



Gene Branch

June 8, 1931 - January 7, 2016

Gene Branch of Eldon, Missouri, passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends at the Good Shepard Care Center in Versailles, Missouri on January 7, 2016.

Gene was born to Edward Branch and Eula (Burnett) Branch on June 8, 1931 in Morgan County, Missouri where he spent his childhood.

Gene lived the majority of his life in Central Missouri where he raised his family with his wife Leta Branch. Those who knew Gene would agree that he never met a stranger who didn't become a friend after a few minutes in his company, he was always up for a good joke, loved to be around people, and was generous, loyal, and quick to lend a hand to anyone who needed help. Gene was married to Leta Capps on November 29, 1952 and shortly after their wedding he spent two years in the Army serving as a MP in the Korean War until his honorable discharge in 1954. After serving his country Gene worked for the Weber Shoe company from 1955 until 1970 and for the Fisher Shoe Company from 1970 until he left in 1972 to become an owner operator as an over the road truck driver for C&H Transportation (which he often joked stood for Cold and Hungry). After his career in trucking he worked locally in Eldon for Opie's Transport Inc. and Enloe Aluminum until his retirement. In addition to his love for family, Gene's biggest hobby and passion was music. He was an accomplished self-taught guitarist and it was commonplace to find

him playing music with his brothers Wesley and Oliver in addition to his many friends who enjoyed music as well. Gene was also very involved with the Big Rock Church in Barnett, Missouri where he helped remodel and update the church and also played in the church band on Sundays. During his retirement Gene spent time traveling with Leta as well as family and friends visiting many of his favorite places (especially Branson, Missouri).

Gene was preceded in death by his parents Ed and Eula Branch as well as his siblings, Raymond Palmes, Milburn Palmes, Paul Palmes, Pauline Robertson, Hazel Geiger, and Oliver Branch.

In addition to his brother Wesley Branch, Gene is survived by Leta Brach his wife of 63 years, 1 daughter Rhonda Branch of Eldon Missouri, 2 sons Rex Branch of Eldon and Troy Branch (Jennifer) of Lee's Summit Missouri, 4 grandchildren Kyle Branch, Kirby Branch, Liza Merriman, and Natalie Branch as well as 2 great grandchildren Riley Branch and Emmett Merriman.

Gene will be missed by all those who knew and loved him and the world will seem a little less interesting without him in it but heaven will be a lot more fun. Gene's family would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to the staff of the Good Shepard Care Center for their wonderful care and support of Gene and our family during his residency. Godspeed dad... We love you!

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday morning, January 12, 2016 at the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles. Visitation will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., on Monday evening, January 11, 2016. Burial will be in the Greenmore Memorial Gardens in Barnett. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Good Shepherd Care Center in Versailles.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Service

JAN 12. 10:30 AM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Tribute Wall

RF

“ *Reta Fields lit a candle in memory of Gene Branch*



Reta Fields - January 21, 2016 at 08:03 PM

SR

“ *I want to tell you about a joke on Gene that sorta backfired. When I was Postmaster at Fortuna, Gene stopped by and when he walked in he said "hello sweetheart" no realizing that Bill, my husband was also there. This was the one and only time I ever saw him speechless. We had a good laugh and anytime we saw him, we always had a good laugh again.*

He will be missed and I'm sorry that I just learned of his passing this morning.

Sonia Burnett Rose

Sonia Burnett Rose - January 20, 2016 at 09:45 AM

HS

“ *Leta and family, we are so very sorry for your loss.. Gene was an amazing person, loved and respected by all, he was a very great man, one that we feel honored to call our friend. He will be missed, until we meet again friend...*

Howard and Debby Stone - January 12, 2016 at 09:42 PM

SB

“ *Our sympathies to the family. God bless.*



Speed and Brenda Branch - January 12, 2016 at 01:25 PM

TK

“ *Oliver Lee Branch and I were students at Bethel School just west of Route D on Route BB in 1952--1953 and maybe 1954. I can remember Wesley playing and singing "The Cattle Call" at a PTA meeting. Oliver was a pleasant person to know, so it does not surprise me to learn his brother, Gene was well liked. May our Lord bless and sustain the Branch family during this time. --Tom Kerr of Monett*



Tom Kerr - January 11, 2016 at 08:50 PM

MC

Rhonds, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time and the days ahead of you. May the good Lord give you love, peace and strength.

Mary Corpening - January 17, 2016 at 12:26 PM

MB

“ *Melvin & Linda Branch lit a candle in memory of Gene Branch*



Melvin & Linda Branch - January 11, 2016 at 07:07 PM

ME

Gene will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Melvin - January 11, 2016 at 07:17 PM

FF

“ Troy and family.
Our deepest sympathies for your loss. Gene leaves behind a wonderful family and legacy that will live for years to come through his wonderful children, grandchildren, family and friends. Our prayers are with everyone during this time.
Our love,
The Failoni Family. Frank, Lisa, Gigi and Frankie.

Frank Failoni - January 11, 2016 at 04:44 PM

AT

“ While I haven't seen any of you in many decades, I remember Gene (and the entire family) with fondness. He was a truly kind man. May your memories give you peace.
Angie Salzman Tuttle

Angie Salzman Tuttle - January 11, 2016 at 02:28 PM

BS

“ Bryan Sunnquist lit a candle in memory of Gene Branch



Bryan Sunnquist - January 11, 2016 at 11:27 AM

 Paula
Elkin

“ *Dear Leta and Family,
This is such a sad time for you. Gene was such a great person. I will
always remember his smile. He truly cared about others. Gene is
now playing music in heaven and is happy once again! Love you all!*
Paula Elkin

Paula Elkin - January 11, 2016 at 09:04 AM

BC

“ *Prayers and thoughts . From the Ritchie family. .*

Brenda coontz - January 10, 2016 at 07:39 PM

PV

“ *So sorry to hear of Gene's passing. He had such a gift of music and
will be missed. Remember the visit at your kitchen table with my
husband Jerry and I.*

*In our prayers,
Pat and Jerry Vinson*

Pat Vinson - January 10, 2016 at 04:09 PM

JO

“ *i am so sorry to hear about gene. i will always rember the times i got
to play music out at big roack church with him, he was a very
talented man and will be missed by many. my sympathies are with
the family at this time - r.i.p. my friend juanita klein odoniel*

juanita klein odoniel - January 10, 2016 at 02:45 PM

DM

“ *In our thoughts and prayers*



David and Debbie McCollom - January 09, 2016 at 07:15 PM