

Gene Russell, beloved husband, father and grandfather, age 84, departed this life peacefully, surrounded by his family, on June 7, 2020. Gene, son of Carl and Dorothy (Anderson) Russell, the fourth in line of 10 children, was born July 27, 1935, at the family farmstead northeast of Courtland. He attended Park Hill School, and graduated from Courtland High School in 1953. Gene was united in marriage to Joanne (Bengtson) Russell on December 27, 1967, in Lindsborg. They were blessed with two children, Barbara and Jay. Gene was a life-long farmer and rancher, farming with his brothers, son and nephews. This included more than five decades with his brother Chester. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1953 – 1955, being stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. He returned from the army, and briefly attended Fort Hays State University, before returning to Courtland to spend the remainder of his life.

A friendly and ornery soul, Gene loved a good conversation. He thoroughly enjoyed family gatherings of any type where he could talk with his kids, grandkids, brothers, sisters and other family. He would spend all day at the Russell Family get-together every year, soaking in his family discussions. Gene didn't know a stranger, and would talk to other farmers at the sale barn, or befriend someone he didn't even know, to talk about farming. In later years, he enjoyed his morning drive around the countryside, checking in on things, and people became familiar with his white pickup as a constant at those times of day. He and Joanne raised their family going to the Ada Lutheran Church, rural Courtland. He loved his wife, and was very proud of his kids and grandkids.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Chester and Jim Russell, sister and brother-in-law Phyllis and Bill Mahin, brothers-in-law Ralph Sothers and Ron Sothers, and niece Kayleen (Sothers) Clark. He is also preceded in death by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Linus and Ragnhild Bengtson, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Norman and Ingrid Bengtson, nephew Doug Bengtson, and son-in-law Gil Gregg.

He leaves behind to mourn his passing his wife of 52 years, Joanne (Bengtson) Russell, daughter Barbara Nebbeling and her husband Dirk of Dodge City, son Jay Russell and his wife Jenny of Courtland; six grandchildren Emma Keeten (Caleb), Olivia Gregg, Allison Gregg, Betsy Gregg, Owen Russell and Alyssa Russell. Gene is also survived by his brothers and sisters; Beverly Sothers of Courtland, Max Russell and his wife Kay of Wamego, Maxine Fredrickson and her husband Jan of Quinter, Ken Russell and his wife Mary of Abilene, Charles Russell and his wife June of Nelson, Nebraska, Penny True and her husband Don of Council Grove, sister-in-law Mildred Russell of Courtland, sister-in-law Verlee Russell of Beloit, brother-in-law Gordon Bengtson of Lindsborg, sister-in-law Kathryn Fellman and her husband Steve of Mohnton, Pennsylvania, many nieces and nephews, and numerous other relatives and friends.

Memorials are requested to Solomon Valley Hospice or the Pike Valley Foundation, and may be sent in care of the funeral home.





*A golden heart stopped beating, Hard working hands at rest
It broke our hearts to see you go, God only takes the best.*

*They say that memories are golden, Well maybe that is true,
But we never wanted memories, We only wanted you.*

*Your life was love and labor, Your love for your family true,
You did your best for all of us, We will always remember you.*

*We sat beside your bedside, Our hearts were crushed and sore,
We did our duty to the end, 'Til we could do no more.*

*In tears we watched you sinking, We watched you fade away,
And though our hearts were breaking, We knew you could not stay.*

*Our lips cannot speak how we loved you, Our hearts cannot tell what to say,
But God only knows how we miss you, In our home that is lonely today.*

*Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home, Belleville
www.tibbettsfischerfuneralhome.com*

In Honored Memory Of

Warren Eugene "Gene" Russell

Entered This Life

July 27, 1935

Departed This Life

June 7, 2020

84 years ~ 10 months ~ 11 days

Memorial Service

Friday, June 26, 2020 ~ 3:00 p.m.

Ada Lutheran Church ~ rural Courtland, Kansas

Officiating

Mary Lou Anderson, PMA

Pianist

Leigh Gritten

Soloist

Randy Paugh

Readings & Scripture

Doris Bergstrom

Sharing of Family Memories

Barbara Nebbeling

Musical Selections

"It Is Well With My Soul"

"In the Garden"

"How Great Thou Art"

Nephews as Honorary Casket Bearers

Mark Russell ~ Jon Russell ~ Darin Russell

Greg Mahin ~ Bill Mahin ~ Joel Mahin ~ Jeff Sothers

Sean Russell ~ Patrick Russell ~ Todd Fredrickson

Kris Fredrickson ~ Scott Russell ~ Bryan Russell

Larry Russell ~ Eric True

Inurnment with Military Honors following Service

Military Honors by U.S. Army Honor Guard, Fort Riley, Kansas

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery ~ rural Courtland, Kansas

Memorial Service for Gene Russell

Gathering and Family Entrance – *Vocal solo : It Is Well With My Soul*

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

PASTOR: Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Obituary and Sharing of Family Memories

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 121; Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8; Revelation 21: 1-5 1
Corinthians 15: 42-44 55-57

Gospel: *please stand* John 14: 1-4

Homily

Vocal Solo: In The Garden

Intercessory Prayers - response: "Hear us Lord"

The Lord's Prayer

Commendation

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace. ...

Recessional – *Vocal solo: How Great Thou Art*

Following the Memorial Service, please join us as we process to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, north of Courtland.

Committal Service for Gene Russell

Opening Prayer - I know that my redeemer lives and at last will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side , and my eyes shall behold not another.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Grace and Peace from our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

Let us pray

Gracious God, in loving care your hand has created us, and as the potter fashions the clay, you have formed us in your image. Through the Holy Spirit you breathed into Gene and into all of us the gift of life. We claim your love today as we commit his ashes to the ground there resting place. Thanks be to you, oh God, for you give us the victory through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

A reading from John: Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Where I am, there will my servant be also

Pastor: In sure and certain hope of resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brother Gene and commit him to his resting place. Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him. The Lord's face shine upon him with favor and give him peace. Amen

Rest eternal grant him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.

The Lord's prayer (all)

Pastor: Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen Let us go in peace

Military Honors conducted by US Army Honor Guard, Ft. Riley, Kansas.

Following the Memorial Service, please join the family at the Courtland Arts Center for food and fellowship.