



## Gene Salazar

October 24, 1940 - September 18, 2013

Gene Salazar, died on Wednesday September 18th, 2013 at home in Napa, with his family that loved him so very much.

Gene Salazar was born on October 24th 1940 to Guadalupe and Elena Salazar in Madera, California. The family moved to Napa Valley in 1943 where gene attended the two room schoolhouse in Rutherford. Graduating from St. Helena High School on 1958, gene then attended Fresno State University before enlisting in the Navy in 1959. Stationed in Hawaii, Gene served in the Submarine Force Pacific Fleet as a Sonarman on the "USS Gudgeon SS 567" and on the "USS Sterlet SS 392".

Gene began his career in Banking as a Teller at B of A in the sixties where he became a loan officer, followed by Security National Bank in Walnut Creek. Gene married Tonia in 1970 and soon joined Napa Valley Bank as a Loan Officer. An MBA graduate of Pacific Coast Banking School, Gene managed branches in Yountville and Napa, becoming Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer before retiring in 1989, when the Bank was sold. NVB had a great group of people that still get together for luncheons, remembering all of the fun times together.

Gene was a member of the American Legion, Moose Lodge and SIR ( Sons in Retirement ) in Napa. Gene was also an early member of Leadership Napa Valley.

Gene and his wife Tonia owned Design Showcase from 1990 to 2006, where Gene was able to share his wealth of construction knowledge designing kitchens and baths for so many wonderful people throughout the valley and Bay Area. Always a teacher, Gene gave his time and knowledge working alongside many friends and family, AKA the " Weekend Warriors" helping with various projects.

Together Gene and Toni shared a love for food, cooking and entertaining with family and friends. Gene was a phenomenal cook and combined with his quick wit and great sense of humor, they always had a great time.

As a husband and father, in good times and bad, Gene always found the right way to work through it all. Our family was so very lucky to have him, he was "simply the best".

Gene is survived by his wife of 43 years , Tonia, son Michael Salazar of San Diego, daughters Holly (Mike) Clark and Gina (Joe) Rasler of Napa, brother Robert (Ellen) Barberi of Napa, sisters Jane (Frank) Ashley of St. Helena and Virginia Swope of Nevada.

Grandchildren, Samantha, Gage, Daniel, Allison, Joey and Ryan.

At Gene's request, there will be no funeral services.

A special thank you to Kaiser Hospice of Vallejo, his wonderful caregivers and the 24 Hour on-call staff that are always there for you. Memorial Gifts in Gene's name can be made to Kaiser Hospice of Vallejo or Vine Village of Napa for the Developmentally Disabled.

# Comments

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“ Dear Toni and Family,

I was so sorry to hear of Gene's passing; I was looking forward to seeing the two of you and reminiscing about our time spent together at the Clear Lake house. Our shared experience (via John Miller at Clear Lake) brought you both to me as friends. I only wish the time had not been so short.

My condolences and love to all of you. Gene will be missed and was a steady light in this world.

Love,  
Candace Besso



**Candace Besso** - October 20, 2013 at 04:12 PM

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“ Tonia and family:

A message of condolence from another satisfied remodeling customer. I should first identify myself. I am Ron Medrud from 3880 Young Avenue, still there after 36 years. My wife, LaVerna, who died a year ago March, was responsible for everything that I am about to describe except for paying the bills, which I did.

This was 1997 and we had just paid off the mortgage. One day she said that we should do some remodeling. I always trusted her judgment so I said OK. Turns out she was already to go. She said that she wanted Gene to do the work. She also wanted Van Windens to redo the landscaping but that's another story. Both jobs took about six weeks so we ate out every night. Thank goodness for all of the good restaurants in Napa.

Gene was the general contractor and so took care of all of the subs. Every one showed up on time, stayed until they were finished, and did a first class job. I still get compliments about the cabinets from people who don't believe that they are that old.

Gene and LaVerna hit it off from the beginning. That is no surprise because they were both very outgoing people who could talk to anyone.

You may remember this story. It was good for laughs between those two more than once. This evidently happened just before he started on our house. A lady in the neighborhood over on Montrose Street had just had Gene install a new kitchen. After it was done she decided that she didn't like it and so had it reinstalled in the garage and had another new one put in the kitchen. It's not hard even today to tell which house it is because everything outside is manicured like a women's face.

Let me finish by saying that you and I have this in common, many mostly good years with a devoted spouse but there weren't quite enough of them were there?

Ron Medrud

Ron Medrud - September 30, 2013 at 06:24 PM

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“ Toni and family, I am sorry to hear about Gene's passing. I have such great memories of him at Napa Valley Bank, and my mom (Mary Andersen) thought the world of him. Please take care, sincerely Patty (and Michael) Ashauer.

Patty Andersen-Ashauer - September 29, 2013 at 09:44 PM

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“ Toni & kids, so sorry to hear of Gene's passing....we have so many fun memories from the Napa Valley Banking day, the parties, the laughter....Gene's extreme wit and humor always made these times extra special. I sorry for the suffering he may have experienced and happy to know he isn't any more. I know he's is so missed by so many. Thinking of all of you, wishing you comfort. Barbara Francom-Speck.

**barbara speck** - September 27, 2013 at 04:54 PM

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“ In one of the stars I shall be living  
In one of them I shall be laughing  
And so it will be as if all the stars are laughing  
When you look at the sky at night

...and there is sweetness in the laughter of all the stars...and in the memories of those you love.

~The Little Prince~  
Antoine de Saint-Exupery

With heartfelt sympathy,  
BobbieAnne Mealey & Larry O'Brien

**Barbara** - September 26, 2013 at 01:09 PM

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“ Our condolences on Gene's death. Gene and Rich grew up together and Rich has so many memories of the fun times they shared. Rich and Sarah Simpson

**Sarah Simpson** - September 26, 2013 at 12:12 PM

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“ Dear Toni & Family

Betty and I are so sorry to hear of Gene's passing. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this time of sadness. We send our deepest condolences and sympathy. I cherish those days that I was privileged to work for you folks at Design Showcase. One of my memories was when I had been driving just a short time for you maybe my second or third trip and I had hit the mirror of the truck on the tunnel coming out of Oakland headed for Concord, I was so panicked, I didn't know what to expect when I got back to Napa. Gene handled the situation so calmly and Toni you were so kind and made me feel so much better. I appreciated and enjoyed working for you folks during those years and just wanted you to know that I enjoyed you all at Design Showcase.

Joe & Betty Neff

Joe Neff - September 25, 2013 at 02:50 PM

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“ Our hearts go out to Gene's family. The few times I met Gene, he was always warm and willing to help. The lessons and memories that Gene, has left will be with you forever.

Love, Lorraine Fingerson-Cohen

Lorraine Fingerson-Cohen - September 25, 2013 at 01:29 PM



“ Dear Toni and Gina,

Tom and I were so sad to hear about Gene's death. We were happy to have known Gene and have always been thankful for the help and warmth that you all shared with us throughout the years. I know that many thoughts will crop up daily and am certain that your close family will bring you much comfort.

Warm regards, Tom Edwards and Gloria Gutierrez

Gloria Gutierrez - September 27, 2013 at 02:37 PM