

LARSEN, GENE

August 24, 1929

Farm near Hurley, SD

January 27, 2025

Viborg, SD

The New Era – February 6, 2025

Gene Larsen

95

*Formerly of Sioux Falls
January 27, 2025*

Gene Larsen, 95, formerly of Sioux Falls passed away peacefully with family at his side on Monday, January 27, 2025, at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home in Viborg SD. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, February 5, at Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls SD followed by burial with military rites at Rosehill Cemetery, Parker, SD. Arrangements by Hofmeister Jones Funeral Home.

Gene Gilbert Larsen was born on August 24, 1929, on a farm near Hurley, SD to John and Mary (Jorgensen) Larsen. Having lost his father at an early age, he did farmwork alongside his older brothers, developing an excellent work ethic that would carry into his adult years. A year after graduating from Hurley High School in 1947, he joined the US Navy and served during the Korean War. Gene enjoyed playing all sports in high school, especially football. That earned his position as tackle on the Naval Air Station Agana Flyers football team while serving in Guam.

Upon discharge from the service, while at a St. Patrick's Day dance in Hurley, he met the gal who would be his lifelong partner. On December 27, 1953, he was united in marriage to Bettie Jones in Parker. In the early years of their marriage, they farmed near Parker and then Viborg. They sold the farm and with two small children at the time, they moved to California. They returned to South Dakota one year later. He then worked at Greenlee Packing Plant before he began an advertising sales career with Directory Service Company in 1963, changing later to Farm & Home Publishers. He officially retired after 46 years. Gene treasured his family and provided them with years of fun, entertaining them with his stories and humor. Traveling through-



out the United States, a trip to Europe (which included his ancestry country of Denmark) and cruises to Alaska and the Caribbean were especially enjoyed. Of all of the family vacations and camping trips, Gene stated many times that his greatest pleasure was travelling with Bettie in a motorhome. Besides travelling, Gene enjoyed woodworking, and anyone who knew

Gene knew of his steadfast allegiance to the SDSU Jackrabbits.

Gene was a lifelong member of the VFW. Throughout his life he also belonged to the American Legion, Elks Club, Moose Club, Motorhome and Snowmobile clubs. A highlight later in life was going with two of his lifelong friends, Darwin DeVries and Charlie Larsen on the first Midwest Honor Flight in 2017.

Blessed to have shared his life are his loving wife of 71 years, Bettie; his children, Deb Kleeman (Mark Slatterly) of West Des Moines, IA, Kristi (Joe) Lloyd of Inwood, IA, David Larsen of Volga, SD, Lisa (Chris) Thomas of Yankton, SD; Daughter-In-Law, Lisa Larsen of Larchwood, IA; 15 grandchildren: Jennifer Kleeman, Matthew Kleeman, Andrew Kleeman, Tanner Larsen, Lance Schreurs, Luke Larsen, Erin Larsen, Blake Lloyd, Kacie Cunningham, Levi Larsen, Dane Larsen, Silas Larsen, Chloe Larsen, Jacob Thomas, Betsy Semmler; 24 Great-Grandchildren. Gene was preceded in death by his parents, son Charlie Larsen; son-in-law Joe Kleeman; seven siblings and their spouses, Ernest (Clara) (Alice) Larsen, Dagmar (John) Stenholtz, Ella Larsen, Vesta (Fred) Schroedermeier, Esther (Ellsworth) Jenter, Ivan (Mariam) Larsen and Robert (Maxine) Larsen.

Thank you to all the special people at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home and Asera-Care Hospice who provided such good care to Gene and the family. You are a blessing!

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