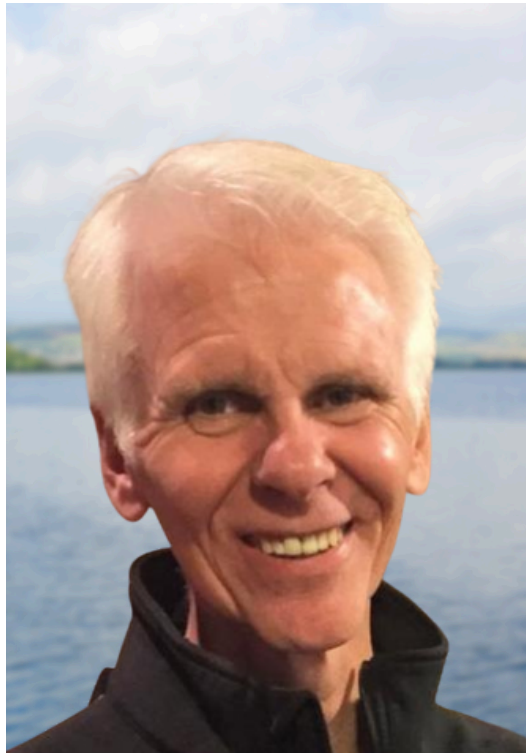


*Celebrating the life of*  
EUGENE “GINO” ELSEA



July 30, 1957 - October 17, 2024

# ORDER OF SERVICE

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Isaiah 6:8; John 8:31-32

**Prayer**

Pastor John Biegel

**Song**

*Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*

**Song**

*The Goodness of God*

**Remembrances**

James Elsea, *son*

Cassandra Cox, *daughter*

David Mount, *stepson*

Andy Mount, *stepson*

Carol Mount, *wife*

**Special Music**

*Gratitude* by Ryder Higdon

**Scripture Reading**

Psalm 30

**Homily**

Pastor Tim Cho

**Song**

*Always*

**Benediction**

Pastor Tim Cho



Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

*John 11:25-27*

# OBITUARY

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

*Isaiah 6:8*

Eugene ("Gino") Elsea passed away peacefully on October 17, 2024, in Fairfax, Virginia after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was 67 years old. He lived a life of courage, integrity, selflessness, and love. He was a devoted follower of Jesus.

Growing up in northern New Jersey, Gino enlisted in the Army when he was eighteen years old. He loved his Army days. He excelled in his job and quickly stood out as a leader and a man with exceptional skills. His assignments included deployments in hostile countries. He retired as a Chief Warrant Officer (CW2) after 20 years in the Army. The next week, Gino began working as a civilian at the Defense Department where he worked for the next 20 years.

During his career at the Defense Department, Gino worked tirelessly defending our country. He volunteered and deployed to Iraq during the sectarian civil war in 2006. He received commendations from the highest levels of our government for his extraordinary achievements supporting national security. Gino was a true expert in his field and his work had great impact. He was highly valued within national and international communities.

Outside of work, Gino loved riding his bike and loved his cycling brothers. One epic cycling accomplishment was participating in the Race Across America (RAAM) in 2013 on Team Green Beret Foundation. Racing from Oceanside, CA to Annapolis, MD, their four-man team won first place in their age group, riding 3,000 miles in 6 days, 22 hours, and 48 minutes.

One of the guiding principles in Gino's life was responding to the call to serve. That is why Isaiah 6:8 resonated so deeply with him. He viewed his military and government service as a calling, not just a job. To him, that meant he would go to the ends of the earth to protect those who could not defend themselves. In 2003, he came to know Jesus personally and this verse became even more meaningful to him. He was called to serve the Lord in all that he did.

In 2015, Gino retired from the government and shifted gears from work to giving back. This was a time of growth, rejuvenation, and new missions. Gino became involved in ministry to refugees and mission trips. He traveled extensively, especially cherishing trips to Israel. He also completed his Bachelor of Arts in Theology and began a Master of Arts in Early Church History. A natural musician, he enjoyed playing his guitar; he also spent countless hours doing in-depth genealogical research. Most of all, he treasured time with family and friends. Gino was a beloved husband, proud father, stepfather, and grandpa, and fiercely loyal friend.

Gino is survived by his devoted wife of 17 years, Carol Mount, his daughter and son from his first marriage, Cassandra Cox (Robert) and James Elsea (Aleks), and his two stepsons, David Mount (Kirsten) and Andrew Mount (Allison). Other survivors include his mother, Betty Elsea (Charlie Joe, deceased), sister, Betty Linke (John), two brothers, Charlie Joe Elsea (Linda) and John Elsea (Beth); eight grandchildren: Jesse and Jeremy Cox; Tatum, Nolan and Hollis Elsea; and Isaac, Samuel and John Mount; his sister-in-law, Linda Tiernan (Raymond, deceased) and six nieces and nephews.

Gino's interment at Arlington Cemetery will take place in 12-14 months where he will be laid to rest with military honors.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Cornerstone, An Evangelical Free Church. Gino served on the Outreach Committee at Cornerstone even during his final days.

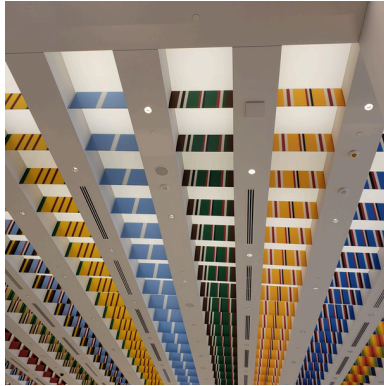
“Perhaps I may be one of those who shall live in the valley of ease, having much rest, and hearing sweet birds of promise singing in my ears. The air is calm and balmy, the sheep are feeding round about me, and all is still and quiet. Well, then, I shall prove the love of God in sweet communings. Or, perhaps I may be called to stand where the thunderclouds brew, where the lightnings play, and tempestuous winds are howling on the mountaintop. Well, then, I am born to prove the power and majesty of our God; amidst dangers He will inspire me with courage; amidst toils He will make me strong.”

-  
*C. H. Spurgeon*

Not one or two important epochs of my history only, but everything that concerns me; -joys that I had not expected, -sorrows that must have crushed me if they could have been anticipated, -sufferings which might have terrified me by their grimness had I looked upon them, - surprises which infinite love had prepared for me, - services of which I could not have imagined myself capable; - all these lay in the mighty hand as the purposes of God’s eternal will for me.

-  
*Mrs. C. H. Spurgeon, A Cluster of Camphire, 32.*

# SOLDIER'S CREED



I am an American Soldier.

I am a warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy, the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.



“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

*Matthew 16:13-16*

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Gino loved Jesus and loved people with his whole heart. Thank you for loving Gino so well and honoring him now. Our family is deeply grateful. Please join us for a lunch reception in Fellowship Hall after the memorial service.

November 8th, 2024  
Cornerstone, An Evangelical Free Church  
Annandale, Virginia

