



## Mr. Robert Gene Kunkel

September 24, 1936 - January 20, 2021

Robert Gene Kunkel, 84, husband of the late Theresa L. Conner Kunkel, of 38 Mizzen Lane, Salem, passed away Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at Cottingham Hospice House.

A native of Clifton, TX, Mr. Kunkel was the son of the late Conrad A. and Geneva Obenhaus Kunkel. He was an Eagle Scout and avid outdoorsman. He loved his calling in life which was to be an engineer. After completing a Bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Texas (Austin), he married his high school sweetheart Theresa Conner and moved to Los Angeles where he worked for Rocketdyne, a company which made rockets for NASA. While working full time, he attended UCLA and completed his Master's degree in Engineering. 2 boys and 5 years later he moved the family to Valley Forge Pennsylvania to begin what would be a 32 year career with General Electric. He lived in Greenville, SC, Schenectady, NY, and Cincinnati, OH, and was involved with gas turbines, jet engines, lunar rovers, and rebreather technology for Navy Seal divers. In retirement, he was involved with numerous clubs, and activities, taught a weather class thru Clemson University and volunteered service to his community. Mr. Kunkel was a member of Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church, served as an Elder for the church, and was active member of the Golden Corner Lakes Power Squadron.

Mr. Kunkel is survived by his sons: Robert Mark Kunkel (Sandra) of Rochester Hills, MI, and Dr. Michael Ray Kunkel (Debra) of Anderson, SC; grandchildren: Robert Kunkel (Megan), Matthew Kunkel (Kristin), Christopher Kunkel, Zachary Kunkel, Dr. Dallas Kunkel (Elizabeth), Hannah Davis (Cory), Rachel Balsiger (Jesse), Sarah Groves (Jonathan), Ella Kunkel and Noah Kunkel; and great-grandchildren: Caleb Kunkel, Lorelei Kunkel, Lily Kunkel, Chloe Kunkel, Denver Kunkel, Jackson Kunkel, Emma Kunkel, Avery Davis, Ezra Davis, Charlotte Balsiger and Gray Balsiger.

A private memorial service was conducted at Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church, on January 23, 2021 at 10am in Seneca, SC.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Robert's memory may be made to Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church, c/o ESLC Elder's Care Fund, 220 Carson Road, Seneca, SC 29678 or Ripple of One, PO Box 1807, Seneca, SC 29679.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 23. 10:00 AM (ET)

Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church  
220 Carson Road  
Seneca, SC 29678  
(864) 882-3209  
[office@eternalshepherd.org](mailto:office@eternalshepherd.org)  
<http://www.eternalshepherd.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Robert Gene Kunkel*

January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM



“ *My sympathies to all of Gene and Theresa's family All these tributes are reflective of the man and his heart! I will also add my acknowledgement of his great technical mind that he brought to his engineering career and his boating pastime with weather and navigation expertise. What a great guy we have lost!*

*Paul Douglas*

**Paul Douglas** - February 11, 2021 at 12:45 PM



“ *Annette and I were truly saddened when we heard of Gene's passing. He lost a valiant battle and we will miss him. Our heart goes out to his family and trust the many good memories of Gene [and Theresa} will sustain them thru these difficult times.*

**Fred and Annette Bailine** - January 31, 2021 at 10:00 AM



“ *Gene and Theresa were long time friends that we got to know through the GE engineering community in Evendale, OH and Greenville, SC. They were such awesome people that will be sorely missed. A favorite memory are the float plane trips to Kaby lake in Canada. Duffy and I hold the family in our prayers.*

**Gerald Grove** - January 30, 2021 at 02:57 PM

PH

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you this sad time.



Patricia Holcombe - January 29, 2021 at 07:42 PM

JC

“ John & I always felt welcomed, loved, and pampered around Gene & Theresa (John's sister). Elegant entertainers! Lovable faith-filled family! 🕊️ All of you! 💖 Gracie

John& Gracie Conner - January 27, 2021 at 11:54 PM

KO

“ our prayers and sympathies are with your family at this difficult time. Our Dad Paul Ortiz worked with Gene at GE in Evendale. I remember when they were building there lake house in K.K Kathleen and Tish Ortiz

Kathleen Ortiz - January 26, 2021 at 10:52 PM

TZ

“ I think I speak for all the members of Golden Corner Lakes Power Squadron when I say that Gene's loss leaves a hole in our hearts. I will always remember him from the many photos we have of him being a goof ball for the camera (many with Theresa looking on indulgently in the background). I was terrified when I took the Squadron Weather course but Gene made it understandable and fun! He was a great man! Our love and prayers go to his family. I know your memories will keep him close in your hearts as in ours.

Teri Zahn

Teri Zahn - January 26, 2021 at 07:22 PM

RO

“ Gene and I taught many boating classes together. He was a wonderful instructor and was appreciated by his many students. His calm demeanor and sense of humor made his presentations very enjoyable.

*I will miss him.*

*Ron Osburn*

---

**Ronald Osburn** - January 26, 2021 at 07:18 PM

RS

“ We have lost a dear and valued friend and morn his passing. The only consolation is that he is no longer suffering and is once again with his lovely wife Theresa. Our hearts go out to the Kunkel family.

*Joan & Bob Stromberg*

---

**Robert Stromberg** - January 26, 2021 at 10:53 AM