

WAUKESHA

Eugene 'Edward' Sherry*April 30, 1927 — Dec. 19, 2014*

Eugene "Gene" Edward Sherry, 87, of Waukesha took his final flight to his heavenly home on Friday, Dec. 19, 2014. He was born April 30, 1927 in Chicago.

He married Doris (Scheele) on June 20, 1953, in Waukesha.

Gene was employed as an aircraft mechanic at Crites Field/Waukesha County Airport for 38 years. His expertise in repairing light aircraft was much sought after by pilots throughout the Midwest, even after his retirement. Many area pilots are flying their airplanes today because of the engines on which Gene did complete restorations.

Gene also built five airplanes himself, the last of which was done over a period of several years in his home garage. One of Gene's home-builts was piloted

for years in air shows by well-known acrobatic pilot Bill Adams. Gene was the 83rd member of the Experimental Aircraft Association — a fact he proudly used on his "EAA83" personalized license plates for many years — and was friends with some of the pioneers of aviation in Wisconsin and the EAA. Gene's family was very proud of his career, especially in light of the fact he did not have the benefit of advanced education as a young man.

Gene was a longtime member of Ascension Lutheran Church in Waukesha.

He loved the Milwaukee Braves and the Vince Lombardi-era Green Bay Packers. He loved singing along to classic country music. He also loved to travel — one summer vacation included seeing both coasts on the same driving trip. After retirement he and Doris drove to Alaska and back. But most of all he loved his family, including his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren. There was nothing "Papa" would not buy, do or fix for his children or grandchildren. Having been raised in an orphanage, he truly cherished family.

He is survived by his wife, Doris, of Waukesha and their children, Nancy (James) Ciancimino of Caldwell, Sue (Terry) Stevens of Eagle, Mark (Laurel) Sherry of New Holstein, Karen (Steve) Kulinski of Waukesha, Julie (Geno) Galbari of Waukesha, and Michael (Kris) Sherry of Appleton; 13 grandchildren, Christopher Ciancimino, Krystina and Aaron Sherry, Caleb Kulinski, Jennifer, Taylor, Jayme, Caitlyn, and Ryan Galbari, and Jacob, Jordan, Joey and Jenna Sherry; three great-grandchildren, Keira and Kinsey Ciancimino and Logan Schmitting; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Visitation is scheduled for today, Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 10 a.m. to noon at Church and

Chapel Funeral Home, 380 Bluemound Road (highways J and JJ, four blocks south of Interstate 94) Waukesha, with the funeral to begin at noon. Burial will take place immediately afterward in Prairie Home Cemetery in Waukesha.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Ascension Lutheran Church or to the family to further the education of the children.

The family would like to especially thank sisters Sue, Karen and Nancy for their care of Dad and Mom over these last few years, and thank the staff of Linden-Grove in Waukesha for their care of Dad since suffering his major stroke on Sept. 30.

Church and Chapel Rudolph-Larsen Bros. is serving the family. For more information, call 262-549-0659 or visit www.churchandchapel.com.