



William Eugene "Gene" Woodall

February 3, 1921 - September 6, 2022

William Eugene (Gene) Woodall of Little Rock and more recently of Wynne, passed away on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at the age of 101. Gene was born on a small, diversified farm in Woodville, Alabama, on February 3, 1921, to Silas P. and Filey Whitaker Woodall. He lived through the Great Depression and honorably served during World War II. He was truly one of the many members of the Greatest Generation.

After graduating from Woodville High School in Jackson County, Alabama, he was drafted into the United States Army and sent to the European Theatre. He was honorably discharged in 1945 after serving for three and a half years in North Africa, France, and Germany.

Upon returning from the Army, Gene attended Florence State Teachers College and later Auburn University, graduating from Auburn in 1949. After graduation he accepted a job with the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. In 1962 he earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He served in Pulaski, Yell and Monroe counties before being transferred to the state office in Little Rock. In 1956 he became the state cotton specialist for the Extension Service and served in this capacity for 29 years until his retirement in 1985. The development of cotton insecticides and chemical weed control, the introduction of the mechanical cotton picker, and the eradication of the boll weevil all occurred during his

years with the Extension Service, and he felt fortunate to have worked when the cotton industry was changing so rapidly. He considered the Cotton Research Verification Trials that he developed and conducted at the end of his career to be his greatest contribution to the improvement of cotton production in Arkansas.

Gene was a long-time member of Calvary Baptist Church in Little Rock, where he served as a deacon. After retirement, he was an avid volunteer at the church and within his community. He loved to work in his garden and watch the Razorbacks play. At the age of 99, he was honored to be inducted into the 2020 class of the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Gene was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Earnestine, in 2020. He also outlived all nine of his siblings.

Gene is survived by his daughter, Retha Woodall Hayes, of Wynne, and three grandchildren, Whitney Hayes Carter and husband Matt of Wynne, Drew Hayes of Houston, Texas, and Emry Hayes of Memphis, Tennessee, and great-grandchildren, Will, Aubrey and Adelaide Carter.

Services will be held at Calvary Baptist Church in Little Rock on Friday, September 16th at 1 p.m. Memorials may be made for Gene Woodall to Calvary Baptist Church, 5700 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207. Kernodle Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. You may sign an online guestbook at www.kernodlefh.com

Cemetery Details

Pinecrest Memorial Park and Garden Mausoleum

7401 AR-5
Alexander, AR 72002

Previous Events

Memorial services

SEP **16**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Calvary Baptist Church
5700 Cantrell Road
Little Rock, AR 72207

Tribute Wall

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“ I knew Mr. Woodall for a long time, mainly during his retirement years when he remained a faithful friend and supporter of the UA Division of Ag, Cooperative Extension, agriculture and Arkansas. He was a most gracious and wise advisor to those of us in the agricultural professions, and I will never forget his kindness to me over the years. He was a genuine friend and mentor to so many, and a legend to me. I regret that I never told him what he truly meant to us. My best wishes and deepest condolences to the family and the thousands of friends.....”

Rick Cartwright

Rick Cartwright - September 16, 2022 at 11:04 AM

MT

“ So sorry to hear about Mr. Woodall's passing. I worked at CES with him for years. May he Rest in Love & Peace. Such a nice man. Prayers of comfort for his family.”

Martha Thorpe - September 13, 2022 at 02:01 PM