



## Eugene Clinton Claassen

May 2, 1946 - October 30, 2023

Eugene (Gene) Clinton Claassen, 77, passed away on October 30, 2023, at his home in Marlin, Washington. He was born May 2, 1946, in Omak, Washington, the second child of Clinton and Evelyn Claassen.

Raised on the family farm in Marlin, Washington, he chose farming as his life-long vocation, actively farming until his final days. Both sons joined the family farm and worked by his side. All four grandchildren work on the farm in the summer where Grandpa taught them to drive grain carts and combine as well as hoe weeds. He was proud to work harvest with all the grandchildren along with his sons.

Gene began his education at Marlin Elementary School and graduated from Odessa High School in 1964. As a teenager he was baptized and became a member of Menno Mennonite Church where he remained an active member. He attended Whitworth University, then Bethel College, earning a BA in Industrial Arts in 1969. In Kansas at Bethel College, he met the love of his life, Dorene Flaming. Shortly before his graduation from Bethel, Gene and Dorene were married on December 23, 1968, in Goessel, Kansas.

Gene was known for service throughout his life. Following college, he and Dorene served two years in Colombia, South America, through the Mennonite Church. He then served the land by farming in WA. Community service

included the Odessa School Board, deacon at Menno Church, Samaritan Hospital Board, Odessa Trading Company Board and volunteer firefighter. Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, he traveled numerous times with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) to show Christ's love through clean-up and rebuilding. He became a regional leader of MDS and organized service projects in the Pacific Northwest. In his final years he served as caregiver for Dorene, his wife of 54 years.

Gene is survived by his wife Dorene; two sons and their families - Doug (Melissa) of Moses Lake, and Michael (Staci) of Marlin. He cherished his four grandchildren - Andrew, Zachary, Leah and Benjamin. He is survived by his three siblings; Sharon Meyer (Stan) of Moses Lake, Cleon Claassen (Elizabeth) of Moses Lake, and Patrice Claassen of North Newton, Kansas. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clinton and Evelyn Claassen.

An 11:00 AM memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at Menno Mennonite Church, rural Ritzville, WA. Memorial gifts can be made to Mennonite Disaster Service.

To join the livestream of the memorial service visit <http://Mennomennonite.org/gclaassen> (<http://Mennomennonite.org/gclaassen>)

# Cemetery Details

## Menno Mennonite Cemetery

Ritzville, WA

# Previous Events

## Service

NOV 11. 11:00 AM (PT)

Menno Mennonite Church  
1378 N Damon Rd  
Ritzville, WA

# Tribute Wall

VM

“ I am saddened to find out about Gene's passing. He was a great person to our family, especially my dad Isidro Pruneda. Dad worked many years for Gene and Stan, and he loved his job but most of all he loved being around them. When dad passed, they attended his service, and it was very heartwarming to us kids especially my mom. Although it has been many years since dad passed, we still remember them with much affection.

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**VALDEZ, MARI** - November 28, 2023 at 06:04 PM

GS

“ I went to 12 years of school with Gene, the memories I have of gene, Sharon and myself on the rides home from school. Gene was a soft spoken man that was very honest and friendly with everyone. I will truly miss you my friend. May Dorene and your family rejoice in all the people that called (Gene) friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Gary Schell** - November 08, 2023 at 04:53 PM

KJ

“ We remember Gene from the wonderful visits with my Dad, Willard Jantz, and later myself acting as manager for the PC Jantz Land Company. Gene and Dorene were always gracious and willing to take the time to show us the farmland and graciously shared meals with us. We will miss you, Gene. Our thoughts and prayers go to your family. Keith Jantz

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**KEITH JANTZ** - November 08, 2023 at 11:47 AM

MF

“ I remember how Gene was very willing and kind to play with me when we visited in 1956. He would have been 10 and I was 5. Then in 2011 when we visited Gene exhibited a genuine interest in us as if we saw him every day. Sympathies to all of you. Especially Dorene and family. May you feel God carrying you during this time. Sincerely in Christ, Mark & Veronica Friesen, Henderson, NE.

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**Mark Friesen** - November 07, 2023 at 02:21 PM

VJ

“ In memory of Eugene Clinton Claassen, Gene as we all called him.

*The Peter and Olga Jantz family also shares in the grief of the loss of Gene, a true friend, business associate, and relative. After his parents died, Gene was my main contact with my childhood home community. This was by letters, telephone conversations, and his trips to Kansas. Since the Triple C Land Co. farmed our family ground in Washington, Gene would always keep us informed about everything in the area: farming business, family, hometown of Odessa, the Menno Church, and all that was dear to us. On each of Gene and Dorene's trips to see their family in Kansas, he always included a stop at our home with a long visit. We will truly miss him but wish God's peace for Dorene and the family. Vern and Helen Jantz*

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**Vern and Helen Jantz** - November 07, 2023 at 12:18 PM