene's friendship through the years as a fellow agent with American Family Insurance. Gene valued others very highly and was always encouraging and quick with a smile.

Keith & Vivian Montey - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“

Julie:

Nancy and I were so sorry to hear of Gene's diagnosis and were so grateful to be kept informed by Erika, so we could remember you in prayer. We are also even more grateful for the chance to see you both at our reunion in '06. As you know Gene and I lived very close to each other north of Arriba and I will always have memories of bus rides and some of the crazy things we did growing up. It's hard to believe he is gone. Our prayer is that God will continue to give you peace, strength and comfort in the days ahead. I'm sorry about the timing, but there is just no way we can make it to Colorado at this time to be with you, but you will be on our minds and in our prayers Friday.

Don & Nancy Lucore - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“

I have always admired Gene for his kind heart, his open smile and gentle spirit. When I began with American Family in 1997 he was one of the first agents who came up to me and welcomed me into American Family. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I will miss him.

Roy Christman - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



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My deepest condolences go out to Julie and the rest of the Frank family. Both you and Gene over the past years have always made dealing with the insurance company an enjoyable experience. I can't remember a time when I'd come into your office and both Gene and Julie, with smiles on their faces would be wondering how myself and the rest of the family were doing. A big Thank You for providing such excellent customer service over the years. Gene will be greatly missed. My deepest thoughts and prayers go out to Julie and the rest of the Frank family during this time.

Nathan Lucas - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“

My sincere sympathy to you and your family. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Gene, but I just wanted to leave a message for you. I hope you find peace and comfort in the days ahead. Gene will certainly be missed in the American Family family. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Kristin Nichols - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ We offer our most sincere thoughts and prayers to you Julie and your family. You have lost a great man and husband. If it wasn't for Gene, we wouldn't have the life policies that we still have and that has been for the last 35 years. We thank you for all you kindness that you and Gene offered to us and to our children Michael and Josiah and to my sister Rita. May you find peace.

Sincerely, Mike & Yvonne Trujillo

Mike & Yvonne Trujillo - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Julia, We were sorry to read about Gene. I first meant him when I worked for Boettcher & Co in the First National Tower in the mid 70s. We bought your house on East Locust, and still reside there.

As I remember Gene he was an honest and sincere man who would help anyone. I pray that God would comfort you at this time, and help you to continue until you're reunited again in heaven.

Jack & Diann Dean - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ We were married in 1980 and Gene was our first insurance agent as a married couple. He was always kind and helpful and when times/money were tight he was very helpful in making arrangements for us. He made the insurance process easy to understand and was never pushy or harsh. We enjoyed coming to his office and having great conversations. He was a good man. Our thoughts are with the family at this time.

Dave and Rhonda Ebel - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie,

We will miss Gene very much. Both of you were an inspiration to me early in my career and we enjoyed the many times we got together at district functions. Also our attempts to be serious golfers (ha). Gene's steady, quiet encouragement was always very welcomed.

May God comfort you and your family during this time of sorrow.

Larry and Carrie Peterson - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Gene was our steadfast and loyal comrade. Over and over you hear how honest, trustworthy, loyal and true Gene was....all true! I will miss him so much! I loved his smile and reassuring attitude. He always gave each of us honest council and constant support, both in business and personally. My life has forever been enriched for having had the blessing of getting to know Gene and Julie over these last four years! What an absolute treasure he was! He has set the example before us of how to live our life; being gracious, unassuming, patient and kind to all he met. Gene is in a much better place today, I know that; all the same he will be dearly missed! I'm glad for the laughs we shared; be it golfing together, going to games together, joking with fellow agents and especially the huge big smile he would wear when he got to be around the children of his fellow agents...Gene was born to be a great uncle and friend! Then I got to see how very special the relationships are in his family. Finally, what a wonderful husband he has been for over 40 years to Julie...you always knew how much he loved her. Julie, I love you both and we are here for whatever you need.
Love,
Ginger

Watts - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Gene was more than just my insurance agent, we was a good friend. He will be deeply missed.

Dale Clarken - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I just read Gene's obituary and I am surprised and saddened at his passing. I am just one of many former customers, but when I met him in the early 1990's I was immediately impressed with his great personal warmth and effortless professionalism. Here was a man with a sense of humor and a quiet sincerity that could be felt. From reading Gene's obituary I didn't know, but now realize his classic and strong native Coloradoan background. I can well understand his great success in all he did. I didn't realize how long he had been with American Family Insurance. He had a person to person sincerity and we understood each other well as man to man. I think that the last time I stopped into the office and I saw Julie and asked in regard to separate renters insurance and was told he was busy that this may have been at or around the time when he had been diagnosed with cancer because I remember it as around six months ago. Having had the opportunity in my life to meet many insurance agents and I'm the same age as Gene was, Gene seemed to epitomize the classic old fashioned agent who routinely went above and beyond the call of duty for his clients and often his community. I feel that he was perhaps one of the last good guys in his profession. I did not know this man well but was a customer for at least several years and only that, but I will miss him very, very much.

Very sincerely yours,

Gene (Eugene) M. Haimson

Gene M. Haimson - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to Julie and the entire Frank family. We have been clients of Gene and Julie for over 35 years, and I always enjoyed speaking with Gene and Julie about their lives and experiences whenever I went to the office. It was a great shock to us to learn of Gene's illness and passing and our hearts go out to all who loved and knew him.

Rich and Candie Tsuchiya - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ WE WILL MISS THIS GREAT GUY

PETE AND SALLY SAKALA - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie, and family,

I was very saddened to hear about Gene's passing. My family and I were so grateful to Gene and Julie for their support when our father passed away. I will remember him as a wonderful man, and will keep your family in my prayers.

Julie Glassing

Julie Glassing - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Julia and All,

We were so surprised to read of Gene's death, and want to send you our deepest sympathy at this time.

Praise the Lord that He will comfort us, as He promised, at our times of grief.

Friends of many years

Kimel and Wanda Brent - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Uncle "Gener" was a legendary uncle. He was always the one to run into his arms for birthday spankings. As a young child he would always leave by saying, "see you later alligator" and we all know the rest. I remember numerous camping trips growing up fishing, gathering firewood, and hanging out around the campfire. One camping trip we brought home twenty-one trout. As I grew older, Uncle Gene and I enjoyed going to CSU Rams football games and Colorado Eagles hockey games. Alongside Aunt JJ, Uncle Gene always supported his niece's and nephew's big events at school. Uncle Gener was one of our biggest fans through the years. Most recently, I began to see Gene's professionalism and fortitude with his business. I was impressed by how long he had enjoyed his career with American Family Insurance. I know Uncle Gene and Aunt JJ have really impacted many people's lives as a result of their care and concern for their customers. It is clear their customers were more than customers, but friends, which is difficult to find. I also admire the Frank's devotion to their marriage for 40 years. That is priceless. Since Uncle Gener's passing our whole family has missed him greatly and the reminiscing of wonderful times with him will never end.

Nick Kemp - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Gene will be missed by many, his loyalty, patience and integrity was unsurpassed. My sincere regrets for his loss to Julie and his extended family.

Cheryl Roper - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Julie,
Just read of Gene's passing. I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. May the Lord hold you in His arms as you grieve Gene's departure from his earthly life.

Don and Vicci Haeseker - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM