



Gene Starke

August 27, 1935 - March 3, 2025

Herbert Eugene “Gene” Starke of Higginsville passed away on Monday, March 3, 2025, at the age of 89. A beloved husband, father, grandpa, and friend, Gene touched the lives of many with his humor, kindness, and unwavering love for his family. Gene was born on August 27, 1935, to Herbert William and Clara Wilhelmina (Block) Starke. Gene was a life-long resident of Higginsville, where he met the love of his life, Rosa Lee (Trigg) Starke. They were married on June 10, 1957, and built a joyful family together, raising three incredibly loved children: Lisa, Jennifer, and David.

Gene had a successful career in carpentry, serving as foreman and superintendent on various landmark buildings in the Kansas City area, including the Truman Sports Complex, the Bartle Hall Expansion, and the American Royal. He was a proud member of the Carpenter’s Union.

Gene was a self-taught musician who could play songs by ear on the guitar and piano. After retirement, he enjoyed traveling the States with Rosa Lee and would spend many hours in his woodshop as a skilled craftsman. Gene shared his skills in woodworking and construction by home remodeling and creating heirloom pieces for his loved ones. His quick wit, big heart, and sense of humor was present in every room and relationship he had. Gene didn’t know a stranger and was forever a jokester. If you knew Gene, you were no doubt a recipient of an endearing nickname. His humor and boundless love will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

Gene leaves behind a family who loved him deeply, including his wife of 67

years, Rosa Lee; his children Lisa (George) Zimmerschied of Independence, MO, Jennifer (David) Greiwe of Millstadt, IL, David (Carla) Starke of Higginsville, MO; eight grandchildren, Erin Emison, Lindsey Hausmann, Derek Zimmerschied, Kristin Curcuru, Justin Zimmerschied, Drew Greiwe, Allison Starke, and Carson Starke; and fifteen great-grandchildren who adoringly called him "Pops". He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Loraine Barber Carroll. His memory will live on in many spirited stories, the projects he completed, and the love and laughter that filled every room he entered.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 - 2:30 PM on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at Salem United Church of Christ. A funeral service will follow at 2:30 PM with burial in the Higginsville City Cemetery. Casket bearers: Rob Curcuru, Chris Emison, Drew Greiwe, Ben Hausmann, Carson Starke, Carson Upschulte, Derek Zimmerschied, Justin Zimmerschied. Memorials may be made out to the Salem United Church of Christ.

Cemetery Details

City Cemetery

2275-2491 Lipper Ave.
Higginsville, MO 64037

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 8. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (cst)

Salem United Church of Christ
1500 N Main St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
salemucc@ctcis.net
<http://www.salemucchigginsville.org>

Funeral Service

MAR 8. 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM (cst)

Salem United Church of Christ
1500 N Main St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
salemucc@ctcis.net
<http://www.salemucchigginsville.org>

Tribute Wall

SW

“ One of my fondest memories of Gene was when he and Rosalee would come to visit her sister, Sally, in the long term care facility. He would listen to Sally and other residents with such smiles and he always had positive things to say.

Gene will be so missed. He was a great man. He always had a smile and always had positive comments. He was very comfortable with people. The funeral Saturday was such a nice tribute to him. I loved to hear his grandchildren speak so eloquently about him. They spoke from the heart.

Susan Wagner - March 09, 2025 at 09:23 AM

DA

“ Gene Starke, what can I say. He was my neighbor, my friend. my teacher and my pardner in crime and also gave me the nickname of "Andy". A name that still sticks with me and is still used by people in the construction business that I have worked with over the years. Gene took a chance on me years ago and gave me a chance in construction and it was something I will never forget or regret and will always be eternally grateful. I learned so much and it has taken me to so many places where I was able to meet and work with some great people. Along with a few not-so-great people but that's life. We would talk on the phone and when I would be back home for a few days, I would walk over and see Gene. He was always interested in where I was working and what I was working on, and he was my sounding board if there was a problem I was trying to figure out and I would try to remember to bring him back a hat from whatever job I was on. There were times we would drive out north of town to a small grove of persimmon tress and pick and eat till we got all we wanted and then cut the seeds open to see what the winter prediction was supposed to be. Getting in the truck and go out road farming, driving the back roads and looking at who was growing what and talking about the weather and if it was going to make or break the harvest. He would give me history lessons on who owned what property and who was the current owner on some of the drives we took since I was a semi local [1974-2010 give or take], but he would fill me in, and I really enjoyed it. Road farming and hanging out in his shop. We would talk, figure things out, see who could tell the biggest stories and keep a straight face, will be memories I will never forget. To a great man, you will be truly missed and thank you for being my friend!

David Andrus - March 08, 2025 at 12:05 AM

TA

“ Teresa A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene Starke.

Teresa A. - March 06, 2025 at 08:58 PM

TA

“ Teresa A. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Gene Starke.



Teresa A. - March 06, 2025 at 08:58 PM

SJ

“ Susan, Jimmy, Eric, Falon, Jeffrey planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene Starke.

Susan, Jimmy, Eric, Falon, Jeffrey - March 06, 2025 at 06:08 PM

SJ

“ Susan, Jimmy, Eric, Falon, Jeffrey purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Gene Starke.



Susan, Jimmy, Eric, Falon, Jeffrey - March 06, 2025 at 06:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gene Starke.



March 05, 2025 at 08:39 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gene Starke.*



March 05, 2025 at 06:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gene Starke.

March 05, 2025 at 06:33 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Gene Starke.*



March 05, 2025 at 06:33 PM



“ *I never remember seeing Gene that he did not have a smile on his face.*

Patricia Sherman - March 05, 2025 at 05:35 PM



My great uncle Gene made me laugh so much as a kid. He called me "Zuk!"

Zachary Carroll - March 05, 2025 at 05:45 PM