



Gene LaVerne Woodhams

January 19, 1926 - December 17, 2025

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved Mom and Grandmother Gene LaVerne Woodhams, 99 of Fife Lake, Michigan. Gene gained her Angel wings at her home surrounded in love with family. Gene was born in South Boardman, MI on January 19, 1926. She was the oldest daughter and fourth of six children of Seymour Willard and LaVerne Eliza Ryckman (Jenkins).

Gene graduated from Kalkaska Public Schools in 1942 and went on to Central Michigan University where she graduated with her Bachelor of Science Degree and later went on to complete her master's degree in education. Gene LaVerne Ryckman married the love of her life Victor James Woodhams Sr on June 19, 1949 in Lansing, MI. They were married for over 50 years before Victor gained his angel wings in 2000. During that time, they had one child, they bought the what turned into the family farm on Shippy Road, where they spent the rest of their lives together. Their shared passion for farming and family built the foundation of generations to come.

Gene started her career at Springport Public Schools, from there going to Merrill Public Schools before moving to Fife Lake, MI where Gene taught briefly at Fife Lake School before spending the remainder of her teaching career at Kalkaska Public Schools. Gene taught Business, Home Ec, and English. After retirement from teaching, Gene spent her time tending to gardens, growing beautiful flowers, instilling life lessons in her Grandchildren, and hosting wonderful family get togethers. Gene was a member of the East

Boardman United Methodist Church, Red Hat/Purple Dress Association, Kalkaska Education Association, National Education Association, Michigan Education Association, and while in college was part of the Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority House.

Gene was preceded in death by her parents, husband of 50 plus years, Victor J. Woodhams Sr, Grandson Josiah Woodhams and brothers Devere, Seymour, Willard, and Clesson Ryckman. Gene will be forever remembered by her son Victor J. (Carolyne) Woodhams Jr of Fife Lake, MI; Grandson Victor J. (Charlotte) Woodhams III of Delton, MI, Granddaughter Eliza (Ray) Cummer of Fife Lake, MI, Granddaughter in Law Nikki Woodhams of South Boardman, MI; Great Grandchildren Rowynn Eldridge, Colt, Lennon, and Bodie Woodhams, Ray Cummer III, Victor IV, Clifford, and HeatherAnn Woodhams; sister Virgil Uitvlugt; as well as many extended family and friends. Visitation will be held at the Kalkaska Funeral Home on Monday, December 22nd from 5 to 8pm with the funeral being held on Tuesday, December 23rd at 11am, final visitation will begin at 10am, also at the Kalkaska Funeral Home with a luncheon to follow at the Fife Lake American Legion Post 219. Burial will take place in the spring at Lodi Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Kalkaska Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Lodi Cemetery

5219 M-66
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **22**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Final Visitation

DEC **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Funeral Service

DEC **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kalkaska Funeral Home
152 S. Cedar
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-3346

Tribute Wall



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Gene LaVerne Woodhams.*



May 13 at 11:49 AM



“ *She was a great teacher. She taught me accounting in the early 70's. She will be missed. May she rest in peace.*

Carolyn (Grove) Prentice - December 24, 2025 at 06:58 AM

KA

“My memories of Auntie Gene span a lifetime. She was Mom’s only sister, and not just someone I heard stories about—she was an intricate part of my life. One Christmas, with a gift budget of just 25 cents, Mom and Auntie Gene decided to buy their four brothers a “penny pad and pencil.” That clever choice left just enough for them to treat each other to a bottle of nail polish priced at 12 cents.

Another favorite family story is when Gene and Virgil decided to make cupcakes—in the family’s actual ceramic mugs. Of course, the handles broke when the “cupcakes” were baked. Their Aunt Bert quipped that it was a good thing they hadn’t tried making a pot roast... because that would have been a “chamber pot roast”!

When you came for a visit, Auntie Gene would hold your face in her hands and plant a kiss right on your lips—her way of making sure you felt truly welcome.

When David and I got married, Gene and Vic couldn’t attend the wedding because Uncle Vic was in the hospital. Although we had planned to visit bed-and-breakfasts along Michigan’s west coast, we decided to stop in Traverse City to see Uncle Vic. Not only did we get to visit him, but we also spent the night with Auntie Gene and Jamie in the family farmhouse. David and I often joked that we invited a lot of family and friends to the wedding—but only Auntie Gene to the honeymoon.

We are so grateful for all the gifts she gave us—her love, her laughter, her stories, and the warmth that made every moment with her unforgettable.

Kathy - December 23, 2025 at 06:36 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gene LaVerne Woodhams.



December 21, 2025 at 07:42 PM



“ Cliff and Heather Willson purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Gene LaVerne Woodhams.



Cliff and Heather Willson - December 21, 2025 at 01:50 PM



“ The S. J. Ryckman Family - Dayton, Ohio purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Gene LaVerne Woodhams.



The S. J. Ryckman Family - Dayton, Ohio - December 20, 2025 at 10:30 PM



“ The S. J. Ryckman Family - Dayton, Ohio planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene LaVerne Woodhams.

The S. J. Ryckman Family - Dayton, Ohio - December 20, 2025 at 10:30 PM

TF

“ *The Doug Ryckman family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Gene LaVerne Woodhams.*



The Doug Ryckman family - December 20, 2025 at 08:10 PM

CR

“ *Craig, Kathy, Natalie, and Grant Ryckman purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Gene LaVerne Woodhams.*



Craig, Kathy, Natalie, and Grant Ryckman - December 18, 2025 at 10:42 PM

CR

“ *Craig, Kathy, Natalie, and Grant Ryckman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene LaVerne Woodhams.*

Craig, Kathy, Natalie, and Grant Ryckman - December 18, 2025 at 10:42 PM

Jl

“ *Not only was Gene a family friend, we went to church with her for years. I also had her for a teacher in high school. She was such a loving, caring lady. She was such an encourager to all. My sister and I were privileged to visit and share memories with her summer before last. We treasure those and the hugs we got when we left. Much love and condolences to the family. We will all miss her!❤️*

Julie Ingersoll - December 18, 2025 at 06:27 PM

RO

Mrs. Woodhams was one of my high school teachers, and she was a good one. She taught many classes, but the one I remember best was "shorthand" and you learned well from Ms. Gene.

*I was always glad to see her anytime we had the chance to meet. I am sorry for her passing, but she had 99 good years. If I remember correctly, I believe her birthday was in January. My sincere condolences to all of her family. May you rest in peace Ms. Gene!!
Patty Jackson Rodgers*

Rodgers - December 19, 2025 at 11:22 PM