



## Eugene "Gene" W. Olnes

June 12, 1949 - November 22, 2025

NORFOLK – Funeral services for Eugene “Gene” Olnes, 76, of Norfolk, NE will be held on Friday, November 28, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Norfolk. Visitation will be held one prior to the services. Interment will follow at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Norfolk. Reverend Mike Moreno will be officiating the services. Gene passed away on Saturday, November 22, 2025 at Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk, after a short battle with stage 4 liver cancer. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Eugene W. “Gene” Olnes was born June 12, 1949 to LaVonne (Schademan) and Frank Sonnenfelt. The two later divorced and Eugene was adopted at the age of 2 by his loving father Lowell Olnes, who raised him alongside his mother LaVonne.

Eugene grew up in rural Petersburg. He went to school at District 62 through 8th grade and graduated from Petersburg High School in 1967. He was active in 4H, showing a calf at the Fair every year. He loved to hunt and fish and would bring home and eat most of it. He was baptized and confirmed at North Branch Church.

After high school, he enlisted in the army, and was active from 1967-1969 in the 25th infantry (wolfhounds). After training he was sent to Vietnam as a forward observer. He was honorably discharged and returned home. In

August 1971, he married Rene Choquette. To that union they had 4 children, Stephanie, Jeremy, Brenda, and Gina. This marriage later ended in divorce and in June 1981 Eugene married Barb Faust. To this union they had 2 children Angie and Shawn. They later divorced and in February 1995 Eugene married Denise Pedersen. They were married until the death of Denise on April 24, 2019.

Eugene was very proud of his military service, he was even awarded the army commendation medal for heroism in Vietnam. He was also very proud of his more than 30 years sobriety.

He is survived by his mother LaVonne Olnes, his children Stephanie (Rob) Cox, Brenda (John) Ryan, Gina (Jim) Pavelka, Angela Ogg, and Shawn Olnes, 13 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. Brother Dale (Vonnie) Olnes and sister Lowellyn (Barry) Steinkraus, along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Eugene is preceded in death by his wife Denise, son Jeremy Olnes, granddaughters Jenna Cox and Mia Redwing. Fathers Frank Sonnenfelt and Lowell Olnes, and niece Amanda Olnes.

Memorials may be sent to the family for future determination.

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at [www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com](http://www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Prospect Hill Cemetery - Norfolk

1500 Maple Avenue  
Norfolk, NE 68701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 28. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Christ Lutheran Church - Norfolk  
605 S 5th St.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
<http://tiger.clnorfolk.org/index.php>

## Funeral Service

NOV 28. 10:30 AM (CT)

Christ Lutheran Church - Norfolk  
605 S 5th St.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
<http://tiger.clnorfolk.org/index.php>

# Tribute Wall

AP

“ *ashley pospasil sent a virtual gift in memory of Eugene "Gene" Olnes*



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**ashley pospasil** - November 29, 2025 at 04:56 PM

MR

“ *Midwest Construction Rentals purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Eugene "Gene" W. Olnes.*



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**Midwest Construction Rentals** - November 26, 2025 at 02:00 PM

MR

“ *Midwest Construction Rentals planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eugene "Gene" W. Olnes.*

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**Midwest Construction Rentals** - November 26, 2025 at 02:00 PM

SH

“ *Gene and I went hunting and fishing I truly miss him so much*

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**Shawnolnes** - November 24, 2025 at 06:04 PM

JT

“ Gene and I were great boyhood friends. We graduated from Petersburg High School together. He was always positive and a had a great sense of humor. He was a good man. My sympathy to his family. May he rest in Peace.

*Jim Temme*

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**James Temme** - November 24, 2025 at 02:18 PM