



Eugene Petrovich

March 2, 1936 - July 14, 2025

Eugene (Gene) Donald Petrovich, 89, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 14, 2025, surrounded by his family. He had a life well-lived, always opting to 'take the scenic route,' with a boundless sense of curiosity and adventure.

Born on March 2, 1936, in Detroit, MI, Gene was the son of Eugene and Olga (Pisarov) Petrovich. Beloved father to his five children Millie (Rick) Buiteweg, the late Gino (Denise) Petrovich, Jenny (Bob) Kosnik, Julie (Devon) Hinkle and Andy (Carolyn) Petrovich, and proud grandfather to 13 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Leo Drekich, Peter Drekich, George Drekich and Milly Fotiades (Drekich.)

He worked as a tool design draftsman/engineer for Chrysler Corporation for 33 years. "Dr. Gino" made many life-long friends among his colleagues due to his sense of humor. In all areas of his life, he was a deep listener and was always attentive to what others had to say.

A proud first generation American, Gene never forgot his Serbian heritage. In his youth, he was an active member of the St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral-Ravanica. Over the years, he happily attended several Serbian golf tournaments at various locations throughout the country and numerous events at Serbian Hall.

All his life, Gene found joy in simple pleasures—walking through the woods, bicycling throughout his home town as well as across the globe, hiking national highpoints in addition to a trek through the foothills of the Himalayas. Most of all, he loved spending time on the upper deck of his river home, watching the water and soaking in the peace the view brought him. He never met a stranger, always offered a welcoming hand and opened his heart to people around him. His legacy lives on in every trail he walked, every story shared on the deck and at his kitchen counter, and every memory held dear by those he loved. He will be deeply missed.

Visitation for Gene will be from 3:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday July 18, 2025 at the Wasik Funeral Home – Gendernalik Chapel, 35259 23 Mile Road, New Baltimore. A private family burial will take place on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at Forest Lawn Cemetery, followed by a celebration of life 2:00-5:00 pm at Gene's residence.

Memorials may be made in Gene's honor to a local park or nature conservancy.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 18. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Gendernalik Chapel
35259 23 Mile Road
New Baltimore, MI 48047

Tribute Wall

MC

“*Sonny*” Petrovich was a member of the Serbian Singing Society Ravanica Church choir in the 1950’s. He had a great personality and was liked by all who know him. He impressed young people of that era by his character and that spiffy 1955 Red Ford Thunderbird he drove.

We will light a candle for him in Church.

Milan & Helen Chonich

Milan & Helen Chonich - July 23, 2025 at 06:01 PM

YV

“*Eugene—known as "Sonny" to many of us who knew him well—was my friend for over 80 years. We grew up together, walking to Keating Elementary back in the 1940s, and our families were close from the very beginning. His parents stood up in my parents’ wedding, a sign of the deep bond between us. I will miss my friend. Our deepest sympathy from Ivan and Mary Benda*

yvonne - July 18, 2025 at 07:22 AM

YV

“*The Benda girls are deeply sorry for your loss. We hold such fond memories of those special days when our family would head to Harsens Island, we often stopped at your parents’ house on the way there or back. Your dad was a cherished part of those times—always kind, always welcoming, and always making us laugh. His friendship with our father was something rare and beautiful, and we feel so grateful to have witnessed it. Sending love and heartfelt condolences to your whole family.*

yvonne - July 18, 2025 at 07:15 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eugene Petrovich.



July 17, 2025 at 08:46 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Eugene Petrovich.



July 17, 2025 at 08:25 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Eugene Petrovich.

July 17, 2025 at 08:25 AM



“ Kenny & Michelle Setzekorn purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Eugene Petrovich.



Kenny & Michelle Setzekorn - July 16, 2025 at 02:03 PM

KS

“ Kenny & Michelle Setzekorn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eugene Petrovich.

Kenny & Michelle Setzekorn - July 16, 2025 at 02:03 PM

AA

“ Sympathy to the entire family. So many fun memories of good times at the ‘cottage/house’. The world needs more “SONNY’S”. We’ll miss stopping by dropping off nut rolls and the porch chats.

Art & Kathie Cizmas Anderson - July 16, 2025 at 11:07 AM

RC

“ RIP Sonny you will be missed.

Richard Cizmas - July 16, 2025 at 09:58 AM