



## Eugene Richard Swedo

February 22, 1919 - August 2, 2020

Eugene "Gene" Richard Swedo passed away peacefully on August 2, 2020, at the age of 101 in Northern Virginia. Born on February 22, 1919, to Andrew and Barbara (Piecuch) Swedo in Chicago, IL, Gene was devoted to his faith, his family, and his love of learning.

Gene married his beautiful wife Jo-Lynn (Pagoria) in 1948, and together they raised their three children in Mt. Prospect, Illinois where they were members of Saint Raymond Catholic Church for 55 years. Gene enjoyed working. During the day he was an accountant with A.B. Dick Company, and in the evenings and on Saturdays he sold appliances at Carson Pirie Scott & Co, Landwehr, and finally retired from Novak and Parker Home Appliance when he was 91. When not working, his favorite Sunday pastimes were taking his children and grandchildren to museums, cultural events, country drives, and grocery shopping.

Gene had an insatiable curiosity and was an advocate of lifelong learning. His passion for learning took hold while serving his country in World War II where Gene studied at some of the nation's finest universities as part of a special Russian Learning Program with the United States Army Air Forces. Under the GI Bill, he graduated from Northwestern University in 1955 with a degree in accounting. He continued to take courses at Harper College and Roosevelt University for the pure love of learning until his mid-90s. It was rare to find him

without a book in hand, and often he could be found at the local library. His example inspired many to pursue their education. Gene transitioned from student to teacher in his 80's when he began tutoring English as a second language. In 2013, at the age of 94, Gene was awarded the State of Illinois "Spotlight on Service" award for his volunteer service. A modest and unpretentious man, Gene was a devout Catholic who was extremely proud of his Polish heritage. In 1999, one of the highlights of his life was when he went to Krakow Poland to study for a semester and took a side trip to the Vatican in Rome to have an audience with Pope John Paul II.

Gene was preceded in death by his father, Andrew, his mother Barbara, his wife Jo-Lynn, and his two brothers Leonard and Edwin. He is survived by his sons Jeffrey (Jill) Swedo of Newport Beach, CA; Gregory (Susan) Swedo of McLean, VA; his daughter Barbara Tookey (Chuck Snider) of Rougemont, NC; ten grandchildren (Jack, Christopher, Jenessa, Elizabeth, Emily, David, Katie, Michael, Ashlyn, Matthew); six great-grandchildren (Connor, Paul, William, Leo, Rose, and Genevieve); and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Hwy, Alexandria, VA on Thursday, August 13 at 11:30 am, followed by interment at Quantico National Cemetery, 18424 Joplin Rd, Triangle, VA at 2:00 pm.

A special thank you to all the staff at Sunrise at Mt. Vernon and Capital Caring Adler Center for their excellent care and kindness. In lieu of flowers and in Gene's memory, please consider assisting someone with their educational goals or English skills.

# Cemetery Details

## Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Rd  
Triangle, VA 22172

# Previous Events

## Service

AUG 13. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
8710 Mount Vernon Highway  
Alexandria, VA 22309  
<https://www.gs-cc.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Eugene Richard Swedo

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ Gene - and his whole family - will be so terribly missed at our Sunrise at Mount Vernon. His highly intelligent wit and wisdom kept us on our toes(!), and his gentle delivery made us all want to stop and listen to whatever he had to say. I will, personally, never forget his helping a few of our residents and team members with their English. He was a true gentleman and gift to our community. I want to thank his family for entrusting us with his care. ~ Patty Bragg

Patty Bragg - August 12, 2020 at 10:02 PM



“ Uncle Gene was a wonderful man. He inspired many and was a great example of how to live a good life. God bless you all and may God comfort all of his family. With our love and prayers, Rita Rohn and Family xoxox

Rita Rohn - August 12, 2020 at 11:35 AM



“ I will greatly miss my church friend and will always think of him in the 1st Pew with his loving family. Love and prayers. God bless, Rhonda Miller

Rhonda Miller - August 11, 2020 at 08:16 PM

BS

“ His family has my thoughts and prayers.....  
101 years! Amazing! He has gone beyond  
death to new life....He is having a great time  
today!

*Bro Sean McLaughlin, SDS*

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**Bro Sean McLaughlin, SDS** - August 11, 2020 at 05:04 PM

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“ What a lovely man Me. Swedo was. And what an inspiration! I have  
no doubt he was doing research up until the end. A job well done.  
Godspeed.

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**Amy Reynolds/formerly at Sunrise** - August 04, 2020 at 02:27 PM