



Gene Carleton Sodersten

October 12, 1931 - December 22, 2025

Gene Carleton Sodersten of Visalia Ca., peacefully passed away in his sleep, to be with his Lord and Savior on December 22 2025, at the age of 94. He was born on October 12, 1931 in Scandinavia, Wisconsin. He was the son of Gus and Anna Sodersten.

A graduate of Saint Johns Military Academy in Delafield, Wisconsin. He served in the US Military as an Army medic, stationed in Germany 1952-1954.

He played minor league baseball for the NY Giants. While traveling to Visalia Ca., he definitely scored a home run, when he met the love of his life Elizabeth Rich at the ballpark. Married for 68 years they lived an interesting and happy life.

In Lake Tahoe, Gene worked as El Dorado building commissioner. On the weekends he and his wife acted in little theatre together. In addition to bowling league and winning couples trophies.

They moved to Los Angeles area to be closer to family and Gene worked as an engineer for Douglas Aircraft Company.

Gene became an exceptional General Contractor and built over 180 custom homes in the Tulare County area. In his spare time he loved fishing with his son and daughter at the ocean and playing golf with his brother Ray

Sodersten.

In Gene's retirement, he crafted several exquisitely detailed woodworking projects. He was one of the greatest story tellers around. A die hard Green Bay fan, that supported them to the end.

Gene is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Elizabeth, son Mark, his brothers and sisters, and in-laws. Survived by his daughter, Jill Wheaton of Visalia Ca.

Gene will be deeply missed by his nieces, nephews, many family relatives and friends.

Irreplaceable to his beloved daughter.

Graveside services will be held 11am Thursday, January 15th, 2026 at Visalia District Cemetery, 1300 W Goshen Ave, Visalia.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be sent to Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Previous Events

Graveside

JAN 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Visalia District Cemetery
1300 W Goshen Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Gene Carleton Sodersten* ”



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - January 14 at 12:50 PM

JH

“ *I always remembered his laugh and great smile* ” ❤️

Jeanne Randolph Heger - January 11 at 11:57 PM