



## Eugene "Gene" Bower

April 15, 1932 - February 28, 2021

Eugene "Gene" Bower, 88, a longtime resident of Petroleum, passed away on Sunday afternoon, February 28, 2021, at IU Health West in Avon, Indiana. Gene was born on April 15, 1932, in Wells County, Indiana, to Merl & Bessie (Yoder) Bower. He graduated from Petroleum High School and served his county in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. When he returned home, he worked as a general laborer and then a supervisor at Franklin Electric in Bluffton for 40 years and retired in 1990. Gene was a member of Sonlight Wesleyan Church and the American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton. He served on the board of Stahl Cemetery for many years and was very involved in taking care of the cemetery grounds.

On May 12, 1952, in Red Key, Gene and Rose Ann Williams were married. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Rose Ann of Twelve Mile and children: Susan (Mark) Cochran of Pueblo West, Barry (Rhonda) Bower of Markle, Robert (Tara) Bower of Warren and Scott (Rachel) Jellison of Twelve Mile. He was a loving grandpa to 20 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren with 2 on the way!

He is preceded in death by his parents and sisters Norma Bower and Betty Smith.

A celebration of Life Service will be held on 3 P.M. on Saturday (March 6, 2021) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Rev. Lyle Breeding officiating. Friends can visit with the family from 2 to 3 P.M. on Saturday, prior to the service. Burial will follow the service at Stahl Cemetery

with Military Honors by the United States Air Force and American Legion Post #111 Honor Guard.

Friends wishing to watch Gene's service can do so from the safety of their home, utilizing a Zoom Meeting. You can login using the Zoom Meeting I.D. # 850 1354 8359 and you can login after 2:45 P.M. on Saturday.

Memorials may be made to Stahl Cemetery Association and can be sent to the funeral home.

The safety of the family and all visitors is our utmost priority. For everyone's safety, we ask that you practice social distancing. Masks are required for visitation and for the service. During the current guidelines, we are only allowed a limited number of people in the building at a time. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Stahl Cemetery

3191 E 700 S  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 6. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## ZOOM LINK TO WATCH THE FUNERAL SERVICE

MAR 6. 2:45 PM (AKT)

You can watch Gene's service by utilizing a Zoom Meeting. You can login using the Zoom Meeting I.D. #850 1354 8359 and you can login after 2:45 P.M. on Saturday.

## Celebration of Life Service

MAR 6. 3:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>



# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Eugene "Gene" Bower*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - March 06, 2021 at 11:21 AM

DS

*I'm a bit late but send sincere condolences to Gene's family. I worked with Gene and Barry both at Franklin Electric. The doctor said you need to walk so fast so many times for heart health....so Karen and I walked with Gene on breaks and lunch. I'm 5'3", keeping up was a chore but we all chatted and walked and got er done! A great memory! It paid off as Gene lived a long life I'm happy to see. Prayers to the family for continued healing. DebiSmith*

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**Debra Smith** - April 15, 2021 at 04:40 PM



“ *Eugene "Gene" Bower*

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September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ 17 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - March 06, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ 10 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - March 05, 2021 at 05:31 PM



“ 119 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - March 05, 2021 at 03:30 PM

LR

“ *My sincere condolences go to the family of Gene. Rose Ann is a dear friend, and my education "mom". I know how she adored Gene, and relied on him. May God grant you all His Peace in coming days and months. Hold tight to your precious memories!*

*Linda (Cherry) Reiff (Taught at SW for 36 years - starting at Petroleum with Rose Ann right next door in the office!)*

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**Linda Reiff** - March 05, 2021 at 01:59 PM

BL

“ *We are so sorry to hear of your loss!  
Gene was an amazing, kind man and we were honored to have him as a wonderful neighbor for so many years.  
Heaven gained a special Angel!❤️*

*Bonnie (Williams) Lennon*

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**Bonnie Lennon** - March 03, 2021 at 10:28 AM

BA

“ He always treated Bob and I like family. Liked his humor and smile. Prayers for the family. 😞

Bob and Anne Abbott - March 03, 2021 at 06:48 AM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" Bower.



March 02, 2021 at 07:42 PM

BO

“ I was so sorry to hear of Gene's death! He was a staple around Petroleum when I lived there, growing up! Hugs and sympathy to Rose Ann and the family! 💕🙏💕. Barbara (Baker) Overdeer Columbia City

Barbara Baker Overdeer - March 02, 2021 at 05:46 PM

SD

“ I am so sorry to hear of Gene's passing . Thoughts & Prayers for his family.

Sandra Kirkwood Davis - March 02, 2021 at 01:54 PM

RR

“ Extending our deepest sympathy to the Bower family. Will be keeping all of you in our prayers.

Rodney & Nola Rains & family



Rodney & Nola Rains - March 02, 2021 at 10:21 AM

KS

“ *Thinking of you during this time. Kathy Barker Spaulding*

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**Kathy Barker Spaulding** - March 01, 2021 at 10:31 PM

GS

“ *Loved the Bower family and spent alot of time in their home! Will always remember Gene growling about having a snow plow and no snow for the first few years after buying it! He would have had fun with it this snow the last couple weeks! He will be missed!*

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**Guy Studebaker** - March 01, 2021 at 06:25 PM