



Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, Nevada 89431

Contact: Christie Kalkowski
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Biographical Sketch: Gene Wahlstrom



Calvin “Gene” Wahlstrom, 61, passed away tragically on September 1, 2008, in an accident doing what he loved to do most in life - fighting wildland fires, just north of Reno, Nevada, in his Tanker 09.

Gene was born to Leonard and Maxine (Shurtz) Wahlstrom on October 14, 1946, in Ogden, Utah. He graduated from Ben Lomond High School in 1965, and attended Weber State. After high school, he enlisted in the Navy, and served on river patrol boats in Vietnam.

Gene married Joyce Ashbaker on September 3, 1976, in Kaysville, Utah. His numerous passions and hobbies included professional drag racing, skiing, Harley’s, and Model A Fords. He was an avid sports fan – New Orleans’ Saints, Weber State University football, and the Ogden Raptor were among his favorites. Gene and Joyce traveled extensively, were members of the Beehive Model A Club and the Ogden Harley Owners group.

He spent 11 years as a lineman for Utah Power and Light, where he received an award for saving a fellow lineman who had been electrocuted. Gene was licensed as a pilot in 1979. During his flying career, he flew any craft from small Cessnas to commercial jets. He flew fire retardant tankers, smoke jumpers, “infra red” missions, and lead planes during his wildland fire fighting career. Most recently he was employed as Chief Pilot for Neptune Aviation Services of Missoula, Montana.

Beloved Family Members and Friends: Gene is survived by his wife, Joyce, brothers Gary (wife Yvonne) and Alan (wife Betsy) from California, sister-in-law Carleen Ashbaker, Layton, Utah and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Donations: Donations in Gene Wahlstrom’s name may be made to Neptune Aviation, 2 Corporate Way Missoula, MT 59808. These donations will be dispersed to his favorite charities.

Cards and Letters: Please address your envelopes to the same above address.