

In Memory of Gene Kelley – October 4, 2016

Gene Kelley was a founding Board Member of the Sagamore Council in the 1970's and had an enormous impact on program of Scouting for the next 4 decades. His impact was especially felt in the area of training during his tenure. Gene's passion was Wood Badge and his impact reached thousands of volunteers in multiple councils because of his leadership. The Executive Board is working on a way to ensure Gene's Wood Badge legacy continues. If you would like to make a contribution in Gene's memory to this project, please do so by sending a check to the Sagamore Council and on the memo line of the check, put Gene Kelley tribute. Since Gene was a private man and did not like much fuss, a number of individuals missed his obituary. It is included below.



Eugene W. Kelley, a much respected friend and Scouter, passed away on September 1, 2016 in Kokomo at the age of 95. He will be greatly missed. Gene was active in Scouting for most of his life. He served as both a Scoutmaster and Cubmaster and served more than forty years as a member of Sagamore Council's Executive Board. In 2001 he was appointed a Sagamore of the Wabash by the Governor of Indiana.

Gene was born in Chassell, Michigan on January 18, 1921 and married his late wife Catherine in 1944. His academic achievements included a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State College, M.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a PhD in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Michigan. He also was a member of the academic honor societies Tau Beta Pi, Scabbard and Blade, Mortar and Ball, Sigma Xi, Sigma Gamma Tau, Phi Lambda Upsilon, and Phi Kappa Phi.

Gene was a veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict. He retired from the US Marine Corps in 1962 as a Lieutenant Colonel with 21 years of active service, initially as a rifle company officer and then as a fighter pilot. From 1967 to 1996 he was employed as a research metallurgical engineer at what is now Haynes International. He served as Chairman of the Purdue Chapter, American Society for Metals, and also as Chairman of the Central Indiana Section of the American Institute of Mining Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers.

Burial will be in the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Buchanan, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made in Gene's memory to the Grace United Methodist Church Scholarship Endowment Fund. Messages of condolence may be left online at www.shirleyandstout.com.