



Paul "Gene" Determan

October 31, 1941 - January 1, 2026

Paul Eugene "Gene" Determan

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Gene Determan passed away on January 1, 2026, in Houston, Texas. He was born October 31, 1941, in Marshalltown, Iowa to Paul and Mary Determan. Gene served in the US Army and was a Vietnam veteran. In the late 1970s, Gene and his longtime friend and business partner Darwin Merrill co-founded Determan and Merrill Ltd., a Marshalltown based company specializing in railroad abandonment work. After years of traveling the U.S. to remove thousands of miles of abandoned track, the company became a contractor for the Union Pacific Railroad in the late 1990s. This work also required extensive travel across the country. They handled many projects over the years but mainly followed the steel gangs re-laying new rail. Gene retired in 2017 at the age of 76, though he remained co-owner until August 2024, when both he and Darwin retired for good.

Gene loved flying – he owned several airplanes over the years – and riding his Harleys. He was also an avid collector, especially of guns, with a deep appreciation for fine craftsmanship. Above all, he enjoyed sharing stories about the thousands of miles he traveled and the many states and cities he worked in.

Gene will be remembered for his devotion to his family, strong work ethic and service to his country.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Ann Determan; his children Jackie

(Eric) Tretten, Terri (Carlos) Madrid, Andi Determan (Mark), Jonathan (Molly) Determan and Michael Spell; his grandchildren, Etta, Bret, Kim, Brianna and Caitlin and 5 great grandchildren; his sisters, Pam (Roger) Detrich and Deb (Jack) Jennings; and many nieces and nephew.

Viewing will be 5-7pm, Wednesday, January 7 at Davis Greenlawn in Rosenberg, Texas. Services will be Thursday, January 8, with viewing at 10am and services at 11am at River Pointe Church in Richmond, Texas.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Memorial Park

3900 BF Terry BLVD
Rosenbug, TX 77471

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

River Pointe Church
21000 Southwest Fwy
Richmond, TX 77469
(281) 277-6767

Burial

JAN 8. 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Greenlawn Memorial Park
3900 BF Terry BLVD
Rosenbug, TX 77471

Tribute Wall

TE

“ I met Gene when I grew up with his family, Jeri, Terri and Andi (had to be 40 years ago)(9th grade and up. I remember him as a big burly, no shit kind of guy. When I heard the news my heart sank! My condolences to the family. He was one i guy I thought would never die! You will be truly miss Gene. Terri and Andi, I am so sorry for your lose. If you need anything that I can do please contact me. I love yall and the whole family! Take care and God Bless the Determan family. Tamara Juhl-Tilley (Ellis) Gene you will be missed!

Tamara Kay Juh-Tilley Tammi Ellis - January 18 at 03:56 PM



“ So sad to hear... I worked for Gene and Darwin for 5 years tearing out rails in the '80s.. he was a hell of a guy!

Larry Edberg - January 09 at 07:21 AM

RP

“ Gene had a very successful backhoe business in Marshalltown Iowa. In 1978 I was pouring foundations and wanted to start my own business. Gene invested with me by using a backhoe for collateral and we made one of his dump trucks into a form truck. We drove it down to Kansas City and drove back loaded with forms. I bought out his interest and ran the business for 31 years before selling to my foreman. I am very grateful to Gene for helping me start my own business. . . . Gene was also a big and fast and very hard hitting football player in High School at Laurel, Iowa. Many have said he could've played college ball and maybe beyond. Russ Paul, Marshalltown Iowa

Russ Paul - January 08 at 10:10 AM

DJ

“ One of my first employers around 50 years ago in Iowa. Good Friends then and forever.
Dan & Jean Johnson.



Dan Johnson - January 07 at 07:24 PM

MB

“ Gene was one of the best guys I've ever had the privilege to know and work with.

Mike Bullis - January 07 at 03:17 PM

BB

“ Bj, Garrett, Nikia and Emily Babin purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Paul "Gene" Determan.



Bj, Garrett, Nikia and Emily Babin - January 07 at 12:15 AM

MC

“ Much love, Lanette Hartzog & crew purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Paul "Gene" Determan.



Much love, Lanette Hartzog & crew - January 06 at 07:05 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Paul "Gene" Determan.*



January 06 at 02:38 PM



“ *Duggan Hartzog planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul "Gene" Determan.*

Duggan Hartzog - January 06 at 02:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Paul "Gene" Determan.*



January 06 at 02:09 PM



“ *Darwin Merrill purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Paul "Gene" Determan.*



Darwin Merrill - January 05 at 04:52 PM

DM

“ Darwin Merrill planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul "Gene" Determan.

Darwin Merrill - January 05 at 04:52 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Paul "Gene" Determan.



January 05 at 02:15 PM

ET

“ Energy Workforce Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul "Gene" Determan.

Energy Workforce Team - January 05 at 02:15 PM

JG

“ Jennifer Gradwell purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Paul "Gene" Determan.



Jennifer Gradwell - January 05 at 09:16 AM

JG

“ Jennifer Gradwell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Paul "Gene" Determan.

Jennifer Gradwell - January 05 at 09:16 AM