



Eugene Bernard Tobias

July 19, 1947 - October 5, 2025

Eugene “Gene” Tobias was called home to be with the Lord on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at the blessed age of 78 after battling an aggressive form of Alzheimer’s disease. Gene was born on July 19, 1947, in far Southeast Bexar County around the Calaveras Lake area to Joe and Sarah Tobias. He attended East Central High School, class of 1965, where he was captain of the football team, excelled in shop and motor trades classes, and met his future wife, Ute Achtstatter.

After high school in 1966, Gene enlisted in the Air Force Reserve with his best friend from the third grade, as an airframe mechanic where he worked on a variety of aircraft during his 36 years of service. The aircraft he worked on ranged from the C-130 Hercules, F-4 Phantom, B-52 Stratofortress, and C-5 Galaxy. Towards the end of his service, he undertook special restoration projects of a German Messerschmidt ME-262 jet and an American Martin B-10 bomber. Both aircraft are on display today at the Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. Gene retired from US Air Force Reserves in 2002.

In his civilian time, Gene wanted more than working as a steel fitter at a metal fabrication plant to support his new wife and baby son. A fellow reservist encouraged Gene to apply to the San Antonio Police Department where he began his training as a police cadet in 1974. Upon graduating, he first served

as a patrolman on the west and southside patrol units of San Antonio.

While still serving as a patrolman, Gene was able to earn his private pilot certificate by joining the Ft. Sam Houston flying club that was based out of the Martindale Army Airfield. With his newly obtained pilot's license, Gene applied and was accepted into the SAPD helicopter unit, based at the Marina Parking Garage in downtown San Antonio. He easily transitioned into rotary-wing aircraft and was involved with many fast-paced missions including the 1979 Fiesta Battle of Flowers Parade sniper event where he flew SWAT officers low over Broadway Ave. to incapacitate the shooter.

With a young baby girl now in the family, Gene started to explore advancement within the police department. He began to study for the detective exam in the 1980s and was successfully promoted to Detective Investigator, but sadly that required him to transfer out of the helicopter unit. He served in various units from robbery, crime scene investigation, task force, and many joint-organization operations bringing down the bad guys. He performed his job well, but his love for flying never left. In the late 1990s, a position materialized with the helicopter unit that utilized his skillset, and he rejoined the flying unit one more time. Upon his return, he served as mentor to new pilots, setting up a maintenance program for work that would be conducted in-house, and eventually working in the unit with his son, Bryan. Gene retired from the SAPD in 2010.

He is loved by many and will be sorely missed. Survivors include his wife of 56 years; Son Bryan and his wife Lisa; Daughter Brenda and his only grandson "Little" Bryan; Brother Kevin; and Pearl, his beloved cat and companion as well as several grand-dogs, grand-cats, grand-possum, extended family and close friends. Also, special acknowledgment to Tommy Lee Reeder and Sierra Reyes and the entire Elara Hospice team for their exceptional care and commitment in helping to care for Gene as well as our

entire family throughout the hardest time of our lives.

If you knew Gene, you know that no one was a stranger to him. He was known by many and loved by all. An avid lover of animals big and small there was never an animal that went hungry or lacked care and love. In lieu of flowers we ask that donations be made to the Animal Defense League and/or Midgard Animal Rescue and Sanctuary or any local animal rescue organization of your choice in Gene's honor. If you are unable to donate, just show any animal some love. Love goes a long way.

Heaven has gained a treasured soul. We lost a good one. He will live forever in our hearts.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **15**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Celebration of Life

OCT **15**. 6:30 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South, Cemeteries & Crematories
1700 SE Military Dr
San Antonio, TX 78214
(210) 924-4242
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Funeral Mass

OCT **16**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony Catholic Church
16505 Kilowatt Road
Elmendorf, TX 78112

Interment

OCT 16 (CT)

Delgado Cemetery
11081 Cassiano Rd
San Antonio, TX 78223

Reception to follow interment

OCT 16 (CT)

Brookehill Baptist Church
631 Utopia Ave
San Antonio, TX 78223

Tribute Wall

JP

“ *Gene is my cousin. He took me flying numerous times. Sometimes against his supervisor's knowledge. He let me, take off, fly, and land the helicopter. He was a true rotor head. We almost made it to my backyard, but we were called for support service. I will miss you Gene. I'll visit you at the Delgado Family Reunion Cemetery. Now it's time for you to fly away and touch the sun and The Son.* ”



John A. Patino - October 14, 2025 at 02:43 PM



“ *Geno - we'll miss you, buddy. Gene was my flying partner on many occasions with Foxtrot. He was courageous, calm and collected during chases, nighttime and bad weather. He was funny, kind of quiet. He was patriotic as a military member of many years, both of us AF guys. Some of our Foxtrot adventures remain between us, not to be shared publicly. One flight had us refueling three times while we hovered for more than four hours over a "drowning victim" whose hand and arm waved gently in the current of a creek. We traded seats after each fueling. Finally the rescue was made by S. A. firemen - we'd been seeing the trail of a giant fish caught on a trotline! We had a good laugh over that one then had supper - and didn't eat fish! Moving to New Mexico after retirement - my wife was already there working - my good friend Gene drove the moving truck while I drove our cats in my truck - Pearl the cat, Gene's darling, would have been proud. My thanks to Gene's family for sharing him with us. Gene and I last visited a few months ago and relived some great memories. There are lot of moving parts on a helicopter - he flew those things for 13 years. What a gentleman! I'm stuck in NM/CO on a volunteer steam train job, my wife will attend his services in my stead, but I'll visit his burial place on return and we'll have a quiet talk. Rest in peace, my brother, you've earned it. Fly with the angels! Billy Anders, retired SAPD/Foxtrot*

Billy Anders - October 14, 2025 at 02:00 PM

RB

“ *Gene was a gentleman and a fine police officer. I had the pleasure of riding right seat in FoxTrot with him more times than I can count. He never complained when asked to go around for one more photo of a traffic fatality. May the needles never split on you, Gene. You will be missed.*

Ron Brandin

Ron Brandin - October 13, 2025 at 02:03 PM

HS

“ Eugene was a mild mannered gentleman and I never saw him not in a good mood. I could call him and ask if he had time to take me on an 'orientation' ride' and I made frequent trips to Stinson. After the first two rides in a four month period, he would always ask me, "where is your new deer lease", and off into the wild blue yonder we would go. A man among men, Rest in Peace my friend, you are missed.

Harold Schott

Harold Schott - October 12, 2025 at 11:53 AM

WS

“ Brother Gene was one of the very finest officers and gentlemen that I have ever known, and I still savor the quality time I was able to spend with him at his home several months ago. I was holding out that he would be up for another visit but that was not to be. Our condolences and prayers go out to Gene's wife Ute, son Bryan, daughter Brenda, and his family and friends. Godspeed Gene, and God Bless.

William "Smitty" Smith - Ret Capt SAPD - October 11, 2025 at 05:59 PM

DT

“ Geno was a good friend, always had a positive outlook and was fun to be around. I was fortunate to work and fly with him many times, he let me fly with him many times on weekends way before I joined the Helicopter Detail and afterwards as well. We were even able to fly to Nashville with a brand new Helicopter to put on display at a convention. Geno even flew news helicopters with is as well here in San Antonio for Channel 4 news. I'll miss you Geno!!!

Danny Thompson - October 11, 2025 at 03:26 PM

AT

Gene will be missed by his friends and all the Children who visited the Helicopter section at Stinson Field. Gene was so gentle and soft spoken and would have been as good a Teacher as he was a Helo Pilot. I was fortunate to fly with him as a spotter on Special cases with the Crime Support Group- Task Force. I'll miss you Bud .

Art Trevino - October 11, 2025 at 05:24 PM

EH

Gene, you will be missed. One of the nicest guys I have ever met. RIP my friend. ERIC HUCKABEE

eric huckabee - October 18, 2025 at 11:38 AM



“ Dad and his new grandson



Bryan Tobias - October 11, 2025 at 10:18 AM



“ Dad looking over the ME 262 jet he help restore now on display at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.



Bryan Tobias - October 11, 2025 at 10:17 AM

CT

“ *When you have an uncle so cool, he become the Cub Scout field trip for our oldest Andrew Tobias. Thank you Uncle Gene for great memories. Love, Mark and Chris Tobias.*



Christina Tobias - October 08, 2025 at 10:47 PM