



## Gene K. Sharp

October 30, 1949 - October 10, 2023

Gene K. Sharp, 73, of Richland Center, WI, passed away on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at the Richland Hospital. He was born on October 30, 1949, in Richland Center, WI, the son of Leonard and Sylvia (Curtis) Sharp.

Gene was a man of humble beginnings. He worked hard and lived by the AA mantra “one day at a time”. Gene, our dad, was proudly sober for forty-four years. He loved and invested in his AA community, always aiming to attend four meetings a week. Gene’s other life capstone was his love and pride for his children- that’s us!! Our dad has always been a boss and founded his own construction company. Following our dad’s lead, all three of us are the leaders in our own varied professions.

Dad had these “tricks”, a bit of wisdom, and catchphrases that he shared with us. Here are a few he was famous for.

From a young age, our dad refused to be a victim under any circumstance. He would say, “You

poke me once, I will tell you to stop that. You poke me twice, I will say it a little louder. You poke me three times, I will poke you back, and you won't poke me again."

In terms of business, he had a few rules that he lived by. He continuously said, "Money was easy-it is just a tool and you need to go get it." He would also say, "Always say hi and smile because you never know where your next job might be coming from."

In regards to expressing his love toward us, our dad had a few catchphrases. When we were little, he would empathetically acknowledge us by saying, "Growing up is really hard, it just is." And when it was time to go back to our mom's house on Sunday nights he routinely said, "I love ya, I miss ya, and I'll see you in two weeks."

Gene was an incredibly kind man and larger than life, even though he didn't know it. He positively impacted all those who he interacted with. He had an incredible work ethic, always hustling and building whatever he needed. Gene loved his children with all his heart and was immensely proud of them.

We have and will continue to admire Gene's sobriety and wise words, and are thankful for his AA community. We also want to thank the medical community for taking exceptional care of him these last several years. A special thanks to Dr. Koszewski from UW Madison

Hospital. He and his team were amazing in supporting Gene.

So Dad, it is with heavy hearts that we say, "We love you, we miss you, and we will see you again."

-Love,  
Cena, Suzette, and Spenser  
AKA: the Sharp Kids

Survivors include 2 daughters, Cena Sharp of Platteville, WI, Suzette Sharp of Mt Horeb, WI; a son, Spenser (Shannon Hill) Sharp of Montfort, WI; 12 grandchildren, Dominic, Fiona, Evolette, Sylvia, Alana, Ashton, Amari, Ava, Alaina, Tyler, Kensie, and Hank; a sister, Kathy Sharp Andresen of Texas; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, MaryJo Sharp; significant other, Gail Stone; cousin, Suzie Barry; and a close friend, George Ashley.

We are having a celebration of life on Sunday, October 22 from 12:00 pm-4:00 pm. It will be held at the American Legion 900 Flag Park Drive, Richland Center, Wisconsin. Everyone is welcome to come and commemorate Gene Sharp. [www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com)



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT **22**. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

American Legion Richland Center  
900 Flag Park Drive  
Richland Center, WI 53581

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Hi everyone my name is John malter I first met your dad in AA in consequently worked on and off for him for 20 some years my dad made a big difference in my recovery and in my life for you see God put your dad in my life right after my dad had passed and now I'm missing your dad the same way sorry for posting this so late I know you hear your dad talked about your kids all the time my heart goes out to you all.

Johnny malter - October 05, 2024 at 05:46 PM

CS

Thank you for sharing this :)

Cena Sharp - October 10, 2025 at 06:51 AM

DE

“ I will always remember as a child, getting Christmas trees from Gene. I believe my Mom called him 'Buddy'. He was as nice as could be, even to a little guy like me. God Bless this Angel and watch over his family. ❤️

Dave Elliott - November 23, 2023 at 07:08 PM

DE

“ Sorry to hear of Gene's passing. He was a good friend and neighbor to many. Helped on my building projects as I was growing up in his back yard. Deb Niemeyer/ Diana Mulholland.

Deb - October 27, 2023 at 01:30 AM

CV

“ 1 file added to the album Gene Sharp



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**Carol VanAlstine** - October 20, 2023 at 12:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Gene Sharp



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**Clary Memorial Funeral Home** - October 20, 2023 at 12:45 PM

TT

“ Terry Testolin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene K. Sharp.

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**Terry Testolin** - October 19, 2023 at 10:08 PM

TT

“ Terry Testolin purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Gene K. Sharp.



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**Terry Testolin** - October 19, 2023 at 10:08 PM

CV

“ I am so sorry for your loss and I am grieving too. Gene (and Gail and Marilyn) were fellow retreatants with me at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon City, WI. I got to know Gene and Gail over the years. Gene was usually there for every Serenity Retreat that was held. Since these retreats were not silent, we retreatants got to know each other and it was a highlight of the retreat to see the others that we knew and to get to know the newcomers. I often ate meals with Gene and Gail, and this last retreat I got to know Marilyn. I am grateful to Marilyn for coming with Gene on this last retreat. She helped him a lot.

Gene gave me suggestions for when I had work done on my house and also when I had questions about my Jeep Wrangler. I never asked him what it was about St. Anthony's that kept him coming back. I wish I would have, but maybe it was some of the same reasons I have for going to every Serenity Retreat that they have each year. Gene had a history of going there since 1978 when he did his 5th step with Father Peter. The beauty of the setting, the camaraderie of the people all in recovery together, the AA meetings, the healing service, the speakers, there is so much that I can think of that he probably enjoyed. Maybe he even enjoyed the long ride because he got to drive his Jeep. Rest in Peace, Gene. I will be thinking of you at the next retreat and will be aware that you are there in spirit.

If I can figure out how to post a picture, I have one of Gene's Jeep and my Jeep with the retreat center in the background.

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Carol VanAlstine - October 19, 2023 at 11:25 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gene K. Sharp.



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October 17, 2023 at 09:39 PM

PK

“ We knew Gene as a customer at Thrifty White/Center Pharmacy. He was always kind and we enjoyed his attitude. The obituary tells a wonderful story. He left a very positive legacy to his children and grandchildren. We can tell from that how much he was loved. Thank you for sharing more about his life.  
*Bruce and Pat Kaasa*

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**Patricia Kaasa** - October 13, 2023 at 03:58 PM

RC

*Gene was a wonderful and kind neighbor growing up!! Always willing to give a helping hand when needed!! RIP, Friend!!*

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**Rosie Hatfield Coy** - October 14, 2023 at 10:19 AM

KA

“ Gene was a kind and supportive brother. I already miss our long phone calls. He was always available to talk and listen. He told me how to fix stuff and gave me good advice. He returned phone calls and shared his adventures and time spent with his 3 amazing and gifted adults and his fun times with his 12 grandchildren. I do not have grandchildren and have regularly felt sorry for myself but Gene shared his and our family took pictures so I always felt included. Gene was respected in his community and taught his workers who learned about hard work, values and obeying rules so they did not get hurt. He was a tough boss but his heart was in the right place. Gene was both serious and enjoyable to be around. We laughed often and closed each conversation with “I love you.” He would have been 74 on the 30th of October. I am 18 months his senior. God has gained a helpful and caring Angel. Love you Gene. You will always be in my heart.

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**Kathryn Sharp Andresen** - October 13, 2023 at 01:56 PM

NT

“ Gene did a lot of construction work with my father Bill Robison. He helped with work at my mom and dad's home and at their cabin. Later in my life he helped me make my basement into a livable space, built a porch and roofed the house twice. My last project he helped me with was my driveway. He was the most positive man and always willing to help. He will be missed.

Nancy Tiegs - October 12, 2023 at 05:10 PM

NT

Sorry for the spelling error. Bill Robinson.

Nancy Tiegs - October 12, 2023 at 05:13 PM

CP

Gene and Gail were the 1st people I met when we moved to Richland center 23 years ago. Gene will be missed very much such a great guy. Thoughts and prayers for his family.

Cecelia Perry - October 12, 2023 at 06:23 PM

 Mark Goad

I liked going to Sharp's Swap Shop, and hearing Gene say "...you ought to get that.."

Mark Goad - October 12, 2023 at 06:47 PM

BC

Gene has done many things at this old farmhouse and barn. He always was courteous and smiling. He and his good friend George were a good pair. The last few days I noticed your truck hadn't moved. Now I know why. During our time together we had a wonderful relationship. May you rest in peace my old program buddy

BILL CARY - October 14, 2023 at 02:02 PM

MM

Gene was a really sweet guy. I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers for your family 🙏

Marilyn Martin - October 17, 2023 at 01:30 AM

FG

*Gene was a nice guy from the class of '69. RIP, Gene. 🙏*

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**frances Garcia** - October 17, 2023 at 09:22 AM

LP

*I will always remember Gene as being helpful. He helped my dad on many construction projects. He was also helpful to his friends if they needed support. My condolences to the family.*

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**Linda Harlan Post** - October 17, 2023 at 01:14 PM