



Gene Bennett

October 3, 1925 - January 23, 2018

Gene R. Bennett, age 92, of Savanna, Illinois, passed away Tuesday, January 23 at the Good Samaritan Society in Mt. Carroll, Illinois. A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Savanna. Burial will take place in St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery, Savanna, with military rites accorded by the Savanna VFW Post #2223. Visitation will take place from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Antl Hall in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Savanna, Illinois. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to the family in Gene's memory.

Gene was born October 3, 1925, in Orangeville, Illinois, the son of Frederick Hewitt and Edna (Clarno) Bennett. He attended Freeport High School in Freeport, Illinois and graduated with the Class of 1943. Following high school, Gene served his country from 1944 – 1946 in the United States Army rising to the rank of Sergeant. Gene was assigned to the 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th division, anti-tank company, Tropic Lightning as a Browning Automatic Rifleman. Gene was awarded the Bronze Star for gallantry for serving 165 consecutive days in combat service. He was also awarded the Asiatic Pacific Theater ribbon with 2 bronze battle stars, the Philippine Liberation ribbon with one bronze battle star, the Army of Occupation Medal Japan, and three Overseas Service Bars. Gene married the love of his life Rosemary Haller on January 31, 1948 in Freeport. Rosemary passed away November 25, 2009. They celebrated 62 years of marriage. Gene attended Mortuary School in Cincinnati, Ohio and worked as a traveling casket salesman. He also worked for Fuller Funeral Home in Savanna and later Law-Jones Funeral Home. Gene owned and operated the Montgomery Ward Store for many years in Savanna. Gene worked for the Milwaukee Railroad and retired from the railroad as a Switchman.

Gene was a member of the Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus, Savanna VFW Post #2223, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, past member of Zoning and Planning Commission, Board of Directors at the Black Hawk Area Credit Union. Gene believed in living every day to the fullest. In Gene's younger years he enjoyed golfing, boating, ice skating, wood working. He also loved photography and took many pictures of Savanna.

Gene was always tinkering, building or repairing things. Gene also believed charity began at home. If he saw a need, Gene filled it. He will be remembered by many for his loving and unsolicited acts of service.

Gene is survived by his daughter, Julia Maples of Omaha, Nebraska; two daughters in-law, Carol Bennett of Omaha, Linda Bennett of Omaha; five grandchildren, Rob (Wendy) Bennett, Beth (Chris Rock) Bennett, Scott (Sarah) Craven, Matt Maples, Jacob Maples; two great-grandsons, Kole Maples, William Craven; brother, Charles Bennett of Kenosha, Wisconsin; brother in-law, Robert (Jeanne) Haller of Arlington Heights, Illinois; sister in-law, Lucille Haller-McKinstra of Freeport. Gene was preceded in death by his wife, Rosemary; two sons, Mark and Stephen and an infant daughter, Maureen.

Events

FEB **Visitation** 09:00AM - 11:00AM

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St. John The Baptist Catholic Church- Savanna
318 Chicago Ave., Savanna, IL, US, 61074

FEB **Funeral Mass** 11:00AM

3

St. John The Baptist Catholic Church- Savanna
318 Chicago Ave., Savanna, IL, US, 61074

Comments



“ 2 files added to the album Monument



Law-Jones Funeral Home - June 13, 2018 at 12:26 PM



“ 23 files added to the album Flower Photos



Law-Jones Funeral Home - February 08, 2018 at 09:58 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gene Bennett.



February 02, 2018 at 09:18 AM



“ 5 files added to the album Family Photos



Law-Jones Funeral Home - February 01, 2018 at 02:54 PM



“ So sorry for our loss of Gene...much sympathy to his family at this time. So many people who cared about Gene and the way he touched their lives have been stated here. I think he knew he could make a difference in their lives as he just kept repeating his kindness over and over again. Yes, Gene you will be missed by all who knew and loved you. May you rest in peace by your loving wife's side. She has been waiting to take your hand. Gone but never forgotten. Rest in peace.



Jan & Marty Altensey - February 01, 2018 at 11:58 AM



“ To Gene's Family, He was such a caring, compassionate, considerate man with a warm smile and hearty, but soft, laugh. Rosemary was a good friend of my mother's. I would always tease him that if my hair would be as beautiful as his, I would never have to color it! His calm, firm, sweet presence could always be felt. RIP dear man.

Freddie Preston - January 29, 2018 at 06:11 PM



“ Gene, we began our relationship by you considering my worthiness, and we wound up being friends. I will always remember our breakfasts, war stories that Brothers in Arms share, conversations, philosophizing, and maneuvering to pay the tab first.

We will have breakfast again sometime in the future. Someday. And it's my turn to pay the tab! You will be sorely missed, and long remembered. Rest in Peace, my Friend.

Jim Schoenhaar

Jim Schoenhaar - January 28, 2018 at 07:31 PM



“ Just a totally cool guy! He touched many lives and I am thankful to have known him (and Rosemary). Those were the days when neighborhoods flowed from one street to the next...Park St to Park Place to 6th St and connected by those neighbors on Chicago Avenue which provided many many memories. Thanks for the memories, Gene!

Carol Canier - January 27, 2018 at 07:41 PM



“ Heart broken to hear about Gene's passing! Truly one of the nicest people I have ever met! He spoiled the whole FHN staff with his monthly donut deliveries... that we were very thankful for! We once insisted he didn't need to bring them but he told us it made him happy to do things for others. He will forever be one of my most memorable patients I've had the honor to care for! It's people like him that live with a nurse her whole career. Rest in peace, Gene! Thank you for being such a kind and humble human being! Not many are made like you anymore!

Amanda Thulion - January 26, 2018 at 05:37 PM



“ Fondest memories are when Marty & I headed out in our RV for Oshkosh every year. We would drive first to Omaha, then caravan with Steve and Linda up to Savanna, IL to park our RV's and stay the night on the "dead end" road in front of the Bennett homestead. What an "event." We have such good memories of Pizza's at Manny's, boat trips up the Mississippi River (in the boat we later bought from Gene), just laughing and having the best times of our lives!!
Gene was such a kind and gentle(manly) man!! How many people do you know that the Hummingbirds would fly right up to their face and give them a "kiss" on the nose?? Yep, I personally witnessed that on several occasions. It was an awesome thing to see. Even the birds can attest to his wonderful character!!
Marty loved Gene and used him as his own "father" image. I loved Gene because he was a "good sport," put up with all our shenanigans, and got right in there with us! Additionally, his spirit will be missed, prayed for, and fondly kept in our hearts forever and ever! We all know he now has his "angel wings" on and is flying high with all the loved ones that preceded him in his passing.
Love, Ellen Roberts

Ellen Roberts - January 26, 2018 at 12:13 PM



“ In reading a lot of memories on here, it isn't surprising that some of Gene's last words to me were to stay close and love each other. He was one of the few relatives I had that seemed to get along well with every family member. One of my more cherished memories was when my wife and I visited him several months after Rosemary passed. We went up to Black Earth, WI one day to see where the Bennetts initially settled after immigrating to America shortly after the Civil War; and then the next day he drove us around Stephenson County, IL to see many of the graves on Rosemary's side.

Rob Bennett - January 26, 2018 at 12:25 AM



“ Julie and family, So sorry to hear your dad has passed. Such a sweet man with a great smile. Sending our sympathy to you.

Jon n Pam Darrow - January 25, 2018 at 11:59 PM



“ Julie so sorry for your loss. He was an amazing man. Hugs love and prayers to you. Here when you need anything.

Carolyn Painter - January 25, 2018 at 09:00 PM



“ Carolyn Painter lit a candle in memory of Gene Bennett



Carolyn Painter - January 25, 2018 at 08:57 PM



“ My mom worked for Gene at Wards in the early 1960's and had nothing but kind words about him. I worked for him when I was in high school and I learned so much about how to treat people and be a positive person! I have never forgotten how he influenced me in life! Gerry Kreuder

Gerry Kreuder - January 25, 2018 at 08:56 PM



“ Hearing of Gene's passing breaks my heart. He was such a sweet man. I met Gene while working at Blackhawk Area Credit Union. He always came to visit and brought us treats. He was a wealth of information and had many interesting stories to share from his past. You will be missed Gene. Thank you for touching a special place in my heart.

Trish Kingery - January 25, 2018 at 06:06 PM



“ Gene was a kind and generous man. I met him when I started working at Blackhawk Area Credit Union 23 years ago. He was on BACU's board of directors for many years. I don't think there was anything he couldn't fix. Loved the stories he shared with all of us. He will be missed by many!

Sandy Howard - January 25, 2018 at 07:34 PM



“ Sorry for your loss Julie. Have known your dad since I was a kid growing up in the neighborhood. He was always a kind and caring man whom I greatly respected. Rest In Peace and thank you for your service Gene. ALLEN HARTMAN

ALLEN HARTMAN - January 25, 2018 at 05:55 PM



“ I am heart broken that Gene has left us. But knowing he is with Rosemary once again makes it easier. There is no better person on this earth then Gene Bennet. Kind, caring and thoughtful in every way. I loved sitting with him at Blackhawk Credit Union listening to all of his life stories. Or just visiting with him whenever I saw him out and about. He would send me a carnation every year on my birthday with a card signed "Love Santa". Gene always had a smile on his face. The last few months were hard on him but I know he is much happier now. I love you Gene B and will continue on with our "MYOB" inside joke conversations with Vinnie. RIP Gene, I know you are sitting with Rosemary and all is good again.
Love ~ Wendy Ellen

Wendy Popkin - January 25, 2018 at 05:25 PM



“ Julie-- my condolences to you and family. The past few months were tough for you in caring for your Dad, yet powerfully inspiring to see and hear his life stories of love and service for others, including in helping my country, the Philippines be liberated during the Second World War with Gen. MacArthur. At the moment, as I informed you am here in my country for a Church-research and my home is about two miles of MacArthur Shrine.

Thanks to Jim for his assist to you and me, to the Good Sam Nursing Home, to our Parishioners and his hundreds of friends who cared and prayed for such a great man and Dad, towering in height but humble and sincerely present. I was honoured to know your Mom too. . . God bless you all. Our prayers for his fullness of life and love before our loving God. Amen.



Fr. Moises Apostol - January 25, 2018 at 04:32 PM