

DONALD EUGENE STONE

Donald "Gene" Stone, 70. Gene Stone "joined our heavenly father" Wednesday, June 4, 2008, after a very courageous battle with cancer. His final day was spent at the Hospice Center of Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Gene was born in Wisconsin in 1937. He graduated from The U.S. Naval Academy and was an officer in the U.S. Navy until he began his career at Ideal Cement Company. Gene spent most of his career working for New York Life Insurance in Wisconsin, from which he retired and moved to Lakeside.

Gene enjoyed a very active life with his wife and friend, Judy, filled with family, adventure travel, skiing, sailing, hiking, camping and scuba diving. He was an active volunteer and thoroughly enjoyed his work at Big Mountain in Whitefish as ambassador ski guide. He also took great delight playing accordion with his friends at The Eagles Club in Kalispell and hiking with the local Trackers hiking club. He was an active member in the Optimist Club for many years and acted as president of his local chapter in Wisconsin.

Before his death, Gene made special mention of his dear friends in the Ambassador Club who were close to his heart, including Bob Kimball and George "Elias" Cross, who stayed with him through his illness and never let him down. Gene wanted to especially thank Rosie Olesen, who he felt was such a faithful friend.

Gene leaves behind his wife, Judy, and their five children, Michael, Matthew, Amy, Kristin and Jennifer. Gene and Judy have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Gene has three brothers, Richard, Bob and John, and a sister, Pam.

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