

August 6, 1936 ✨ September 27, 2025

Eugene “Gene” Birk

Eugene “Gene” Birk, 89, passed away peacefully in Manteca, California. Born on August 6, 1936, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Gene lived a full and generous life defined by service, hard work, and an enduring love for his family.

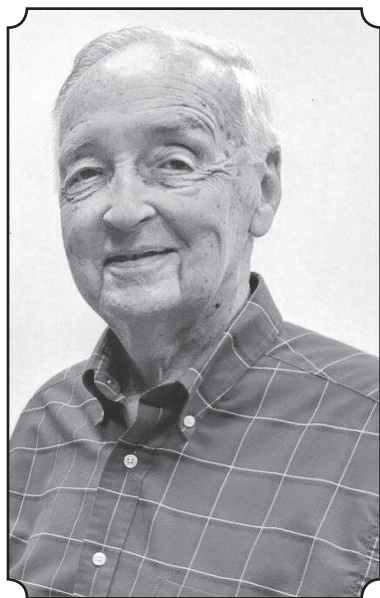
A proud United States Marine, Gene joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1954 — remarkably, while still a Canadian citizen. He served with honor as part of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS Rochester until 1958. The family often laughed at the irony that Gene was a sea-going Marine who never learned how to swim.

After his military service, Gene built a long and respected career in the banking industry. In the later part of his career, took a bold step forward, founding and opening Tracy Federal Savings & Loan, leaving a lasting mark on his community.

Gene’s commitment to community service in Tracy was extraordinary. He was a member of the Tracy Breakfast Lions Club and the Tracy Elks Lodge #2031, and played a key role in Tracy’s Sister Cities programs in Memuro, Japan, and Velas, Azores, Portugal.

He served on the Tracy Parks & Recreation Commission, the DVI-Citizen’s Advisory Committee, as well as Tracy’s Good Samaritan Community Services and the Tracy Public Cemetery Board of Trustees.

Of all the causes he supported, two were closest to his heart: Brighter Christmas of Tracy, and the Boys & Girls Club of Tracy. Having experienced a humble and meager upbringing, Gene made it his mission that no child should miss out on the magic of Christmas. That mission became Brighter Christmas, which has supported over 27,500 local families over



the last 45 years. Gene considered this one of his greatest accomplishments — an effort he always credited to the dedication of hundreds of volunteers and the generosity of the Tracy community.

Gene is survived by his beloved wife of 30 years, Karen Birk and their sweet pup, Cookie. As well as his children: Sheri Dentone (Bud), Cindy Schock (Greg), and Rodney Birk (Linda), as well as two bonus children, Matthew and Sean Atkinson.

Gene’s legacy continues through his seven grandchildren, four bonus-grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and two bonus great-great-granddaughters.

A special thanks to Dr. J. Patel, and to Gene’s amazing caregiver’s Gloria Andres, Raquel Ramos and Rowena Andres, from Diamond Care Inc.

We know when Gene reached the heavenly gates, his Master replied:

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master’s happiness!” — Matthew 25:21

A Celebration of Gene’s Life will be held at the Tracy Elks Lodge, 6400 Eleventh St., on November 22nd at 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Gene’s memory to Brighter Christmas of Tracy, <https://brighterchristmas.org/donate/> or mailed to P.O. Box 642, Tracy, CA 95378, or to the Boys & Girls Club of Tracy, www.bgctracy.org/donate/#donate, or by mail 753 W. Lowell Ave., Tracy, CA 95376.