

Gene Windsor Murphy

May 12, 1937 – October 19, 2026

Gene Windsor Murphy, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, veteran, and friend, passed away on October 19, 2026, at the age of 89. Steadfast, devoted, generous, and kind-hearted, Gene lived a life defined by service to his country, dedication to his family, and a quiet willingness to help others. He was a grounding presence for those around him, a man whose strength was matched by his gentle nature and unwavering love for those closest to him.

Gene was born on May 12, 1937, in Chicago, Illinois, to Donovan and Hazel (Springer) Murphy. He spent his childhood in the small communities of Watertown and Waubay, South Dakota, where he developed a lifelong love of the outdoors. Whether hunting and fishing with his father or getting into just enough mischief with his friends on the South Dakota prairie, Gene's early years were filled with adventures that shaped the man he would become. Those childhood pursuits of hunting and fishing remained among his greatest pleasures throughout his life.

Gene graduated from Milbank High School in 1955, where he demonstrated an early flair for the dramatic, appearing in several school plays, including *Deadly Earnest* and *Elusive Bachelor*. Although the stage offered an opportunity to entertain, Gene had a different calling. Following graduation, he chose to serve his country by joining the United States Air Force, beginning a distinguished military career that would span two decades and take him around the world.

Gene entered the Air Force Aviation Cadet Program in 1958, earning his silver navigator wings and a commission as a Second Lieutenant. His military career was spent primarily with the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, serving as both a Navigator and Electronic Warfare Officer. Over 20 years, he flew more than 7,170 hours aboard 11 different aircraft, supporting missions that demanded exceptional skill, professionalism, and courage. His service earned him numerous military decorations, including 17 Air Medals and the Vietnam Service Medal. Beyond the awards and flying hours, Gene took particular pride in the people with whom he served and the opportunity to mentor others. His dedication, quiet confidence, and sense of duty made him a respected colleague and a lifelong role model for his two sons.

While the Air Force gave Gene a career he loved, it also brought him the greatest love of his life. At a Halloween party in Kansas, he met Beverly Jean Grantier, a young schoolteacher who would become his wife and lifelong partner. Gene and Bev were married on June 3,

1962, at the Forbes Air Force Base Chapel in Kansas, beginning a remarkable 63-year marriage filled with love, friendship, and shared adventures.

Together, Gene and Bev embraced the opportunities and challenges of military life. Their travels took them to Japan, where their first son, Daniel, was born, before returning to the United States and welcoming their second son, Bill, in Nebraska. Their journey continued to Alaska and eventually brought them back to Nebraska, where Gene completed his Air Force career and retired in the Papillion area. Through the many moves and demands of military service, Gene and Bev created a loving home and a partnership that remained strong throughout their lives.

Retirement from the Air Force was hardly the end of Gene's working life. He embarked on a successful second career in real estate with Action Real Estate, becoming a multi-year million-dollar seller during an era when the average home cost approximately \$21,000. His work ethic, integrity, and ability to connect with people served him well. After several years of helping families find homes, Gene began yet another chapter with the United States Postal Service, where he earned his 25-year Service Award Pin before finally retiring for good in 1999. Across three careers, Gene approached his responsibilities with the same steady determination and commitment that had characterized his military service.

When Gene finally retired, he embraced what the family affectionately knew as his "four seasons": golf, fishing, hunting, and computer season. The first three kept him outdoors enjoying the activities he had loved since childhood. The fourth was devoted to researching, comparing, and occasionally purchasing whatever new equipment he might need for the other three. Whether it was a new fishing gadget, hunting accessory, or golf equipment, Gene enjoyed the preparation almost as much as the adventure itself. More importantly, he enjoyed sharing those adventures with anyone interested in spending a day out on the course, at a lake, or out in the field.

For all his accomplishments, Gene's greatest pride was his family. He was a devoted husband to Bev, a loving father to Dan and Bill, and an especially proud grandfather to nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. His patience with his grandchildren seemed endless, and he always had room on his lap for a grandchild to climb on. He treasured family reunions in North Dakota, backyard barbecues, and meals at his sons' homes. Whether offering a helping hand, sharing a story, or simply enjoying time together, Gene made those around him feel welcome and loved.

Gene and Bev shared 63 wonderful years of marriage before her passing in February 2026. Their lives reflected a shared commitment to service, kindness, and family. Bev's passion for teaching and Gene's dedication to his country and community complemented one

another, creating a lasting example for their children and grandchildren. Though their passing came just eight months apart, the memories they created together remain a source of comfort and joy for those who knew them.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, Donovan and Hazel Murphy, and his beloved wife of 63 years, Beverly Jean (Grantier) Murphy.

He is survived by his sons, Daniel (Stephanie) Murphy and Bill (Natalya) Murphy; nine cherished grandchildren; one treasured great-granddaughter; and numerous friends.

The Murphy family extends its heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate staff at Fountain View Assisted Living, TheKey Home Care, Rose Blumkin Jewish Home and Peaceful Hearts Hospice, who provided Gene with care, comfort, and dignity during his final years. Their kindness and dedication meant a great deal to Gene and his family.

Gene Windsor Murphy lived a life of service, adventure, and love. From the skies above distant lands to the quiet enjoyment of a fishing trip or a grandchild on his lap, he found purpose in his responsibilities and happiness in life's simple pleasures. He will be remembered for his steady hand, gentle heart, and the reassuring knowledge that, whenever someone needed him, Gene was always there.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Gene's honor may be made to [Open Door Mission](#), reflecting the family's commitment to helping those in need.

A **Celebration of Life Open House** will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall at Fountain View, 5710 S. 108th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68137. As with Bev's celebration earlier this year, the family requests that you avoid black suits or dark clothing. Instead, please wear bright colors, share a favorite memory, and join us in celebrating a life well lived.



AN AIRMAN'S FAREWELL

If I should leave this world tomorrow,
Please do not grieve for me too long;
I've slipped the bonds of earthly sorrow
And answered duty's final call.

I wore the blue, I kept the faith,
I served with honor, calm, and grace;
Through silent nights and watchful days
And did the work I was sworn to do.

Now I have crossed the last horizon,
Beyond the reach of pain or fear;
I rest where quiet skies lie open
And know my watch is finished here.

The mission is complete,
The aircraft is secure,
The debrief is over,
And home is near.

Remember me in open skies,
In freedom's breath and sunlight's glow—
For I was part of something greater,
And proudly served... now cleared to go.

By: Oliver Sammons

IN MEMORY OF GENE WINDSOR MURPHY

DATE OF BIRTH	ENTERED INTO REST
May 12, 1937	October 19, 2026

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE
OPEN HOUSE**

Fountain View Assisted Living
Omaha, Nebraska
Saturday, October 24, 2026
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Omaha National Cemetery
Omaha, Nebraska

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Offutt Air Force Base Honor Guard

GENE'S LIFE STORY

Gene Windsor Murphy, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, veteran, and friend, passed away on October 19, 2026, at the age of 89. Gene lived a life defined by service to his country, love for his family, and a quiet willingness to help others.

Born May 12, 1937, in Chicago, Illinois, to Donovan and Hazel Murphy, Gene grew up in Watertown and Waubay, South Dakota. His childhood was filled with hunting and fishing alongside his father. He graduated from Milbank High School in 1955, where he enjoyed acting in school plays before answering a different calling: serving his country.

Gene entered the United States Air Force Aviation Cadet Program, earning his silver navigator wings and a commission as a Second Lieutenant. During his 20-year military career, he served as a Navigator and Electronic Warfare Officer and accumulated more than 7,370 flying hours aboard 11 different aircraft.

The Air Force also brought Gene the greatest love of his life. He met Beverly Jean Granter at a Halloween party, and they married on June 3, 1962, at Forbes Air Force Base Chapel in Kansas. Their 63-year marriage was filled with love, adventure, and devotion. Military life took them to Japan, where their first son, Daniel, was born, then Nebraska, where they welcomed Bill, followed by Alaska and eventually Papillion, Nebraska. Gene and Bev shared 63 wonderful years before her passing in February 2026. Together, they built a life grounded in love, service, and kindness, leaving cherished memories for generations to come.

After retiring from the Air Force, Gene became a successful real estate agent with Action Real Estate before starting a third career with the United States Postal Service.

In retirement, Gene enjoyed his famous "four seasons": golf, fishing, hunting, and computer season, when he researched and purchased equipment for the other three. He especially enjoyed sharing those adventures with family and friends. His patience seemed endless, and he always had room on his lap for a grandkid to climb on.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, Donovan and Hazel Murphy, and his beloved wife, Beverly. He is survived by his sons, Daniel (Stephanie) and Bill (Natalya) Murphy; nine grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Gene will be remembered for his steady hand, gentle heart, and unwavering devotion to those he loved. Whether serving his country, enjoying the outdoors, or holding a grandchild on his lap, he found happiness in life's simple pleasures. His was a life well lived, and his love will remain with those who knew him.

Services in care of
Kubler-Gross Mortuary
Papillion, NE



GENE WINDSOR MURPHY

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