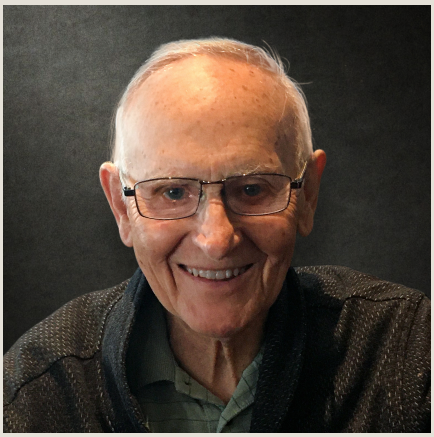
Evans Nordby
FUNERAL HOMES



Gary L. DeFrance

August 31, 1933 - August 23, 2023

DeFrance, Gary L, age 89, of Maple Grove, beloved father and grandfather, passed away on Aug. 23 after a brief illness. Preceded in death by wife Geraldine. Survived by children Todd (Kyle), Anthony (Mary), James (Heather), and Maria (John) Briesch; grandchildren Joseph (Meghan), John, Haley, Erin, Tori, Megan, and Johnathan; great-grandchildren Joseph Jr. and Thomas; brothers Dayle and Jerry; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Gary was born in Barrett, MN on Aug. 31, 1933. After graduating from Barrett HS, he served in the U.S. Army until 1955. He then moved to Minneapolis, and met the love of his life, Geraldine (Schmit). Married in 1957, they enjoyed 48 years of marriage until her passing in 2005. A man of great integrity and perseverance, Gary spent his career as Business Director for Robbinsdale Public Schools, overseeing its significant growth during his 32 years there. He eagerly pursued his many interests upon retirement in 1991. He continued his life-long passion of following sports, especially the Vikings & Twins; was an elite age-group runner in the ’80s and ’90s; traveled with Gerry, family & friends – including many ski trips and his favorite get-away, Lutsen; was devoted to many Bible studies, and his sacristan duties at St. Vincent de Paul parish; was a lover of nature, especially wood ducks and butterflies; and was a prolific karaoke singer in his later years. But his biggest passion was his seven grandchildren, never missing a game, show, competition, or event – he loved teaching them about many things, from charity, to nature, to cribbage. He leaves a wonderful legacy of kindness, generosity, honesty, and love.

Mass of Christian Burial 10:30 AM Thursday, Aug. 31 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 9100 93rd Ave. N., Brooklyn Park. Visitation also one hour prior to Mass at church. Interment Ft. Snelling National Cemetery 1:30 PM Friday, Sept. 1 (Lane #4).

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Feed My Starving Children, or to a favorite charity.

Visitation

Thursday, August 31st 9:30-10:30 AM

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 9100 93rd Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN

Driving Directions

Mass of Christian Burial

Thursday, August 31st 10:30 AM

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 9100 93rd Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN

Driving Directions

please meet in Lane #4

Friday, September 1st 1:30 PM

Fort Snelling National Cemetery
7601 34th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55450