



# Gene Spear

September 4, 1932 – February 14, 2013



Gene Spear, 80, longtime Ogallala resident, died Thursday, February 14, 2013, in the Ogallala Community Hospital.

Eugene Edwin "Gene" Spear was born September 4, 1932 in Ogallala, the son of Edwin and Clementine (Szydzik) Spear. Shortly after his birth, his parents moved to a ranch near Keystone, Nebraska. In 1948 the family moved to Ogallala.

After graduating from Ogallala High School in 1950 Gene joined the United States Navy. After a year in the Aleutian Islands he was assigned to the Naval Air Stations in Jacksonville, Fla. and Memphis, Tenn. After he incurred a severe head injury, he was hospitalized in the Great Lakes Naval Hospital for nine months. Gene was discharged due to this disability and sent to a Veterans hospital in Denver, Colo.

In 1954 while attending a trade school in Denver, he met his future wife Janice McLane. They were married on February 19, 1955, in Ogallala. Gene worked as a dispatcher for the Ogallala Police Department and Keith County Sheriff's office. In 1973 he began working as a custodian for the Ogallala Public Schools where he worked for 24 years until he retired. He then spent his time being a volunteer and doing handyman work.

Gene enjoyed watching his granddaughters race in the Soap Box Derby and he helped weigh cars at both the Ogallala and North Platte races. His hobbies included camping, boating, hunting, fishing, traveling, playing cards, building bird feeders, playing games on his computer, watching westerns, canning and making jelly. Gene had a sharp sense of humor and always enjoyed a good joke.

Gene was a member of St. Lukes Catholic Church. He was a charter member of the Ogallala Moose Lodge #1624 , as well as the Knights of Columbus , the Elks Lodge , and the Visually Impaired Persons group.

Preceding him in death were his parents and an infant son Steven Mark Spear. Survivors include his wife Jan Spear of Ogallala; Three daughters: Mary (Kevin) Kuxhausen of Mitchell; Christine Meyer of Paxton; and Diane (Brandon) Stevenson of Lincoln. Two sons: Tony Spear of Wahoo and Philip (Melissa) Spear of Lincoln.

Three sisters: Edwina (Bob) Bohman of Lakewood, Colo.; Corrine (Carl) Splitt of Tucson, Ariz.; and Sue (Scott) Wacker of McCook, Nebr. One Brother: Mike (Denise) Spear of Pompano Beach, Fla.

Also four granddaughters: Lindsay Kuxhausen of Scottsbluff, Amara Meyer of Lincoln, Callie Meyer and Capri Meyer, both of Brule.

The visitation will be Sunday, February 17, from 1 p.m. to the time of the Rosary Service at 5 p.m. in Draucker Funeral Home. The Mass of Christian Burial will be Monday, February 18, at 10 a.m. in St. Lukes Catholic Church with Rev. Bryan Ernest the Celebrant. Interment is in the Ogallala Cemetery with military honors by Keith County Veterans Organization. A memorial has been established to the American Cancer Society. Online Condolences may be sent by clicking here.

Draucker Funeral Home of Ogallala is in charge of arrangements.