



## Gene Vincent Simonetti

November 9, 1936 - August 13, 2025

Gene Vincent Simonetti, 88, of Estero, Florida passed away peacefully in the early morning of August 13, 2025. Born on November 9, 1936, in New York, NY, Gene was the son of the late Frank and Lillian Simonetti. Gene was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend to many who were fortunate to have known him.

He was widely respected as a successful business owner, having built Damon's restaurant into a thriving international enterprise. He leaves those he touched with a legacy of ferocious work ethic, strong faith, intense generosity and a true passion for family. He exuded great pride in his children and grandchildren and each of them looked up to their Papi.

An avid golfer for many years, Gene enjoyed countless rounds at Worthington Hills Country Club, often followed by spirited games of gin with his friends. After retirement, he and his beloved wife Christine moved to Bonita Springs, Florida, where he continued to embrace life playing golf and gin with friends. Later in life Gene's favorite things to do included sharing meals with family and friends as well as traveling. He especially loved cruising alongside his wife, Christine. Together, they journeyed across Europe, South America, and beyond, building cherished memories and friendships along the way. A proud foodie, Gene found joy in every meal.

He is survived by his loving wife and soulmate of over 45 years Christine; his children Vincent Simonetti (Beth), Steven Simonetti (Aimee), Carole Watkins (Craig Woods), Richard Simonetti (Sherri), Serge Beyazian (Dana), and Brigitte "Gigi" Holmes (George); twelve grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren all of whom will miss him deeply. Gene also leaves behind his beloved dog, Mimi, who brought him immense comfort and companionship.

A celebration of Gene's life will be planned at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Our Lady of Light in Estero, SeriousFun Children's Network, or the Alzheimer's Association of Central Ohio.

<https://seriousfun.org/give-in-honor/>

<https://www.alz.org/centralohio>

<https://www.ourladyoflight.com/>

To sign his guest register or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com).

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and Operated Since 1978.

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ Gene Simonetti was a wonderful man that I feel blessed to have known. Always so kind and gracious to myself and my family! He will truly be missed by so many! Love and prayers to all his family and friends ❤️

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**Marcie Bauschard** - September 02, 2025 at 07:30 PM

DJ

“ So sorry to see the news of Gene's passing. Gene was always very kind to me; he always made time for a brief conversation with you when you ran into him, no matter how busy he was at the moment. My sincere condolences to Christine and the Family; may he Rest in Peace.  
Debi Johnson (Widow of Ron Johnson)

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**Debi Johnson** - August 25, 2025 at 10:59 PM

LN

“ My sincerest condolences to Christine and Gene's extended family. Geno was a great friend for many years. I knew him in business, socially, on the golf course, and the gin rummy table. A fierce competitor and a true gentleman was he. While in Florida last January we were able to get together for breakfast and talk over good times. I will miss him.

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**Lou Nobile** - August 20, 2025 at 06:31 PM

JM

“ *Gene Simonetti was a great business person and was a true leader in all of the endeavors he was involved in. Most importantly, Gene was a true gentleman and brought comfort to all who were around him. I am so overjoyed to have known this man. You will be missed Gene. Regads, John Morton*

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**john morton** - August 20, 2025 at 11:03 AM