



## Gene Byron Crum

July 29, 1941 - June 11, 2026

Gene Byron Crum died June 11, 2026, in Bloomington at age 84, after a long illness. He was born July 29, 1941, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Russel E. and Jessie M. Crum. On Groundhog's Day (February 2), 1963, he married Lois Ruth Olson, who survives. The couple's children are Rebecca J. L. Harshbarger (husband Donovan), Jonathan R. Crum (wife Tatyana), and Mark D. Crum (wife Bethany); Gene and Lois have been blessed with seven grandchildren, Levi and Lydia Harshbarger; Joseph and Solomon Crum; and Elsie, Eli, and Tessa Crum. Gene was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He also greatly valued his extended family, attending the annual family reunions faithfully.

Gene's faith in Jesus Christ was his bedrock. He and the family worshipped in various churches over the years but finally settled on Christ Community Church on High Street in Bloomington.

Gene graduated from Indiana University in 1971 and then in 1981 completed a master's degree from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois.

Gene was a gifted writer and communicator and also was fascinated with firearms and how they worked. He published many articles about guns, shooting, and hunting, as well as related political issues, and was always working on a writing project. In his writing he was a furious champion of

constitutional rights.

A favorite period of his varied career was the years he spent as a Monroe County Sheriff's deputy. An Administrative Captain, he worked primarily in the jail, doing administrative work. He also arranged training programs, enhanced the jail library, and helped inmates prepare for GED diplomas. After retirement, he was called on to assist law enforcement in Brown County, Ellettsville, and Gosport.

Gene was buried in Burch Cemetery June 17 after a graveside service led by Rev. Robert Whitaker of Christ Community Church. Donations may be made in his honor to the church.

# Cemetery Details

## **Burch Cemetery**

S. Burch Road  
Kirksville, IN 47403