



## Wesley Gene Lohr

March 3, 1938 - April 27, 2024

Wesley Gene Lohr, 86, of Godfrey, died on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at his home surrounded by family. He was born on March 3, 1938 to Clarence (Ted) and Ellen (LaSetta) (Waters) Lohr in the same house in which he died. Mervin (Bud) Lohr was Wes's brother who preceded him in death. Wes attended Godfrey Grade School and graduated from Alton High School.

Wes then joined the United States Air Force and served in Greece and Turkey from 1956-1959.

He was called home to help run the family business, C.M. Lohr Quarry, with his brother after his father's fatal accident. He married the former Karen Jeane Sileven on February 20, 1965 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey. Karen preceded him in death in 2018.

Surviving are two children: Terry (Shelly) Lohr and Renee (Rob) Brown, and five grandchildren: Michael, Matthew, Mark, and Noah Brown, and Kari Lohr. Also surviving are sisters-in-law Alice Lohr, Marilyn Sileven, Teresa Tripp and brother-in-law Bob Tripp.

He was extremely proud of his grandkids and would listen to each and every story intently. Or maybe that is because he couldn't get a word in. Also surviving are nieces, nephews and hundreds of cousins from across the country.

While running the family quarry, Wes oversaw day to day operations and performed such tasks as electrician, diesel mechanic, rock driller, and explosives handler. He also worked with federal and state inspectors for mining, air, water, explosive and dirt permitting. He grew up in the business, so he was a natural. The quarry further developed and expanded until it was eventually sold in 2003 and Wes retired.

Wes designed and built a house in Brighton, IL, where he and Karen raised their family. He was very involved in the community, especially at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. They moved to Godfrey in 1988, and he moved back into his childhood home in 2003. He took care of his beloved wife, who lived with multiple sclerosis, for 40 years. They could be seen eating at every restaurant in Godfrey and Alton. They loved to socialize and found every opportunity to see their friends and family.

As a self proclaimed family genealogist and local historian, Wes spent his days researching the Lohr /Waters family trees. He reached out to cousins from coast to coast and stayed connected

through email and Christmas cards. His knowledge of the Riverbend area was astounding. He could tell stories ranging anywhere between the Alton Mill fire and the building of Humbert Road, to remembering the Godfrey "Plank" road and the platform dances up at Pop Waters farm. If there was ever a question about the history of Godfrey or Alton, he knew the answer. Through Wes's learning and connections, he eventually started and organized the Godfrey Grade School reunions. These reunions went on for years and brought many old friends together again.

Faith was a very important part of Wes's life. He was a devout Roman Catholic and was a member of the Dominican Laity in St. Louis. Wes and Karen belonged to Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Alton. In the past, he served as an usher and eucharistic minister. He was also a lifetime member of the Godfrey Knights of Columbus. Wes never missed a Sunday Mass or a Lenten fish fry.

Wes had a love for classic cars. He ordered and bought the first convertible 1964½ Mustang in Alton. He also bought a 1957 T Bird and it is still in his possession. He was restoring a 1966 El Camino from the ground up when he wasn't helping others (his children) remodel bathrooms or

build sheds. He was quite the handyman as well and would never pass up the opportunity to help.

From his weekly gatherings at Joe K's and the Round Table, he truly touched the lives of so many people. He was a devoted husband, a caring father, and a supportive grandfather and will be missed by all.

Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2024 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton.

A mass of Christian burial will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Alton.

Burial will be at Godfrey Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Additional information and online guest book may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Godfrey Cemetery

Godfrey, IL 62035

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 3. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002

## Funeral Mass

MAY 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church  
Alton, IL

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ I was in the STL Dominican group with Wes and he was so good. He was an important part of the group and for me help make it such a great experience.

Robert Hughes - May 04, 2024 at 09:45 PM

DG

“ I knew Wes as a committed member of the Dominican Laity when I was living in St. Louis from 2008-2019. He was always pleasant and present and often brought his wife to the meetings. For several years I was the priest liaison with the Dominican Laity, a very active group. I am sure he was missed when no longer able to come.  
Fr.Don Goergen, OP

Donald Goergen - May 04, 2024 at 10:16 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Wesley Gene Lohr.



May 03, 2024 at 09:51 AM

TC

“ The Waters-Weaver-Winkler Cousins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wesley Gene Lohr.

The Waters-Weaver-Winkler Cousins - May 03, 2024 at 09:51 AM

JK

“ There are many positive attributes in the English language, and any and all can be used for Wes. The two most prominent to me are concern and community. His love of family, past, present and future, was evident in his actions and words. In his conversation and activities you saw this expanded to so many of his relationships. He loved to both reach out and draw others in. All of this reflected his innate giving and sharing nature which has moved so many who knew him. His unassuming presence and availability to others is a model for us all.

Joseph Komadina - May 02, 2024 at 06:33 PM

HF

“ Herschel Beane & Lance & Belinda Feezel purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Wesley Gene Lohr.

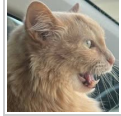


Herschel Beane & Lance & Belinda Feezel - May 02, 2024 at 04:06 PM

TA

“ I live in Chattanooga but grew up in Godfrey and used to mow his mom's lawn on Pearl Street in the 1970s for about 5 years before I went to college in 1980. I probably ran into Gene a dozen times in the last 10 years, typically at Joe K's. My mom and he went to high school together. What an incredibly kind man with such a pleasant demeanor. While I didn't know him real well, I could tell that he truly lived out his faith in the way he loved his wife and took care of her with her MS. God's blessings to the rest of the family.

Thom Albrecht - May 01, 2024 at 06:32 PM



*Thx u very much....I remember u mowing gmas grass..... dad lioved your family and talked about them frequently. :)*

**Terry Lohr** - May 02, 2024 at 08:49 AM

SM

*“ Wes always made sure to say "hello" at church or anywhere else he may have seen us. Always a gentleman and always a pleasant thing to say. He was a pleasure to know and a great example to all with his loving care for his wife. RIP.*

**Sue Mueller** - May 01, 2024 at 04:52 PM



*Thank you for your kind words... he was a great example of what a husband and father was supposed to be. :)*

**Terry Lohr** - May 02, 2024 at 08:50 AM

JS

*“ My sincere condolences to the family. Have missed Seeing Gene at the wood ariver class of 1964 mini luncheons that he attended even after his sweet wife Karen had passed. We have missed his presence. May you find comfort in the memories of times gone by.*

**Joyce (Pitchford) Searcy** - May 01, 2024 at 09:36 AM



*Thank you... her lived that group and always remembered what everybody was up to. :)*

**Terry Lohr** - May 02, 2024 at 08:51 AM

SW

“ Gene was my cousin. He and Karen visited us in Virginia a few times, and after Karen passed, he came alone. He brought me a board from my grandfather’s barn, which was special, as it had my dad’s name carved in it. Gene had many stories to tell, all interesting. I will miss him! May he rest in eternal peace 💜🕊️🙏  
Love, Sue

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**Sue Waters Winkler** - April 30, 2024 at 07:24 PM