



Eugene "Gene" Ralston

September 5, 1940 - April 23, 2024

Eugene Bowers "Gene" Ralston, 83, Topeka, Kansas, passed away on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

Gene was born in Wichita, Kansas, on September 5, 1940, the son of Julian and Virginia Bowers Ralston. He graduated from Wichita East High School in 1958, Wichita University in 1963 and Washburn University Law School in 1966. He was the founding partner of Ralston-Pope-Diehl Law Firm. Gene married Diane Michaelis on August 25, 1978, in Topeka. After they were married, they started Ramich Farms in 1978, starting with Thoroughbred Horses but realizing American Quarter Horses was the direction the Farm needed to go. Gene was a successful Horseman. Ramich Farms won American Quarter Horse Breeder of the Year and raised several champions. Gene's favorite horse was First Regards.

Gene was a member of the Fairfield Polo Club and played Polo from the ages of 14 through 23; he was a goal 3 player. He was also a member of numerous trial law organizations, which include the American, Kansas, and Topeka Bar Associations, Association of Trial Lawyers of American and the American Board of Advocates. The one enjoyed most was the Lawyers Club in Topeka. Gene had been bestowed many honors from various associations and it never felt as though he wanted to be the recipient of those honors. Gene shunned the accolades of his success because he did not do it for notoriety.

Gene's love for the law was in his ability to use it to help the poor, the injured and the disadvantaged. He felt his greatest success was changing the law to protect children and people with disabilities from being taken advantage of. He was one of the lead attorneys in changing the law regarding heart transplants. Gene was involved in requiring psychologists and psychiatrists to disclose dangers patients may pose to others around them.

Gene is survived by his wife, Diane; children, Christopher Ralston (Sarah), Kirstin Ralston-Coley, Jason Ralston, Blair Ralston and Paige Spirk (Joe); grandchildren, Josh, Jon, Xavier, Olivia, Sam, Austin, Copeland, Emma, Triston, Ashton, Dean, Morgan, and Nolan; siblings, Bill Ralston (Shirley), Peggy Poma (Richard) and Sue Hatfield; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, and uncle, Eugene Jackson Ralston "Uncle Jack."

Gene's family said a long goodbye, they will never forget who he had always been to us as a devoted and loving father, grandfather and husband. Even as Gene deteriorated, never too far from him were the very best parts of himself.

Visitation will be 10 a.m. Friday, April 26, 2024, at Christ the King Catholic Church, 5973 SW 25th Street, Topeka KS 66614, where a rosary will be prayed at 11 a.m. and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. Private inurnment will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery. His Mass will be live streamed on the Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home Facebook Page.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Eugene B. Ralston Law Alumni Scholars Fund (held at Washburn University) or Helping Hands Humane Society and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 26. 10:00 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church
5973 SW 25th St
Topeka, KS 66614-1973
(785) 273-0710

Rosary

APR 26. 11:00 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church
5973 SW 25th St
Topeka, KS 66614-1973
(785) 273-0710

Mass of Christian Burial

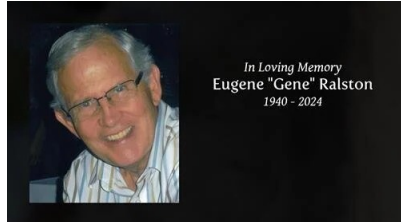
APR 26. 11:30 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church
5973 SW 25th St
Topeka, KS 66614-1973
(785) 273-0710

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Eugene "Gene" Ralston



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - April 25, 2024 at 05:21 PM

MB

I was honored to get to take care of Gene later in life. He always made me laugh with his quick wit come backs. Diane I am so very sorry for your loss and I miss seeing you as well!

Melanie B - April 25, 2024 at 10:12 PM

GL

My condolences to Diane and the family. Gene was a wonderful person. Gene and Diane were great sponsors for our youth basketbal teams for years.

Gregory Laird - April 26, 2024 at 10:02 AM

LB

I have many wonderful memories of Gene! My deepest sympathy to you, Diane, and your family.

Lee Barnett

Lee Barnett - April 26, 2024 at 01:46 PM

MS

*Diane, my family and I are so saddened to hear about the passing of Gene. He was a wonderful man and will be missed by many. Hold the memories close until you get to meet again. Sending all of our love and comfort to you and your entire family and all of those that loved Gene.
Ben & Mary Simecka & family*

Mary Simecka - April 26, 2024 at 05:58 PM

MH

“*Dearest Diane, we have fond memories of you and Gene and the horses at the farm, and many more than that! We are so sorry for your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. All our love, Mike and Chris.*

Michael and Christine Hutton - May 04, 2024 at 04:05 PM

BC

“*Diane and Family -*

I just now found out of Gene's passing and am so very sorry. I was Gene's legal assistant for at least 25 years. By far - my most favorite. He treated me more like a daughter than his assistant. I have many great memories of Gene and am blessed to have worked for him for all of the years I did.

Diane - my prayers are with you and your family.

Barb Cobuluis - April 29, 2024 at 07:39 PM

IB

*I worked for Robert Buck attorney. Mr Buck sent Gene all our medical malpractice cases. Gene was so sincere and cared for each person; he was especially caring when the injured was a child. One child he represented had red hair. Gene said: "He reminds me of my son, Christopher." It broke his heart. Gene was a good, kind person and he knew everything about the law.
I am so very sorry about your loss. Sincerely, Ila Cheatwood Bridwell.*

ila cheatwood bridwell - October 19, 2025 at 12:17 AM

CO

“ Cem O. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eugene "Gene" Ralston.

Cem O. - April 27, 2024 at 01:55 PM

PI

“ Dear Diane and family,
Please accept my deepest condolences.
Gene was my friend and mentor.
Pedro Luis Irigonegaray

Pedro Irigonegaray - April 26, 2024 at 03:29 PM

BC

“ Diane - I am so sorry to here of Gene's passing. It is Peggy and my prayer that you can find the peace and comfort that only our Father in Heaven con give, and he freely gives to those who ask. God bless you and your family in this time of grief.
Bill Caton

Bill Caton - April 26, 2024 at 02:38 PM

CM

“ Diane & family,
Sorry to read this news today. I'm sure you have many cherished memories that will give you peace.
Cheryl McCrite

Cheryl McCrite - April 26, 2024 at 02:08 PM

PP

“ A good person. A great trial lawyer. I'm glad to have known Gene.

Paul Post - April 26, 2024 at 06:57 AM

MS

“ My deepest condolences to the family of Gene Ralston. Losing someone so close is so hard, my prayers go out to all of you.
M. Srinivasan



MaryCarmen Srinivasan - April 26, 2024 at 01:01 AM

AH

“ Gene, or "Gene-o" as we loved to call him, was a beloved friend of mine and it was an honor to take care of him. One of my favorite memories of Gene is playing music and singing along together. I miss you dearly my friend. Diane, I am so sorry for your loss, it was a pleasure to get to know you as well.

Annie H - April 25, 2024 at 09:43 PM

MW

“ I had the pleasure of knowing and befriending Gene in the latter part his life. I enjoyed his company and friendship. We enjoyed just getting together and talking about everything under the sun. I never knew Gene in his earlier life, but I've been impressed reading all the great tributes from friends and family. Diane, you did a great job and I'll always admire you for your constant love and dedication to Gene. My prayers go out to all.

Mark Wallace - April 25, 2024 at 06:32 PM

CA

“ Clint Bowyer Autoplex purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Eugene "Gene" Ralston.



Clint Bowyer Autoplex - April 25, 2024 at 03:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" Ralston.



April 25, 2024 at 10:52 AM



“ Colleen E. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eugene "Gene" Ralston.

Colleen E. - April 25, 2024 at 10:38 AM



“ Im sending my symphaty to the family of Gene may Gene rest in peace 🙏 ☐ terry I glenn

Terry I glenn - April 25, 2024 at 10:16 AM



“ Gene was a lead defense Attorney for State Farm in the Topeka area for many years. In 1978 I was in claim school in Bloomington Illinois. During a lecture the teacher, who had been in Topeka before being promoted, related a case how great State Farm uses the best attorneys . He saw a case where a man got sued for calling another person a SOB. The case was tried and Gene the defendant's attorney proved the plaintiff was an SOB.

Dana Joens - April 25, 2024 at 07:59 AM

K(

“ Ketti, Faith & Jeremy (Palubinski) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eugene "Gene" Ralston.

Ketti, Faith & Jeremy (Palubinski) - April 25, 2024 at 07:45 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Eugene "Gene" Ralston.



April 25, 2024 at 07:45 AM

MK

“ Diane and Gene never knew a stranger. I don't know which one of them had more energy? We met them through church and children's theater activities. When we lived in Topeka Paul and I were always welcome in their home. I loved standing in their driveway chatting about their horses as we looked at memorabilia. Gene loved life and embraced its challenges and successes. He made a difference in the lives of those who were lucky to know him.
May God continue to bless and support his family during this passage of time.
Paul and Mary Kopp

Mary Kopp - April 25, 2024 at 07:02 AM

MR

Diane and Gene always welcomed my boys as family. When they spoke of him he was Uncle Gene. Joe loved working the ranch for Gene and Diane. The younger boys loved hanging out there or lending a hand. A wonderful atmosphere for my boys to be in as teenagers. Gene was very helpful to me later as I needed advice or legal help. His memory is cherished by my family. Rest In Peace my friend. See you on the other side.

Marsha Ralston

Marsha Ralston - April 25, 2024 at 12:11 PM

RP

I am so glad to hear from you Gene thought a lot of you and the kids

Ron Pope - April 25, 2024 at 02:38 PM

RS

“ *Diane, Paige and Family,
I am so saddened to hear of Gene’s passing. What a wonderful man and good friend. I hope you many memories of his life with you will provide comfort.
May God Bless,*

Rick Strecker - April 24, 2024 at 10:41 PM

RP

“ I knew Gene by reputation, long before I got to meet him. He was a legend as a trial lawyer. Our first encounter was in the courtroom. Gene was a true competitor. We were before a judge who was known not to put up with any BS. As we were picking a jury. Gene moved for a mistrial. We got into an argument as it got more heated the sheriffs were called and we ended up in the Judges chambers. Neither one of us would give in. Neither one of us gave the judge a chance to talk. Realizing he had lost control, the judge left, and Gene and I were arguing in front of two sheriffs.

Shortly after that, I heard from a mutual friend that Gene had hired me. I called him up and asked him What was going on? His only response is he forgot to call me and tell me. After that, he and I started a long relationship as law partners and friends.

It was an honor to work with him. It was a privilege to call him my friend. He was an amazing man and an amazing lawyer. *Memento mori* Latin phrase Meaning remember we all must die. This was said by the Romans In conjunction with the phrase *Memento vivere*; remember we all must live

From his family to his law practice to his love of animals

Gene had a thirst for every minute never afraid of a challenge never shying away from a risk. Gene lived every minute to its fullest. We all know we will die he always remembered to live. I will miss our long talks as we solved the problems of slow horses, negligent corporations and anything else that came to mind together over coffee in the morning.

Ron Pope - April 24, 2024 at 10:02 PM

DK

“ *Di and Gene treated us as family when we lived in Topeka. Gene and I went to law school together. A couple always in our hearts and minds. He was a warrior at the bar. May his memory be a blessing to Di and all of Gene's family and friends. David and Roberta Knudson*

David Knudson - April 24, 2024 at 08:15 PM

MK

Diane and Gene never knew a stranger. I don't know which one of them had more energy? We met them through church and children's theater activities. When we lived in Topeka Paul and I were always welcome in their home. I loved standing in their driveway chatting about their horses as we looked at memorabilia. Gene loved life and embraced its challenges and successes. He made a difference in the lives of those who were lucky to know him. May God continue to bless and support his family during this passage of time. Paul and Mary Kopp

Mary Kopp - April 25, 2024 at 06:57 AM

TF

“ *The Fulbright Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Eugene "Gene" Ralston.*



The Fulbright Family - April 24, 2024 at 05:48 PM

BR

“ *God bless your family.*

Barb and Greg Reser - April 24, 2024 at 02:38 PM

PP

Diane, I'm so sorry to hear of your husband's passing. He sounds like an amazing man, just like you are to so many children in our community. Hugs. 🤗

Patti Porubsky - April 24, 2024 at 03:50 PM

DS

*Diane & family, Prayers & condolences to you.
Diana Sutphen*

Diana R Sutphen - April 26, 2024 at 08:04 PM