



Eugene "Gene" Edward Sekora Jr.

February 28, 1953 - November 20, 2018

Eugene Edward Sekora Jr., 65, of Raleigh, North Carolina, was born in Warren, Ohio. He was the eldest of four children born to Laura Elizabeth Crawford Sekora and Eugene Edward Sekora Sr.

Eugene, who went by the names "Gene, Eddie, or Sensei" died from Acute Myeloid Leukemia on Tuesday, November 20, 2018, at Duke University Hospital with his family by his side.

Gene was a veteran of the US Marine Corp (active duty from 1972-1976). He then graduated from Kent State University in 1980 with a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics. For over 30 years Gene worked as a Performance Analyst at the IBM Corporation. Gene was also a 6th degree Black Belt in Isshin-Ryu earning him title of Rokudan and a 4th Degree Black Belt in Aikido which earned him the title Shihan. Before his death, Gene bravely battled cancer and a blood disorder since 2007.

Gene is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Dawn Sekora; eldest Son, Marc Sekora; youngest son Christopher Sekora (Christina); his grandson, Jackson Sekora; his siblings, brother Joe Sekora and sisters, Pauline Sekora and Christine Sekora. Gene was preceded in death by his parents, Laura and Eugene Sekora.

A memorial mass will take place on Saturday, March 8th 2019 at the St. Mary of the Angels Chapel at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church at 1:00 p.m.

Family request memorial donations be made to the V Foundation <https://www.jimmyv.org>

Condolences: [RFHR.com](https://www.rfhr.com)

Events

MAR **Memorial Mass**

01:00PM - 02:00PM

9

St. Mary of the Angels Chapel at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
11401 Leesville Rd, Raleigh, NC, US, 27613

Comments



“ Gene is missed so much. I was blessed to know him and his beautiful family. A true friend. He made me laugh and will always be Remembered as a kind, loving friend. To Gene's family, my prayers and love are with you. You all have a price of my heart. Memories never forgotten. Rest In Peace now in the hands of God. "Cheryl Cheryl"



Cheryl Barker - December 09, 2018 at 02:47 AM



“ There is a martial arts phrase that is Gene Sekora - Indomitable spirit... This was the best quote I could find that defines what I feel when I hear these words. "Breaking it down, indomitable means incapable of being overcome, subdued or vanquished. Spirit has a variety of meanings: the soul; the animating life force; the part of a person associated with the mind, will and feelings; strong loyalty and dedication. Spirit also means to impart courage and determination. Put together, indomitable spirit is that part of a person which makes them unique, that part of a person which provides hope, strength and courage to get up and face each day with a smile. Indomitable spirit is perseverance on a long term basis." Who can read these words and not think of Gene? I was very fortunate to know Gene, work with him and most importantly, call him my friend. As I told our IBM family when I shared news of his passing - Gene was the toughest, gentle man I ever had the good fortune to meet. I will miss you my friend...

Steve Mayer - December 04, 2018 at 03:35 PM



“ Eugene "Sensei" Sekora taught Ishinryu at the United Martial Arts Center. I first met him at St. Francis of Assisi where we just happened to start chatting and I learned of his interest in teaching martial arts. He joined our school and became a favorite and highly respected instructor. He was a perfect example of what a martial arts master should be. He was kind and caring of all his students, and an overall really good man.
I feel privileged to have known him.

Melody Clark - December 02, 2018 at 09:24 AM



“ Gene Sekora was a great friend and a great person. In all of my time working with Gene I never heard him speak harshly to another person, or negatively about another person, or participate in gossip, and, I never heard anyone speak negatively about him. Another thing that made him special was that he was always improving himself and helping others to do the same. When he was too exhausted to fully participate in class but still showed up to the school, he'd pull a chair up beside the mat and patiently help the lower ranks refine their techniques. Gene was an excellent martial artist in his own right. More than once I've told a new student that Gene could put his fist through them, he just didn't want to. He could easily have opened his own Karate school, but he chose to humble himself and start over with a different art taught by a younger guy with less experience. The most difficult long term goal for most martial artists is to overcome his or her own ego, which he had already accomplished before I met him. Gene was always willing to cast aside his own opinions and genuinely listen to what was being said by others. It reminds me of a quote by The Dalai Lama — “When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know. But if you listen, you may learn something new.” Even as a Shihan in both Aikido and Karate, which is the highest title awarded, he would take on the menial tasks of taking role, vacuuming the mats, rolling up the mats, teaching etiquette to new students, or anything that he noticed needed to be done. Sensei Roy Suenaka, the head of our Aikido organization and one of the most renowned martial artists in the world, upon discovering Gene wouldn't be returning to camp, gave Gene an honorary Shihan title. This was the only time I've heard of such a high rank being awarded as a “special promotion.” Sensei had wanted to formally test him 2 years prior but things didn't work out. Sekora Shihan held our school together when there was no one else who could. At times he was the only student and other times he was the only teacher. Gene Sekora Shihan was an amazing person and we're all better for having had him in our lives. We will miss him greatly.

Robbie Harris - December 01, 2018 at 08:12 AM



“ He was a smart, kind, a great personality. I had the honor to know him and his family since 2001. Rest in peace Gene.

Brenda Berry - November 30, 2018 at 08:48 PM



“ I worked with Gene at IBM for the last 6 years. He was a great mentor, teacher, and friend and I miss him tremendously. Never once did he ever turn me away when I needed help; that was his style...always willing to help and always willing to share his knowledge. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, children and family. God Bless you and God speed Gene.



Laura Casey - November 30, 2018 at 11:51 AM



“ Sadly missed by the Quinn/Kenney family. Gene was a wonderful man, and lifetime friend. Soar with the Angels our friend. Until we meet again, rest easy.



pam quinn - November 29, 2018 at 04:58 PM



“ Prayers to the family. I went to school with him and he was always a great person.

Linda Morris - November 29, 2018 at 04:52 PM