

Everett Sprous
AC-119 Gunship Association
2615 N. Columbus Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85712-1937

2/19/2018

Dear Everett,

I want to let you know that Eugene (Gene) passed away in July 2016 (2/23/1952 - 7/28/2016).

For his viewing and military service, we framed his 18th SOS Stinger patch, Stinger Gunshop 100,000 Malfunctions patch and his stripes, as he was so proud of these. He didn't talk about some of his military service as there were places and actions considered classified and it was something he took very seriously. Gene maintained that he was a dumb Iowa farm boy, but those that knew him did not agree. He had a passion for the Air Force, planes, for all branches of service and those who serve their country. Gene was like a sponge and soaked up all that he received by the many who mentored him and he in return passed along this knowledge to others. In 1996 Gene was in a severe entertainer bus accident and we were later called to a court hearing. The opposing attorney kept bringing up that he could not receive all of Gene's service information and was it possible that his discharge could be something other than honorable. Gene did not miss a beat, but responded that his discharge was honorable and that it appears the attorney's, 'high ranking title of attorney', did not provide the secure military clearance or credentials to view or receive some information about Gene or his service time in Vietnam. This brought a chuckle to those in the court room and the Judge asked the attorney to drop this and continue with matters at hand. I once asked Gene why he didn't stay in service and make it his career as I know how proud he is/was to have served his country. He said that if he would have stayed in service we would not have met, married and raised two great kids. Needless to say this humbled me more than I can ever say and I knew that I had met my soul mate.

Your mailings meant so much to him. He would read the mailings and discuss them with me. He mentioned that sometime, when work slowed down, he would like to attend a reunion. Thinking that we had another 20-30 more years together, we would attend reunions and check this off his 'bucket list'. Please know that Gene will be there with all his fellow members and associates at your future reunions. I am hoping someday our kids and I can visit the many memorials across the country and also visit the Vietnam Center and Archives at Texas Tech University.

Thank You,
Sue Kallaus and the family of Eugene (Gene) Kallaus
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Sgt Eugene C Kallaus
US Air Force
7/1/1972 - 9/6/1974
Vietnam