

Pioneer Award

EUGENE "GENE" CARANCI
1992



**BORN DECEMBER 20, 1929 IN LOUISVILLE,
COLORADO**
DIED JUNE 1, 2018 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO

Eugene Caranci, who received the 1992 Pioneer Award, has been described as an incredible man. And he did an incredible amount of good for the City of Louisville.

Gene, also known as “Chooch” by his friends, graduated in 1947 from Louisville High School, where he was the president of his class. He earned his BA degree and an MA degree in business administration, and taught in the Denver Public Schools for 36 years. He commuted from Louisville to Denver so he could raise his family in the town that he loved, and after he retired from teaching, he became the Executive Director of the Louisville Chamber of Commerce.

During his tenure as Chamber Director, he helped bring Avista Hospital, Monarch High School, Coal Creek Golf Course and the Tri-City Elks Lodge to the Louisville area. He was a volunteer with the Louisville Fire Department, served on the Louisville Planning Commission, and belonged to the St. Louis Catholic Church, and he founded the Girls Recreation program in Louisville. Gene grew up in Louisville as a member of one of its Italian families and he was proud of his Italian heritage. In 1988, he and four others founded the Society of Italian Americans, and he served as chairman of that club's annual “La Festa” event for many years. He was also instrumental in starting Louisville's International Bocci Club, and was the 1st Bocci Champion in 1987 at the Louisville July 4th celebration, along with his friend, Alberto DeSimone. It seems there wasn't anything Gene Caranci couldn't do, or wouldn't do, for the town he so loved.