In Memoriam: Eugene Ralph “Gene” Mancini

Eugene (Gene) Ralph Mancini (1952–2018) was an inspiring leadership figure within SETAC. Eugene was a founding member of SETAC, active in its leadership, activities, and numerous publishing initiatives. His accomplishments were far reaching and wide ranging, covering committees, Interest Groups and workshops. To many, Gene was the go-to person for SETAC, always willing to share his expertise and knowledge.

Gene was a past-president of SETAC and the editor-in-chief of the SETAC GLOBE. He was a recipient of the SETAC North America Eugene Mancini Endowment Fund Award in 2016, SETAC’s most prestigious international award for service to our Society. Recently, the SETAC North America Board Members serving on the SETAC North America Endowment Fund Board of Trustees have supported the decision to rename the SETAC North America Eugene Mancini Endowment Fund as a tribute to his leadership and support of SETAC’s mission.

Gene’s legacy is an inspiration and a testament to his commitment to SETAC and the greater community of risk assessors and environmental professionals.

Gene’s contributions to SETAC and the environmental profession were many, and his influence will be felt for years to come. SETAC will miss his leadership and dedication.

Gene was not one to bring attention to himself, rather he listened to what others were sharing. He was a wonderful mentor and left an impression on many of us, young and not-so-young. Gene had a quiet way of making you think about how your walk through life could leave things better than you found them. He often reminded his friends and colleagues to “always give back more than you get” as he presented in his high school’s 50th reunion publication. He was a man that didn’t just talk the talk, he truly walked the walk. We at SETAC will miss Gene’s well wishes and words of encouragement to staff and members, the mischievous twinkle in his eye, and most of all, his vision for the future.

Gene, as colleagues and SETAC members knew him, was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Gene pursued a B.S. in biology from Kenyon College, graduating in 1970. He served in the U.S. Army as a combat medic and clinical laboratory technologist from 1971–1972.

He played the saxophone and acoustic guitar, sang tenor with the Telephone Pioneers of America, serving in Toronto’s local chapter. Outside of SETAC, Gene also volunteered for the CanineSearch/FDA TRAIN program, being among the members of the Miami-Dade Police Department’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (1990–2012) and a perennial judge for local science fair projects. He also loved watching soccer, riding motorcycles, morning swims at his local YMCA, and spending time with his family, friends and his beloved new grandson.

Gene is survived by his wife, Ruth Anne; son Michael Mancini and his wife Adriana and their son Vincent; his daughter Lisa Sewell and husband Joshua; and his sister Anne Tumminia.


Gene was a person that genuinely gave of his data to SETAC. He engaged in professional courses, promoting university platforms and personal presentations, sharing sessions on new assessment methods, identifying new data and technically sponsoring many of our programs. His sponsored SETAC North America as a publishing entity and was very active in its content development, Gene was instrumental for leadership development of the SETAC North America Endowment Fund, started it with smaller research initiatives and doubling the first year-end fund from $5,000 to $10,000. His current pull and capital support continues to financially sponsor many of our programs. In recognition of Gene’s overall efforts, SETAC awarded him an Emeritus Membership status in 2014 and the Herb Ward Exceptional Service Award in 2016.

Gene has been a long-time supporter of SETAC and the environmental profession. He sponsored SETAC North America as a sustaining member and was very active in SETAC committee work. Gene was also a long-time supporter of SETAC’s GLOBE, promoting our journals and financially sponsoring many of our programs. He sponsored SETAC North America as a sustaining member and was very active in SETAC committee work. Gene was instrumental in leading and supporting SETAC’s mission.

Setbacks and missteps were common in Gene’s life. His passion for SETAC was matched only by his desire to make a difference in the world. He was a true scholar and a true leader.

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Lisa shared a humorous story that sums up her father and his attention to details. When Lisa was in elementary school, Gene utilized his aptitude for craftsmanship to help her build a class project. Lisa was thrilled with the outcome, and Gene was equally pleased with the final product. This story is just one example of Gene’s commitment to excellence and his dedication to SETAC.

Gene was a man of many talents and interests. He played the saxophone and acoustic guitar, sang tenor with the Telephone Pioneers of America, serving in Toronto’s local chapter. Outside of SETAC, Gene also volunteered for the CanineSearch/FDA TRAIN program, being among the members of the Miami-Dade Police Department’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (1990–2012) and a perennial judge for local science fair projects. He also loved watching soccer, riding motorcycles, morning swims at his local YMCA, and spending time with his family, friends and his beloved new grandson.

Gene was a native of Louisville (1978). He served in the U.S. Army as a combat medic and clinical laboratory technologist from 1971–1972.

Eugene Mancini, 70, passed away this spring following several strokes. Gene, as colleagues and SETAC members knew him, was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Gene pursued a B.S. in biology from Kenyon College, graduating in 1970. He served in the U.S. Army as a combat medic and clinical laboratory technologist from 1971–1972.


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