



Gene Raymond Lauer

February 15, 1935 - May 4, 2026

Gene Raymond Lauer, age 91, of Detour Village, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by love, on May 4, 2026. He was born on February 15, 1935, in Pontiac, Michigan, to Herbert and Eva (Hardenburg) Lauer.

Gene attended the Michigan School for the Deaf in Flint, Michigan, until 1953. Afterwards, he began an exemplary 33-year career with General Motors (Chevrolet-Pontiac-Canada Engine Operations) in Pontiac, Michigan. In 1961, he married Linda Ray Moore. Together, they shared sixty-two wonderful years filled with love. They resided in Oakland County until retirement in 1987, when they moved to Northern Michigan, living in Alpena, Traverse City, Honor, and De Tour Village.

Gene was an avid reader of books, maps, and newspapers. He loved sharing his extensive knowledge of world history, current events, automotive history, geography, and astronomy. Traveling to twenty-three countries, the Caribbean, and most of the United States, especially places off the beaten path, was one of his many passions. He was a “foodie” long before the term became popular. Meticulous about his cars, he never owned a used vehicle and always kept his new cars in showroom condition. Most meaningful to him was spending time with family and friends.

Gene was born generationally deaf. He spoke eloquently with his hands and through writing. He always found ways to communicate with everyone he met, fostering new friendships along the way. If only one word could be used to describe Gene, it would be honorable. He was a Christian man who believed without doubt.

His favorite Biblical passage was one he truly lived by:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongdoings. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.” 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

He will be remembered fondly by so many.

Gene is survived by his daughter, Lisa (Bradley Newton) Lauer-Ritthaler; grandsons, Derek (Stephanie Henao) Ritthaler and Joshua Ritthaler; and granddaughters, Scarlett Henao-Ritthaler and Selena Henao-Ritthaler.

Gene was preceded in death his wife, Linda; parents, Herbert and Eva; and brother, Brian Lauer.

A private family gathering will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Gene Lauer Memorial Fund, which will be distributed to various community projects in his honor. Contributions may be sent to P.O. Box 130, De Tour Village, Michigan 49725.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Pickford assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family.