



Eugene Paul Behrends

October 16, 1958 - January 16, 2019

Eugene “Gene” Paul Behrends died Jan 16, 2019 in his St. Augustine home surrounded by friends and family. He is survived by wife Sherry, daughter NaTasha, son Chris (and his wife Mary Kate), and grandsons Hector, Rylen, Nolan, Liam, and Cohen.

Gene was born to Gin and Paul Behrends on Oct 16, 1958 in Long Beach, CA. As the child of a Naval Officer, he grew up all over, including Monterrey, Charleston, and Hawaii. He graduated from the College of Charleston in 1980 and followed in his father’s footsteps with a commission in the US Navy. He served a distinguished career as an aviator for 12 years on active duty, and an intelligence officer for 8 years in the reserves. Duty stations included Jacksonville, FL, where he married Sherry and adopted NaTasha in 1986; Naples, Italy, where son Chris was born in 1989; and Norfolk, VA, where he retired in 2000.

Gene’s love of travelling followed his naval career when he became a Department of Defense school teacher in 2000 and moved the family to Seoul, South Korea. In 2007 they moved to Ramstein, Germany. He and Sherry moved to St. Augustine in 2018.

In addition to travelling, Gene’s many interests included playing guitar and singing in the church choir, weekly hikes with the Ramstein Roadrunners,

serving in the Boy Scouts as a Scoutmaster, Venture Crew Leader, and Council Advisor, cycling to work regardless of weather conditions, and cooking dinner for his family.

Please join us in celebrating Gene's life at 9am on Jan 28 at St. Anastasia Catholic Church (5205 A1A S, St. Augustine, FL 32080) with a Funeral Mass, and an open house at their home to follow. Please call (904) 907-3423 for directions. Please also join us for a graveside service at 4pm on Jan 29 at Jacksonville Memorial Gardens in Orange Park (111 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park, FL 32073).

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JAN 28. 9:00 AM (ET)

St. Anastasia Catholic Church
5205 A1A South
St. Augustine, FL 32080

Tribute Wall

RE

“ coolest apush teacher ever. 💕 your students will always remember how amazing you were.

rebekah - March 18, 2019 at 06:32 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eugene Paul Behrends.



January 25, 2019 at 03:11 PM

JP

“ Charlie and I have fond memories of Gene while he was a student and swimmer at the College of Charleston. We still use some of the recipes he shared with us and always appreciated his quirky sense of humor. Please know we are praying for all of his family.
Jan and Charlie Pesavento

Janet Pesavento - January 23, 2019 at 06:42 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eugene Paul Behrends.



January 22, 2019 at 03:27 PM

PM

“ Patrick M. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Eugene Paul Behrends.



Patrick M. - January 22, 2019 at 11:32 AM

MH

“ Sherry:

My most sincere condolences. I will always remembered him as a great teacher and colleague here at Ramstein High School. Always with a smile. I still remembered him playing and singing in the church choir like it was yesterday. May Gene rest in peace with our lord waiting for us to visit him one day in heaven. I have no doubt that he watches over all of us with the same love and happiness that he did here on Earth. We will always miss him.

Sincerely,

Michelle Harrington

Michelle Harrington - January 22, 2019 at 04:47 AM

GB

“ Gene was my colleague at Ramstein High in Germany for years. He headed up the social committee and made our work life here enjoyable . He loved his subject and was an extremely pleasant person. He entertained us on many occasions with his guitar and was very active in the community with Volks marches and the Boy Scouts.I remember when he shaved his head on behalf of his devoted wife, Sherry. We will miss him immensely.

gary boue - January 22, 2019 at 03:51 AM

MH

“ *Michelle Harrington lit a candle in memory of Eugene Paul Behrends*



Michelle Harrington - January 22, 2019 at 03:42 AM

KR

“ *A natural coach, teacher. and mentor. I learned a lot about Scouting, and life from Gene. I have more questions I wish I could ask. There are more trails I wish we could walk. Thank you for your service and mentorship. kreg*

Kreg - January 22, 2019 at 02:25 AM

TR

“ *Tom and Sue Rice purchased the Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket for the family of Eugene Paul Behrends.*



Tom and Sue Rice - January 21, 2019 at 03:21 AM

BS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Brian Spencer - January 19, 2019 at 12:54 PM

BS

*Gene, Lisa Jaeger, Brian Spencer
College of Charleston*

Brian Spencer - January 19, 2019 at 12:55 PM



“ *Sherry, our sincere condolences to you and your family. You and Gene have been strong, kind, loving people who make a difference in the lives of those you touch. Thank you for your friendship, and may you find peace in the memories of Gene's life. We are very saddened to hear of Gene's passing. It's so hard to believe. His energy was contagious. On several hiking trips with Gene he would lead us on the long route and fill the time with stories of hiking the Jakobsweg path from his home in Germany to Spain. On one Road Runner bus trip ride home we talked history subjects where the depth of his knowledge astounded us, and his infectious enthusiasm for understanding how the world works led our son to transfer into Gene's history class. We planned a trip to see Jimmy Buffet in Paris solely based on Gene's excitement. It was at that concert we last saw him, after his diagnosis and still embracing life. As a member of the Ramstein Road Runners, Gene spread his love of hiking to the whole community. His willingness to give of his time made him an invaluable member of the club. We all miss him. All our best to his family. We will always remember him walking the trails, being the Trip Captain on club bus trips, serving as the grill-meister at our volksmarch events, and always rocking out to Jimmy Buffet. In every way he found joy in giving to others. I will always think of him when I see the scallop-shell trail signs, and when Jimmy Buffet comes up on the play list. Farewell, Good Friend!*

Mark Christensen - January 19, 2019 at 11:54 AM

BS

“ Many blessings to Gene’s family. I attended the College of Charleston with Gene where we were roommates and swam together on the swim team. Gene had a huge heart and was always there to help. Our first apartment was on Rutledge Ave - a 1 bedroom over a carport. You could see the garage floor through the wood floor in the bedroom!

He would collect whatever money we had after rent and travel to the commisery for food! He use to cut the milk with Carnation Instant Milk to make it last! Oh how I disliked the taste, but he was right - it held us over until the next grocery run!

Rest In Peace Gene.

Brian Spencer - January 19, 2019 at 10:39 AM

KS

“ I spent 6 days hiking the Appalachian Trail with Gene, Sherry and Chris. I trekked many trails since then, as I know Gene and Sherry have too over the years. I will forever remember Gene, his wit, and kind soul whenever I hear Buffet or Brother IZ. Gene will be forever watching over us (and maybe eating a cheeseburger) in Paradise, “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”. It was an honor to know you, my friend.

Kim Stephenson - January 19, 2019 at 01:44 AM