

TSRA is indebted to Gene and Penny Reimer for more than 40 years of dedicated service, work, and leadership provided to the TEXAS STATE RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

OBITUARY FOR GENE REIMER, TSRA PAST-PRESIDENT (1977-1978)

Estel Gene Reimer was born January 30th, 1930 in Wichita, Kansas. He passed away peacefully on May 4th, 2018. Gene graduated from Carlsbad High School and immediately enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served aboard the U.S.S. Gehring during WWII. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, he began a 60 year career in banking and insurance in West Texas and Southern New Mexico. Gene was an Eagle Scout. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge for more than 50 years. He was a life member of the NRA, and a life member and past president of TSRA (Texas State Rifle Association). He was active in the Downtown Lions Club for many years, where he served in many capacities and was the recipient of numerous service awards. He was a member of the El Maida Shrine Temple. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Center Against Family Violence.

Gene was married to Norma Jean (Penny) West on February 24, 1950. They remained devoted to one another for over 68 years. Surviving, in addition to Penny, include 3 daughters and two sons-in law; Malinda and Len Martin of El Paso, Sharon and Dennis Widner of Canyon, Texas, Brenda Samaniego of El Paso, and one son and daughter-in-law, Russell and Shirley Reimer of El Paso. Also surviving are 14 grandchildren; Madonna, April, Shane, Kevin, Kirk, Sean, Kaysie, Kendall, Mariah, Matthew, Joey and Dylan, as well as 11 great -grandchildren.

The family would like to extend its deepest thanks to Dr. Michael Traylor, Dr. Michael Gutierrez and all the incredible staff of El Paso Cardiology Associates for their care over the last 13 years. We would also like to thank the Bartlett Assisted Living Family for their care and love; as well as Hospice of El Paso for the amazing support over the last month of his life.

Thank you for the wonderful example you set for all of us. We will miss you Dad, Grandpa, and Papa.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at Coronado Baptist Church, El Paso TX with interment following at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery.

MEMORIES OF GENE REIMER FROM TSRA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

John Anderson (TSRA President 1981-1982)

Gene Reimer and George Tubb were responsible for me becoming president of TSRA. I was the High Power Rifle director when Gene was President and George his Vice President. It was an honor to serve as President of TSRA and follow in the footsteps of Gene and George.

Douglas Moreland (TSRA President 1983-1984)

(The following is from notes taken by Reggie Jones as he met with Doug Moreland 5/12/2018).

Doug and Gene were the best of friends. Both had served as President of the Amarillo Rifle and Pistol Club and as Directors, officers and President of TSRA. Gene worked for SIC (Southwestern Investment Company) in Amarillo. Gene and Jenny moved to El Paso sometime in the 1980's. Gene worked in El Paso for SIC and then had his own business selling insurance to banks. A couple of stories as told by Doug. At the annual TSRA Board meeting (around 1980) the board voted to ban smoking in the Board meetings. After lunch, Gene lit a cigarette and Police Match Director Reeves Jungkind asked him to put out the cigarette, or Reeves (a Highway patrolman) said he would light up a teargas grenade that he had retrieved from his briefcase. Gene put out the cigarette. Another story – In later years Doug would greet

Gene with the statement “Hey Gene, the stars are getting closer to your name”. Gene would reply “Doug, the stars are getting closer to your name also.” The stars they are referring to are the stars that were placed by the names of deceased Presidents of TSRA contained in the list of TSRA Presidents that was published in the every Sportsman up until a few years ago. Gene Reimer has now attained his STAR rating.

Arnold Granger (TSRA President 1994-1995)

Gene was a mentor to me and I am sure many others at TSRA. He was dedicated to supporting and promoting TSRA as a shooting organization and as a defender of our second amendment rights. His calm demeanor and common sense approach to addressing issues was a welcome influence to our TSRA annual meetings. He will be missed by many.

COL Ordie R. (Reggie) Jones (TSRA President 1998-1999)

I knew Gene as a High-power rifle competitor in the 1960's and 1970's. We both lived in Amarillo at that time as did TSRA Past-Presidents Doug Moreland and George Whittington. I remember that Gene as a rifle competitor needed either 2 or 4 more “leg” points (30 points required) to receive the “Distinguished Rifleman's Badge”, a much coveted award for Highpower Rifle competitors. I do not know if Gene got his leg or not. I was recruited to be a TSRA Highpower Rifle Director by George Tubb, who was TSRA President following Gene Reimer. As a TSRA Director and as a Highpower Match Director and later as an Officer and President, I came to realize how much assistance and help that these Past Presidents (always a member of the TSRA Board as you become Past-President) can provide in helping you provide leadership to the TSRA missions. As the match director for the 1991 TSRA Highpower Rifle Championship, eight past and future Presidents of TSRA (including Gene) helped me conduct or participated in the match. At the TSRA Annual meetings, Gene Reimer was a stabilizing force during the Board Meetings, providing common-sense solutions to the sometimes major problems facing the TSRA Board. He was also instrumental for many years in charging the incoming newly elected directors and officers to perform their duties to the best of their ability as Gene swore them in with the oath of office. I know that after I was sworn in as President of TSRA, I felt that I had been anointed by Gene to perform my duty as President. As a TSRA Past President, Gene served many years on the TSRA Executive Committee. The TSRA Executive Committee is composed of the TSRA officers and a few select (elected) board members. These are the folks that really govern TSRA and make all the staff, financial, legislative, and management decisions during the rest of the year when the full TSRA Board is not in session. Gene also served several years a member of Oversight/Audit Committee, responsible for an annual audit of TSRA finances, office procedures and bookkeeping, required documents, complaints, and other necessary activities. The committee prepares a report on its findings and makes recommendations to the TSRA officers and Board for changes that need to be made in office administration or TSRA activities. Sandra and I wish the best for Penny and the family.

Ralph Talbot (TSRA President 2000-2001)

Gene Reimer was instrumental in saving the second year of my TSRA presidency in 2001 over problems at the Ft Wolters Range. Gene was a friend, supporter, ally and mentor during my years as an officer. His quiet, cool, calm demeanor kept this hot head under control most of the time and TSRA has lost a great leader.

Best Regards from one who believes GOD, GUNS, GUTS, and GLORY made our nation GREAT!!!

Douglas Wall (Past-TSRA Smallbore Director who lives in Amarillo)

I met Gene about 1967. Our YMCA junior rifle team heard about an indoor league that ARPC (Amarillo Rifle and Pistol Club) was holding. If memory serves it was on Friday nights as we were interested in shooting this league and then getting out of there for dates!

Anyway I recall Gene and other adult shooters very well. It was our first experience with competing against adults on a regular basis. Gene was always very friendly and helpful to me and the others even though he was about 15 years older than me. The following year I was introduced to outdoor prone but I can't recall if Gene ever shot with us outdoors.

On a more personal note away from shooting I knew Gene worked for a finance company in Amarillo called SIC Finance. In 1970 I began working for a competitor but was disappointed with the company as they required work on Saturdays. Now for an outdoor prone shooter that wasn't good! So I called Gene and discussed the possibility of applying with his company. Gene had a supervisory position but he was really very helpful and informed me he would love to take an application...but they also required some Saturday work. Since that would not work for me I never did apply. But I still recall how much advice he gave me. He really was a truly nice man and even though I much younger he never made me to feel there was any type of age difference. Shortly after this we moved to San Antonio and I lost contact with him. When I returned in 1982 I learned he had moved to El Paso. Even though our paths never crossed again I still have really nice thoughts about him. The shooting sports in Texas will truly miss him.

Gary Arthur (Past TSRA Smallbore Director who lives in Amarillo)

One of the main things I remember about Gene Reimer during my years as a director was the fact that he was always knowledgeable and helpful in any situation that arose. He had the gift of being able to always speak reasonably to either side of the occasional disagreement and everyone respected his opinion. A very rare quality and he was a Master at it. I catch myself wondering what the Association is going to do for a Parliamentarian now that he's with the God he loved.