



## Ralph Eugene Reynolds

November 16, 1932 - December 12, 2024

Ralph "Gene" Eugene Reynolds, born November 16, 1932, in Centralia, Illinois, peacefully passed away on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at the age of 92 at the HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois. Gene lived a long and fulfilling life, characterized by dedication to his family, community, and his passions.

Gene spent 25 years as a purchasing agent for Peerless Premier, where his work ethic and commitment were highly valued. His true passions, however, were beyond his professional life. Gene was an avid theater enthusiast and spent many years coaching baseball and basketball, imparting life lessons to the youth of his community. In his younger days, he enjoyed bowling and was always a loyal fan of his family's various pursuits, offering unwavering support and encouragement. A life well celebrated, Gene will be remembered for his cheerful and engaging personality.

Gene is survived by his devoted partner, JoAnn Brave of O'Fallon, Illinois. His legacy is carried forward by his four beloved children, Ben Reynolds (Mary) of Pleasant Plains, Illinois, Susan Reynolds (Jerry Hagen) of San Diego, California, Joe Reynolds (Emma) of San Diego, California, and Peter Reynolds (Brandon McShaffrey) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is also survived by his four stepchildren, Michael Brave of St. Louis, Missouri; Rollie Brave (Bonnie) of O'Fallon, Illinois; Steve Brave (Kim) of Marion; and Carol

Balding (Mike) of Marion.

Gene's family also includes his daughters-in-law, Irma Reynolds of Champaign, Illinois, and Lisa Brave of Highland. His cherished grandchildren were constant sources of joy, and he delighted in his role as a great-grandfather, with one great-grandchild already here and one on the way. Gene shared a close bond with his brother-in-law, Jim Hensley of Centralia, and his sister-in-law, Gerry Morgan (Jerry) of Montgomery, Alabama. His nieces, Norma Kramer and Sue Backstein of Decatur, also held a special place in his heart. A special thanks to his caregiver angel, Christina Shaak.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Letha Reynolds; his loving wife, Barbara Reynolds; his son, Paul Reynolds; his sister, Betty Hensley; and two brothers-in-law and one sister-in-law.

A memorial service honoring Gene's life will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2024, at 11:00 AM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia, Illinois with Monsignor David Darin officiating. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM, leading up to the service. Gene will be laid to rest at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Centralia, Illinois. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to HSHS Hospice 900 West Temple, Suite 101 Effingham IL, 62401, and will be accepted at Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services, located at 235 North Sycamore Street, Centralia, Illinois 62801, who is honored to be of service to Gene's Family. For further inquiries, please call (618)532-3523. Those wishing to extend their condolences online can visit [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) or the Funeral Home Facebook page, celebrating Gene's remarkable life and the love he shared with all who knew him.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

## Celebration of Life

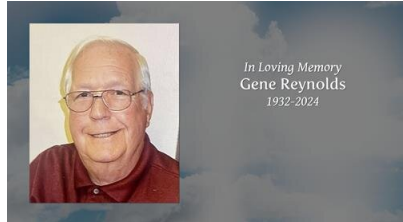
DEC **21**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph Eugene Reynolds*



**Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services** - December 20, 2024 at 04:22 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends!*

**Vickie & Wayne Houser** - December 20, 2024 at 10:09 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph Eugene Reynolds.*

December 20, 2024 at 08:58 AM



“ *Rick, Mary and Ted Monical purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Ralph Eugene Reynolds.*



**Rick, Mary and Ted Monical** - December 18, 2024 at 09:31 AM

RM

“ Rick, Mary and Ted Monical planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph Eugene Reynolds.

Rick, Mary and Ted Monical - December 18, 2024 at 09:31 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ralph Eugene Reynolds.



December 17, 2024 at 12:18 PM

JA

“ Rest in Peace, Gene. The man responsible for my nickname....AL Tuna....

Jim Altadonna - December 17, 2024 at 11:14 AM

DR

RIP Coach - Gene would pick me up  
If I didnt have a ride and take me to play baseball . I will never forget  
his  
generosity and his positive influence.  
My thoughts goes out to Ben and his family.  
including Ben

dan ramey - December 21, 2024 at 10:39 AM

PC

“ I met Gene and his family when my family moved to Centralia in the 1970's. They were always welcoming and kind to me and my very young family. When we moved to Belleville in the 1980's Gene joined with me and several other men who met regularly for lunch and friendly discussion. This group changed overtime because of death and people moving away but Gene was a faithful participant up until 2023 when we finally decided it was time to bring the Romeo group. (Retired Old Men Eating Out) to its final gathering. I always looked forward to seeing him weekly. His gentle good humor and wisdom brightened my day. I will always remember how he spoke of his family with such love and devotion. He was my best man when I married in 1990. He indeed was a best man. I will forever be grateful that he was a part of my life. May he rest in Peace.

Peter Cerneka - December 16, 2024 at 08:51 PM

JF

“ Joann, & the entire Brave Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Ralph Eugene Reynolds.



Joann, & the entire Brave Family - December 16, 2024 at 03:10 PM

JF

“ Joann, & the entire Brave Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph Eugene Reynolds.

Joann, & the entire Brave Family - December 16, 2024 at 03:10 PM