



Gene Ray Bendall

June 22, 1944 - October 7, 2022

Gene Ray "Rabbit" Bendall, 78, of Russellville entered the presence of Christ on Friday, October 7, 2022.

Gene Ray was born in Russellville, Alabama to Clarence and Mattie Bendall on June 22, 1944. He was a proud Russellville High School Class of 1962 graduate. He honored his country by serving in the Army National Guard. In August 1965, he married the love of his life, Shelia Ann Hester, and they had two sons, Shane and Brett. He retired from his job as a systems analyst for Wise Alloys in 2009.

Gene Ray was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed mission work, playing cards (Rook in particular), hunting, fishing and spending time with his family. His wonderful sense of humor and enjoyment of life was an inspiration to all he met.

Gene Ray's dedication to God and the mission field was evident in all he did. Over the past 44 years, he organized and worked numerous mission trips around the world. One of his most proud accomplishments was creating Laymen for Christ, a mission outreach organization. Gene was full of passion and conviction. He loved Jesus and the Word of God and his desire to spread the Gospel of Christ was inspiring.

Gene Ray is preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Mattie Bendall. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Shelia; his sister, Helen (John); his children, Shane (Paige) and Brett (Natalie); his grandchildren, Hannah (Michael), Blake (Hannah), Luke (Genevieve), and Brayden; and his great

grandchildren, Jack, James, and Remi.

The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 2 PM at Faith Church, 3601 Florence Blvd, Florence, Alabama. Pastor Steve Huskey will be officiating the service with the help of Pastor Ryan Mouser and Pastor Henry Melton. The family will receive friends prior to the funeral from 12-2 at Faith Church. There will be a graveside ceremony with military honors at 4PM at the Jonesboro Cemetery, Waterloo Road, Russellville, Alabama.

Pallbearers will be Ken Fuller, David Mathis, Scott Fincher, Justin Tew, Alex Guynn, and Jarrett Hovater.

Honorary pallbearers will be Jimmy Bendall, Wally Poss, Harold Miller, Jerald Rogers, Jimmy Bragwell, Daniel Dorriety and Laymen for Christ Missionaries. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you consider making a donation to the Laymen For Christ, c/o Faith Church, 3601 Florence Blvd, Florence, Alabama 35630.

Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

Tribute Wall

SM

“Helen, we were so devastated to learn of your brother Gene's untimely death. But we know he is with the Lord now. Please accept our deepest condolences. We have been praying for you and will continue to do so. Sibby

Sibby and Pete Mallowney - October 14, 2022 at 12:00 AM

KR

“We will be praying for the family. The loss of a loved one leaves a whole in your heart. Remember the good times and the laughter. Prayers for you.

Kandie Madden Richeson/ Evan Richeson - October 13, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SB

“Shelia and family: I am so sorry to learn of the passing of your dear husband Gene. My husband and I met him at the visitation for Jimmy Smith and he was such a sweet and friendly man. Had I known he was your husband I would have ask about you. Our prayers are with you and your family as grieve his loss in this present world. Love you. Helen Behel Sanderson

Shelia Ann Bendall - October 12, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JH

“Sheila I am so sorry for your loss, Gene Ray was truly one of a kind and a very special man, I was blessed to know him and thankful God allowed our paths to cross. Love you and praying for God to hold you and your family extra close in these coming days? 🙏?

Jackie Handley - October 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Sheila I am so sorry for your loss, Gene Ray was truly one of a kind and a very special man, I was blessed to know him and thankful God allowed our paths to cross. Love you and praying for God to hold you and your family extra close in these coming days? 🙏? ”

Jackie Handley - October 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Praying for this sweet family! ”

Kelby and Terri Daniel - October 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Rabbit was one of a kind..He was truly a blessing..I remember when there was an event @ Jonesboro Community Center he was always there & had a story..You all are in my thoughts..Blessings ”

David Hester - October 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ We are so sorry to hear this! He will be solely missed, for sure. Prayers for you, Sheila and the family. ”

Patsy and Gene Arthur - October 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ My heart is broken over the untimely loss of this dear man. Please know that I am praying for all of your family to be washed with the peace and comfort of our lord and savior. ”



Rocky Stone - October 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *Shelia,
I'm sorry about Gene you and your family are in my prayers.
Love,
Donna Darby*

Donna Darby - October 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ *I worked with Gene for a number of years at Wise. It was always a pleasure to interact with him because he was so jovial and willing to help. I know you are sad that he will not be around on this earth, but it will be a joy to see him again in Heaven. May God bless each of you with his peace that surpasses all understanding.
Bill Nelson*

Bill Nelson - October 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ *Sheila, I?m so sorry to hear about Gene Ray. Mother and dad, (Roger & Jane Black), loved y?all and enjoyed the fun times you shared. Please accept our prayers for peace and comfort through this time.*

Laura Black Peek - October 11, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *So very sorry for the loss of your loved one .
You are each in my prayers .*

Judy Timmons - October 10, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *A lifelong friend that will be sorely missed. God bless and keep you buddy*

jerold rogers and elaine rogers - October 10, 2022 at 12:00 AM

WE

“ We want to extend our deepest sympathy to Gene Ray?s (Rabbit?s) family!! He was a longtime friend of mine, since 4th grade in school. He was a great guy and will be dearly missed. Woody Edwards

Woody and Jane Edwards - October 10, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I spent many wonderful times with Gene Ray and my best friend, his son Shane. I have a lot of great memories of him and will never forget all the fun times (hunting and fishing trips) we had, and the memories that will last forever. He was an inspiration and role model to me and for a lot of people. He could make you smile even on your darkest days. There are a lot of good people, but he was a GREAT ONE and truly one of a kind. Rest in peace, Rabbit.

Mike Smith - October 10, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Gene Ray and I played basketball together at Russellville where we both graduated in 1962. He was one of my favorite people and I will certainly miss him!!!!

James Montgomery - October 09, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ What an amazing person and what a remarkable life!! I feel so blessed to have met him. He has made a difference in so many lives. Thinking of you as you celebrate Genes beautiful life. He will live on in our hearts.

Lee and Tyra Megois - October 09, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Words cannot express how sorry I am to hear about Gene Ray he was a great friend of me and my family and heart breaks for your loss of such a great man. He will truly be missed but we know he is now walking the streets of gold. May God hold you in his arms the next days weeks and months ahead.

*Love you all
Michelle Cooper*

Michelle Cooper - October 09, 2022 at 12:00 AM