



Richard "Gene" Eugene McAvoy

October 15, 1957 - May 15, 2024

Richard Eugene "Gene" McAvoy, age 66, passed away peacefully Wednesday, May 15, 2024, surrounded by loved ones. After years of struggle, Gene walked into heaven on healthy legs.

Gene was born on December 15, 1957, to Richard and Ethel Glover McAvoy in Wynne, Arkansas, where he developed his love of fishing.

After graduating from Wynne High School in 1976, Gene attended Arkansas State University before beginning his 44-year career at the Wynne Area Office of the United States Army Corps of Engineers in June 1979. Gene served as a Construction Quality Assurance Representative for the first fifteen years of his career before serving as a Civil Engineering Technician until his retirement. Throughout his service, Gene worked on many construction projects administered by the Memphis District and Wynne Area Office. His achievements had a direct impact on the successful completion of numerous USACE missions and projects, not only around Arkansas and Tennessee but throughout other states as well. Gene responded and deployed in support of several Emergency Operation Hurricane Relief missions and many District Flood Flight missions, where his performance earned him several performance awards. Throughout his career, Gene was proactive in identifying problems as they arose and helped resolve difficult issues. More importantly, Gene built lifelong relationships and friendships with his USACE coworkers, partners, and stakeholders. Gene retired from the Wynne Area Office in August 2023.

Gene along with several local fishermen held a strong desire to share their love of bass fishing with others, and in 1973 they formed the Wynne Bass Club. Gene remained an active member of the Wynne Bass Club until health issues forced him out of the boat; however, his love for all things bass fishing and his desire for future generations to get out on the water never left him. Gene could and would sit and talk fishing all day.

Gene's love of fishing was rivaled by only one thing—his love and devotion for his wife, Mona. Gene married Mona Sanders on October 9, 1993. The couple loved their cats and loved to travel. They especially loved traveling with Keith and Tracy Huffstuttler to watch Haley play softball with the Fireballs and the Wynne Lady Yellowjackets, where “Uncle Gene” and “Aunt Mona” quickly became everyone's favorite fans.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents Richard and Ethel McAvoy. He is survived by his loving wife, Mona McAvoy, of the home; his brother, David McAvoy (Denise) of Wickes; special niece Kristen Morningstar (Michael) of Wynne; niece Lisa McAnally (Tre) of Perryville; nephew David McAvoy of Jonesboro; and 7 great nieces and nephews. Gene is also survived by lifelong friends who became family: Keith and Tracy Huffstuttler, Haley Huffstuttler, Chris and Holly Campbell, Cole, Caitlyn, and Easton Campbell, and Cade and Mallory Campbell, all of Wynne. Gene leaves behind a host of friends and fellow fishermen who will miss him dearly.

Gene was strong willed and stubborn at times, but he had an enormous heart and loved others. Gene will be remembered for his love and dedication to Mona, his love of fishing, friends, and family, his great storytelling, and his infectious laugh.

Visitation for Gene will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Kernodle Funeral Home from 2 PM until 3 PM. Graveside service will follow at 3 PM at Cogbill Cemetery. Kernodle Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. You may sign an online guestbook at www.kernodlefh.com

Cemetery Details

Cogbill Cemetery

Wynne, AR

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 19. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Kernodle Funeral Home
315-325 E. Union Avenue
Wynne, AR 72396
(870) 238-2323
kernodlefuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.kernodlefh.com/>

Graveside service

MAY 19. 3:00 PM (CT)

Cogbill Cemetery
Wynne, AR

Tribute Wall

GS

“ *My condolences to all of Gene's family. He was a good guy and fun to be around and will be missed by many. Grace and peace to you all.*

*Greg Spence
The Spence Family*

Greg Spence - May 30, 2024 at 06:38 PM

F7

“ *Gene was a very nice man everyone who met him loved to be around him he will be missed!*

Floyd Smith WHS Class of 78 - May 21, 2024 at 06:23 AM

GI

“ *We are so saddened by Gene's passing, He was such a kind and thoughtful person. Prayers for comfort for the family.*

Gary & Karen Inman - May 20, 2024 at 05:45 PM

RB

“ *Fly high Big'un till we meet again. You were the best my friend from the days of bush apes on survey parties all the way up the ladder at the Wynne Area Office. You will be missed and remembered, never forgotten.*

Robert Bufford - May 18, 2024 at 04:18 PM

LM

“ Through Christ that strengthen s us, we can find greatest comfort in the truth knowing that we will be reunited in the place where no sickness and pain will touch us, called Heaven. Prayers Fer family during this time, been couple years since we talked, but Gene will remain in my heart as a great friend, fisherman, guitar player, football n track, and how we rocked the 70s... in Jesus name, amen. MAY GOD REST HIS SOUL.

Lynn Miller - May 17, 2024 at 11:43 PM

GD

“ I loved Gene McAvoy. He was my student in Sophomore English and my neighbor for a few years. Smart, tender hearted and just a good guy, he leaves the world when we need people who are good friends and good people. He will be missed. George Anne Draper

George Anne Draper - May 17, 2024 at 10:19 PM

PH

“ So sorry for your loss. He was a great friend from Corps. His wit and smile were always present. He took a lot of kidding when he was getting prepared to marry Mona. His visits to Huxtable Pumping Plant were always happy ones.

Pat Hallman - May 17, 2024 at 02:15 PM

VM

“ One of those “gentle giants” Big Gene was my mentor in all things related to administration of construction contracts. Always one to provide constructive feedback, he turned me loose to do my own thing and we accomplished a lot of quality work together. Men like Gene are a rarity, and the world is a little emptier now that he’s gone, but he will always be the standard i use to gauge myself. He is legendary to those fortunate enough to have worked with him.

Vic Mastronardi - May 17, 2024 at 09:33 AM

CH

Gene was indeed a "gentle giant". I had the pleasure of working with as I worked in Construction-Operation Division. Prayers of comfort and peace to the family. Clyde E. Hunt

Clyde E. Hunt - May 18, 2024 at 06:19 PM

BJ

“ *brittany jo lit a candle in memory of Richard McAvoy*



brittany jo - May 17, 2024 at 06:39 AM