



Gene Edward Ollila, 69, of Sturgis, SD, passed away on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at his home surrounded by his family, after a long struggle with cancer.

He was born on May 23, 1952 to Arthur and Mamie (Wood) Ollila. The family lived in Castle Rock, SD, where he attended Moreau Country School. The family moved to Newell and he attended and later graduated from Newell High School. He then enlisted in the Army and served in Vietnam. After he returned, he joined the National Guard, and

then started a career at Ft. Meade VA Hospital as a CNA for 20+ years. He truly loved working with the veterans. Helping people was what he did and what he loved to do. He also liked photography, carpentry, food, cars, scenic drives, sunrises, and spending time with family.

Gene attended church with his sister at Crossroads Assembly of God. He also volunteered for the Honor Guard, which he enjoyed. He was thoughtful and kind, always lending a helping hand with a smile, and he loved to make others smile and laugh. He would tell jokes and try to cheer you up when you were sad. He loved the Lord and he read his Bible daily. He gave the best hugs and always saw the good in everyone.

Gene married Julie Luongo and together they had two daughters, Jenny and Gina Ollila. They later divorced, and Gene then remarried and had a boy named Ryan Ollila. He loved his children very much and they never had to question that. It was always shown through his actions and his words. On October 11, 2012, he married the love of his life, Karen Vermundson.

Gene is survived by his children, Jenny Ollila (Layth Natschke), Gina (Adrian) Adams, and Ryan Ollila; his wife, Karen Ollila; stepdaughters, Meghan and Jamie Moore; his sisters, Violet Vasknetz, Beverly (Terry) Burgess, and Linda Nible; his grandchildren, Aaron and Audra Adams, Erika, Keely, and Tadem Ollila, and Beau and Hayley Ollila; and an aunt and uncle and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Mamie and Arthur Ollila.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

*Jesus said:*

*I am the resurrection and the life*

*Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live*

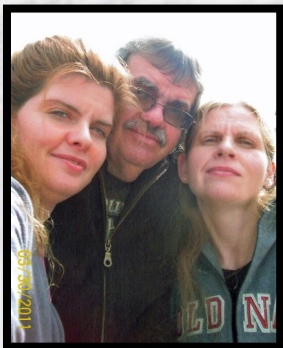
*And everyone who lives*

*And believes in me will never die*

*John 11:25-26*

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch at Crossroads Assembly of God in Sturgis following the committal services.*

*We thank you for your presence and condolences.*



*In Loving Memory Of*

**Gene Edward Ollila**

**May 23, 1952 ~ June 16, 2021**



## ***God's Garden***

God looked around  
his garden  
and found an  
empty place,  
He then looked down  
upon the earth  
and saw your tired face.  
He put his arms  
around you and  
lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful, He always takes the best.  
He knew you were suffering. He knew you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never get well on earth again.

He saw the road  
was getting rough  
and the hills were  
hard to climb.  
He closed your  
weary eyelids  
and whispered,  
"Peace be thine."  
It broke our hearts  
to lose you,  
but you didn't  
go alone. Part of us  
went with you  
the day God  
called you home.  
All of you who  
have loved ones,  
cherish them  
with tender care.  
You will never  
know the heartaches  
until they are  
no longer there.

## ***In Loving Memory Gene Edward Ollila***

### ***Born***

May 23, 1952  
Castle Rock, South Dakota

### ***Died***

June 16, 2021  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Memorial Service***

Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.  
Kinkade Funeral Chapel  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Officiating***

Pastor Linda Grenz

### ***Special Music***

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"  
"I Can Only Imagine" "Well Done"

### ***Honorary Pallbearers***

All Gene's Beloved  
Family Members and Friends

### ***Final Resting Place***

Black Hills National Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Military Honors***

Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard  
South Dakota Army National Guard

