



Gene Hayden

April 10, 2025

Gene Hayden

Gene Hayden was born on December 22, 1946 in Peoria, IL to Harriet (nee Pierson) and Frank Hayden. He was a miracle to them later in life, their only child, and they loved him dearly. From humble beginnings, he became a success by any measure. A 57-year marriage to the love of his life and his whole world, Barb (nee Sloop). Then came his proudest achievement in his children Kellie, Tim and Matt. He reveled in their activities and accomplishments throughout his life and was incredibly proud in the people they've become. Much of that is attributed to him and his support. He then took, probably, his finest role as a doting grandfather to Macy, Luke, Owen, Charlotte and Audrey. To them he was Papa, and he was always there for them and loved watching them grow.

Gene spent much of his professional career working in advertising at the Peoria Journal Star. His career spanned an illustrious 36 years where he made a profound impact on the people around him.

When not working, spending time with his kids or grandkids, you would find Gene on the nearest golf course. He loved the game and shared that with his family and friends. He was a friend to all and built many relationships at Arrowhead Country Club and Gulf Shores Country Club. He had the amazing ability to make people feel comfortable while also bringing humor to any situation.

He will be in heaven rooting for his beloved Bradley Braves, Notre Dame Fighting Irish, Chicago Bears and St. Louis Cardinals.

He is preceded in death by his mother (Harriet) and father (Frank). He is survived by his loving wife (Barb), his daughter Kellie Hoffman (Jim), Tim Hayden (Jennifer) and Matt Hayden (Sara) and his grandkids Macy, Luke, Owen, Charlotte and Audrey.

He will be missed dearly but will live with us forever.

Arrangement are being made at Cason Funeral Service in Foley, AL. A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

Tribute Wall



“ *Our cousin Gene will be sadly missed. We have fond childhood memories of Frank, Harriet and Gene making the trip to Waukesha by train during summer vacation. Gene was an integral part of the Pierson clan even though distance made for infrequent visits. Thankfully, the internet provided a link to keep in touch. Gene will forever be remembered for his love of family, his wit and his ability to always bring a smile.*

Our love and sincere condolences: Barb, Kellie, Tim, Matt and grandkids. God bless and keep you, Nancy, Bob, Warren, Don and Lois.

(We're sure the golf courses in heaven are lush and green :))

Nancy Strong - April 18, 2025 at 12:56 PM

AS

“ *Very sorry for your loss, worked with Gene for many years he will be missed*

ami suzuki - April 16, 2025 at 02:00 PM

DA

“ *Our prayers to Barb and family at the loss of Gene. I had many great times with Gene either working together at the journal star or playing golf. He was always upbeat with a kind word for everyone he came in touch with. He and Barb were very special to my wife and I throughout our lives as friends. Dave and Becky*

dave and becky auer - April 16, 2025 at 10:16 AM