

Gene Ray Ligocki, born in Billings, Montana on July 11th, 1980 passed away tragically on July 6th, 2025 following an accident on the Stillwater River. Gene was raised in Sheridan, Wyoming by Michael Frank Ligocki and Bertha (Trujillo) Willey alongside his siblings; brother Marty, sisters Leslie and Susan and brother Mike Ligocki.

Gene loved sports and made lifelong friends playing on the baseball fields and basketball courts, from little league to playing on adult softball, soccer and basketball teams as often as he could. His love for basketball lead to his employment at Normative Services, Inc where he coached adolescent youth in treatment, often teaching the fundamentals of the game to kids who never had the opportunity to participate in team sports. Gene had an amazing ability to connect with all youth and seeing him lead a group of kids who had never played together, become a team was truly inspiring. It was during the 2003 NSI basketball season that he met his future wife, Jennifer Drell. Their son was born in the Fall of 2004 (the year the Boston Red Sox broke the curse and won the World Series!).

Gene was also a "pretty good" pool player and his love of the game of pool and the community he found lead to Gene establishing The Top of the Rims, a non-profit billiards organization in Billings, Montana. In doing so, Gene truly found his stride, making connections throughout the state to promote the sport of pool and coordinate tournaments that grew in size each year and spread across the state. Gene "never met a stranger" and had the ability to bring people together to create life long friendships. He was larger than life and his laugh, ability to make others smile and feel remarkable will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Though he loved pool and was proud of each and every successful pool tournament he facilitated or matches he won, nothing compares to how much he loved his son, Michael Christopher Ligocki. He took as many opportunities as he could to tell his son he loved him and he was so proud of the amazing young man Michael has grown to be.

Gene also loved fishing, which began as a young boy fishing alongside his father. He loved rock hunting, baseball card collecting and riding the river with his brother Mike. His whole face lit up when he was "gonna be on the river." Knowing Gene, the smile on his face and the laughter, inappropriate jokes and talks of the next trip, made Sundays on the river with brother Mike as near to perfect as possible. Gene was preceded in death by his father, Michael Frank Ligocki. He is survived by his mother, Bertha Willey, sisters Leslie Lube, Susan Kraft and brother Marty Martinez all of Sheridan and Mike Ligocki of Billings, Montana; numerous nieces and nephews and his son Michael Christopher Ligocki of Billings, Montana and his former wife Jennifer Ligocki, as they were "home base" for each other and remained united in raising an amazing young man. Words cannot describe how much we will all miss him and how very loved Gene was by so many.

In Loving Memory Of Gene Ligocki

July 11, 1980 - July 6, 2025



Gone Fishing

I've finished life's chores assigned to me,
So put me on a boat headed out to sea.
Please send along my fishing pole
For I've been invited to the fishin' hole.
Where every day is a day to fish,
To fill your heart with every wish.
Don't worry, or feel sad for me,
I'm fishin' with the Master of the sea.
We will miss each other for awhile,
But you will come and bring your smile.
That won't be long you will see,
Till we're together you and me.
To all of those that think of me,
Be happy as I go out to sea.
If others wonder why I'm missin'
Just tell 'em I've gone fishin'

In Loving Memory Of Gene Ray Ligocki

VISITATION & ROSARY

Friday June 18, 2025, at 9:30 am
Champion Kane Funeral Home

OFFICIATING

Father Glenn Whewell

MUSIC

You Should Be Here
Just Breathe

PALLBEARERS

John Martinez, Logan Martinez, Mason Lube
Max Lube, Kyle Warnke, Mike Silvernagle
Nolan Jensen & Rob Sales

Internment to follow in the Juniper Heights
section of the Sheridan Municipal Cemetery.

PRESENTATION OF FLOWERS

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND RECEPTION

Friday, June 18, 2025 at 2:00 pm
Eagles Club On Commercial Drive

OFFICIATING

Ron Murry



www.kanefuneral.com