



Eugene R. Schellinger

August 15, 1941 - February 12, 2021

Eugene Ralph Schellinger passed into eternal life on February 12, 2021 at his home surrounded by loved ones, after a courageous battle with cancer. Eugene was born August 15, 1941 to Arthur and Natalia Schellinger. On August 20th, 1966 he united in marriage with Mary Lee Luedtke and enjoyed 55 years of adventures. Eugene was a successful dairy farmer in Hartford WI and upon retirement to Vilas County became a connected, passionate, and beloved entrepreneur after moving to the Northwoods in 1999 using his unique life experience and well taken care of equipment and tools, spent the next chapter of his life offering significant contributions to his new community. Eugene is survived by his wife, Mary Lee: five sons, Jeffrey (Debra) Schellinger, Glenn (Chris) Schellinger, Ted (Becky) Schellinger, Tony (Chalyse) Schellinger and Todd (Sharon) Schellinger. He had 8 grandchildren Tyler, Natalia, Jarvis, Cody, Benjamin, Maija, Tristan, and Noah Schellinger. Further survived by brother Franklyn Schellinger and In-laws Bonnie (George) Wiedmeyer, Linda (Ralph) Novotny, James (Debbie) Luedtke, Debbie (Randy) DeCaluwe, Diane (Roger) Becker, Kristine (Randy) Breber. Many nieces, nephews and special friends he'd spend hours chatting with over the years in his beloved "shop".

Whether it was something that needed fixing, lending a hand to friends or even strangers, planning his next hunt or bending your ear with one of his many stories. One such story was his final Moose hunt as told by Dave Page..

“We all have friends we can remember meeting years ago; maybe in grade school or when we started a particular job. My own best friend and hunting partner Stan and I met in late summer 1980, but that time frame is as close as I can get to the actual date. I know I met Eugene on September 6, 2019 at exactly 4:00 AM. That’s the day and time Stan and I picked up Eugene to start a three-day drive to British Columbia for a ten-day moose hunt and then three more days driving home. While many of you have known Eugene for decades, comparatively, I’ve known him only for a moment in time, but I’ll be forever grateful for that moment.

After 12 – 13 hours of driving, on that first day, we checked into our hotel in Saskatchewan and these three hungry guys headed to a restaurant next to the hotel and ordered two pounds of chicken wings and a poutine – if you don’t know what a poutine is, you can ask me or Google later. Those wings didn’t last long, and it was a unanimous decision to order two more pounds. Nearing the end of that order, Stan asked if we needed another pound and Eugene immediately said, “You better make it two”. Eugene and I had a good laugh after supper because Stan had offered to buy that night - six pounds of chicken wings, a poutine and just a few cocktails. I’ve purchased cars for less than the price of that glorious meal. There are a few other stories from that trip, which may or may not be exactly appropriate in this setting that you can ask Stan or me about later if you’re curious.

Over the next days of driving, we learned about swatted oats and how lucky these farmers were to have such large, flat and uninterrupted fields to plant. By the time we made our destination in British Columbia, I had gotten to know Eugene the farmer and the entrepreneur. At the end of those days driving, ten days in a very remote, and very small hunting shack and three more driving days back, I got to know Eugene’s heart and it was as big as those fields of oats and as wide as the love he had for his family and friends.

Evenings in the hunting shack were filled with stories and laughter, especially after Eugene got his moose on the first full day of hunting on our mountain lake. His German phrases, unique expressions and easy laughter made the

stories fun and entertaining. Sometimes the stories were less happy and at the end of them he might lean forward with a frown on his face and say, “what an episode that was”. Most often, the stories of his family and past hunting trips were great memories and ended with a big smile on his face and another, “what an episode that was”.

After tagging his moose, Eugene was left alone in camp each morning and sat alone until we returned, often at dark. That’s a lot of hours alone for several days in a row. Though Stan and I felt bad about leaving him there, we had to balance out our desire to tag a moose with concern for our friend. Eugene made it easy and never once complained about being alone all day. He did read every magazine he could find in the hunting shack. He learned how to prepare garlic toast on the wood stove one day and prepared some for each of us at dinner that night. Mostly, he unselfishly wanted to hear about the adventures of our day. Story telling each night would eventually include Eugene’s comments of the special comradery we all felt in that shack and often included a tear rolling down his cheek. You probably know better than me that Eugene wore his heart on his sleeve and spoke easily and without reservation of his love for others.

For each of us, our lives will write our story based on who we are and how we lived and some of us will have a short story that may be marginally interesting to a couple of people. A very few others lived a life, when written, can only be an epic novel. Eugene’s life is such a story, an epic novel; it’s a story that doesn’t end with his passing. His last chapters have yet to be written by all of us, his family, and friends he cherished so completely. It is our honor and responsibility to write his last chapters through the telling and retelling of his story in the years to come.

We all have our own idea of what happens after our passing. I personally believe there is something for us when our time on earth comes to an end and we pass from our physical presence among family and friends. At the end of the day, today, as we filter off to wherever we need to be, I picture Eugene

watching over Mary, giving her peace to navigate the emotion today brings. I also see Eugene watching all of us from a chair in that hunting shack, sitting back with a big smile on his face saying, “what an episode that was”.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to <https://woundedwarriorproject.org>

A Celebration of life is planned for May 22, 2021 in Eugene's Shop.

Tribute Wall

GT

“ *What can I say about Eugene - I think we can all aspire to be just like him, but we will almost certainly fall short. Like many of the folks he knew up north - I was his customer, buying something needed at the hunting land we have nearby. While I was buying a product from him, I always left richer with the stories and assistance he was willing to share/give.*

I particularly enjoyed the stories of his farm, being an old farm kid myself. Our only "disagreement" was I believed Oliver tractors were better than the red ones that Eugene owned.

Our last visit was in December or January, and we spent 2 hours in the shop office talking all sorts of non-sense. It was time well spent.

God Bless Eugene and his family. I'm sure all are glad he is no longer suffering, but we all suffering a bit because he's gone.

Gerry Thome - February 23, 2021 at 12:16 PM

DH

“ My wife and I are Deeply saddened to hear for Eugene's passing. I met Eugene several times through the years picking up a bag of corn or a bag of apples or a mineral lick for deer camp. But I really met Eugene this past spring while doing the same tasks as before but this spring we both had a little bit of time to visit. This time gave Me the opportunity to realize what a really neat guy Eugene is. My occasional trips to Eugene's to get a couple bails of straw or a bag of sunflower seed would turn into a two hour jaw jacking session on moose hunting in B.C. or stories of Eugene and his wife raising their kids and selling sweet corn on the family farm down south. One of my favorite stories was the one where a grizzly bear started hunting Eugene and his guide on one of the moose hunts in B.C. I will deeply miss these opportunities to visit with Eugene. In this world anyway. The story that I found most revealing of Eugene's inner character was when he told me he was sick. I was surprised on how casual he talked of it. There was no fear or worry in his voice when we talked. Just a steadfast, fearless approach to the treatment and never a whoa is me. To Eugene's family, we send out very deepest condolences for his passing. We All suffered a Very Big loss but I for one will cherish the very little time I had in getting to know him.

Dan Haan - February 20, 2021 at 12:22 PM

DH

“ Eugene will always be in our hearts. What a tremendous loss for all of his family, his community and Mark and I. Always there to solve problems and always a smile on his face. A man like no other.. 🥺❤️



Diane Holmes-Kaub - February 19, 2021 at 10:23 AM

MF

“ *Mark Peters & Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Eugene R. Schellinger.*



Mark Peters & Family - February 17, 2021 at 05:21 PM

MP

“ *He broke the mold when the Lord made Eugene. He was such a special and wonderful person. He will be sorely missed by us.*

Mark & Lyn Peters & Family

Mark Peters - February 17, 2021 at 05:06 PM

CB

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Eugene's family, our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Chuck and Chris Budnick

Chuck and Chris Budnick - February 17, 2021 at 04:42 PM

LM

“ *Mary and Tony so sorry for your loss. God bless you both. I am sure Eugene is on a elk hunt in heaven.*

Louise Minisan - February 16, 2021 at 04:11 AM

RC

“ So sorry for your loss Ted. I know from my own experience how grateful you must be to have had the time together before his passing. Thoughts and prayers are lifted for you and your family.
Warmest Regards,
Robin Sibley Carr

Robin Carr - February 15, 2021 at 11:01 PM

KG

“ Eugene was a wonderful person, he will be missed dearly by many of us. Mark & Kristi Gerhardt



Kristi & Mark Gerhardt - February 15, 2021 at 10:50 PM

FN

“ Eugene was a wonderful, loving Father in law to our daughter, Chalyse. We are forever grateful for Eugene's kindness, love of family, terrific stories and his laughter. He will be missed but his memories will live on.

Frank, Susan & Joshua Niemiec - February 15, 2021 at 09:19 PM

MS

“ So sorry to hear of Eugene's passing. Our sympathy and prayers to the family.

Cousins Gary & Mary

Mary & Gary Schellinger - February 15, 2021 at 07:52 PM

TF

“ *Our sympathy and prayers to family of Eugene Schellinger from Tony and Mary Feucht family!*

Tony and Mary Feucht - February 15, 2021 at 05:29 PM



Jacqueline Peters

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jacqueline Peters - February 15, 2021 at 05:01 PM

TS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories*



Ted Schellinger - February 15, 2021 at 12:40 PM

IP

Beautiful!

inez Pilsner - February 15, 2021 at 05:09 PM

KP

What a absolutely beautiful tribute to your Dad. While his physical life may have past, his soul, I believe, will live on watching you all form your own legacy....may you find peace during this difficult time.

kim pfeifer - February 15, 2021 at 05:09 PM

TH

Oh my...this is a beautiful gift for all of us in memory of your wonderful Dad. Our hearts are heavy for your loss. May our Lord comfort you.

Tony & Karin Hug - February 17, 2021 at 10:18 PM

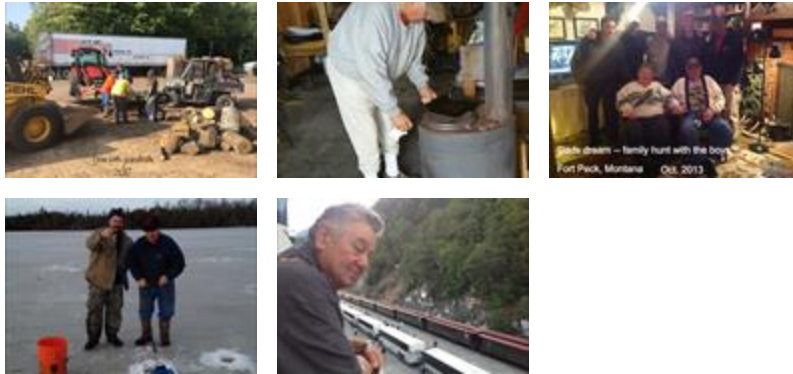
DH

Brought years to my eyes. We will miss Eugene terribly Diane a Mark

Diane Holmes-Kaub - February 19, 2021 at 10:12 AM

TS

“ 26 files added to the album Memories



Ted Schellinger - February 15, 2021 at 12:34 PM

JM

“ *Judie Mapes sent a virtual gift in memory of Eugene R. Schellinger*



judie mapes - February 15, 2021 at 10:13 AM

JM

Mary and family, what a loving and great role model for all of us Eugene was. Thank you for sharing Eugene, we are better people because of his kindness and heart.

judie mapes - February 15, 2021 at 10:24 AM

JO

“ *Jeff, Glenn, and JJ.*

So sorry to learn that your dad and grandpa passed away. Prayers and thoughts for you all and family!

Justin O - February 13, 2021 at 09:56 AM