



Mr. Ernest Eugene "Gene" Lyons

November 5, 2011

LYONS, Ernest Eugene "Gene", 70, of Plant City, FL, passed away Saturday, November 5, 2011 after a brief battle with cancer.

Gene was born May 16, 1941 in Tampa, Florida, a son of the late Ernest Lee and Martha Jordan Lyons. Gene worked with Linder Machinery as a heavy equipment salesman for 25 years retiring in 1982. He then owned and operated Corks County Corner & Hardware for several years as an integral part of the community. Upon selling his business he returned to heavy equipment sales with GSE, Inc. and Moody Equipment.

Gene was active with the Florida Strawberry Festival where he served as Grand Stage Manager for 27 years. He was an active member of Plant City Elks Lodge #1727, where he served as trustee and house committee chairmen and was honored as Elk of Year in 1999 and 2005.

He was past Monarch of the Sesame Grotto in Lakeland, a member of Masonic Lodge #330 Temple Terrace, a member of Scottish Rite and past president of East Hillsborough Ducks Unlimited.

Gene is survived by his wife of 19 years, Gail Ayers Lyons; his son Edward (Connie) Lyons of Hudson, FL; his daughter Rebecca (Donnie) Drake of Port Charlotte, FL; his step-daughter Jennifer (Karl) Chamberlain of Plant City, FL; sisters Alice Boyette, Lilly Leyden and Esther Douglas; seven grandchildren;

his father in law Jeddie Ayers of Daniel Island, SC; brother in laws Michael (Becky) Ayers of Columbia, SC and Jeff Ayers of Daniel Island, SC.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 pm Tuesday, November 8, at Bethany Baptist Church, 3409 Cork Rd., Plant City, where the family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Burial will follow at Mt. Enon Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the United Food Bank of Plant City, 702 E. Alsobrook Street # H, Plant City, FL 33563-6613 or LifePath Hospice, www.chaptershealth.org/hospice.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 8. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Bethany Baptist Church
3409 Cork Rd.
Plant City, FL

Celebration of Life

NOV 8. 3:00 PM (ET)

Bethany Baptist Church
3409 Cork Rd.
Plant City, FL

Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Ernest Eugene "Gene" Lyons



Hopewell Funeral Home - November 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Just wanted to add our love and prayers for Gail and the rest of the family. The services today were a great tribute to Gene and made all of us who are old friends stop to think about how important friends are in our life. We listened to Joe talk about many great times and great memories we have all shared and hope that God's grace will help everyone who is hurting now get through these hard times. I heard a quote a long time ago that I always think of at times like these. "All that matters and all that is remembered in life is the love we give and receive. Suffering disappears, LOVE remains." I hope love and memories will comfort you now.

Randy and Barbara Bailey

PS--Sorry about melting all your utensils when you loaned us the grill Gene. We'll laugh about it again when we see you in heaven.

Barbara Bailey - November 08, 2011 at 07:17 PM

WW

“ *Gail and Family, I'm so sorry for your loss.*
Wayne D. Wilson

Wayne D. Wilson - November 08, 2011 at 07:12 PM

SK

“ *Gene was a good friend and a fellow worker. We came to know Gene at the Florida Strawberry Festival while he worked back stage. He would always greet us with a big hug and great smile. He will truly be missed. Our deepest sympathy to his family.*
Affiliated Adjusters (Bo-Peeps)
Sharon S. Kautz
Jackie Tamburri
Deanna K. Burgess

sharon s. kautz - November 08, 2011 at 03:41 PM

GL

Thank you so much, Gene really loved talking with you!

Gail Lyons - November 12, 2011 at 05:05 PM

AS

“ *It was a pleasure that I knew this man. He could always make me laugh and always had a huge hug waiting to greet me with. I spent several days with him learning to drive a off road dump truck and he was as patient as he could be enduring my learning curve. He will be greatly missed and never forgotten*

Anita Surrency

Anita Surrency - November 08, 2011 at 11:40 AM

FJ

“ Gene's presence was felt by all who came in contact with him. I know that I remember the year he served as our committee Chairman at the East Hillsborough Chapter of Ducks Unlimited as the most fun and the money raised was the most ever. We all are certainly going to miss him.

Frank Schiele Jr.

Frank L. Schiele Jr. - November 08, 2011 at 10:38 AM

RB

“ We were all blessed to have enjoyed the privilege of working with Gene on so many wonderful community events. Gene's smile and upbeat caring attitude kept us all going on those long days. While he will be greatly missed we will always remember his positive attitude. My thoughts and prayers go out to Gail and family during this time.



Rick Bunnell - November 08, 2011 at 07:45 AM

SD

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Lyons family as they celebrate the life of a wonderful person. I came to know Gene at the Strawberry Festival along the the Fitch Sound family. Gene always greeted you with a great hug, a huge smile and his heart was even bigger! He was always ready, willing and able to help "get 'er done"....whatever the task was!! He will be remembered fondly and is now watching over his family and friends, with that great big smile!!! Fly with the angels, dear friend.

*Susan DeCourcy
Lakeland, FL*

Susan DeCourcy - November 07, 2011 at 08:00 PM

KM

“ *May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived. RIP Uncle Gene. Love, Kimberly Martin & Family*

Kimberly Martin - November 07, 2011 at 12:35 PM

MT

“ *GENE, YOU HAVE BEEN MY FRIEND FOR SO MANY YEARS AND YOU WILL BE SADLY MISSED BUDDY BUT YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN AND YOUR WITH THE LORD ABOVE AND HE WILL BE THERE FOR YOU FOREVER . WE HAVE HAD ALOT OF WONDERFUL TIME'S TOGETHER AND EVEN WHEN I WORKED FOR YOU YOU WERE MY BEST FRIEND EVEN THEN AND YOU HELPED ME THRU ALOT OF MY HARD TIME'S . TO THE FAMILY MY THOUGHT'S AND PRAYER'S ARE WITH YOU ALL AND GENE WILL BE MISSED .
MELVIN THOMPSON*

MELVIN THOMPSON - November 07, 2011 at 12:19 PM

AN

“ *I will remember Gene with a smile.. The family is in my thoughts and prayers.*

Amy Nizamoff - November 07, 2011 at 10:11 AM

AN

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Amy Nizamoff - November 07, 2011 at 09:55 AM

NF

“ During our many years of providing the sound systems for the Festival we met and became friends with many amazing and wonderful people. Gene, you were one of the funniest, sweetest, cantankerous, (and I say that with love) loving men I ever knew. We had great times back stage and I will miss your wonderful bear hugs. Heaven just got a little fuller with your presence. See you again someday and I will be expecting one of those hugs! :)
Nancy Fitch

Nancy Fitch - November 07, 2011 at 09:01 AM



“ Big Daddy, I will never forget moving to plant city and meeting you. You guys accepted me as a part of your family no questions asked. No matter what Becky and I wound up getting into (trouble or not) we knew the love of ya'll. Now 25 years later it is like having to say good-bye to one of my own parents. We may not have seen each other on a regular basis, but anytime we did see each other we picked right up from where we left off. No time was ever missed. I am so glad that we got to have the family lunch at ABC a while back, so that I can cherish that afternoon with all of the family together. I love you and will miss you to no end Big Daddy. Stacy Dickson(Wynn).

Stacy (Wynn) - November 07, 2011 at 08:16 AM

LO

“ God has you now Gene, The Elks Lodge had you for many years and we remember the hard work and support you gave us. You were a skilled large scale cooker and taught many of us how to smoke and cook meat. You directed many activities involving the Wildgame event and our House operations. You were always diligent and had our best interests at heart. Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken. Go with God.

Lodge Officers - November 07, 2011 at 03:32 AM

BD

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Becky Lyons Drake - November 06, 2011 at 10:30 PM

DV

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Enjoyed working with Gene at the fair and the FFA students.*

Don & Juanita Vaughan

Donald & Juanitra Vaughan - November 06, 2011 at 11:01 AM

SW

My sincere symphay to Genes family.I was friends with Gene in our early childhood thru late teens.May God give you strength in this time of loss. Sandra Evans Whidden

Sandra Evans Whidden - November 07, 2011 at 09:39 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Ed Lyons - November 06, 2011 at 11:00 AM



“ You were a wonderful dad and no one could ever take your place.. You left us with nothing but great memories..you were one of a kind and had a huge heart, funny soul, and you always were there for us no matter what was going on. I have lost a father, best friend, and the community has lost one of thier biggest supporters. Words cant decscribe what a big hole this has left in my heart but I know your home now for supertime.....I love you and will see you again one day.

Your son

Eddie.

Ed Lyons - November 06, 2011 at 10:54 AM

JK

“ Farewell Gene, my friend. Our relationship was short but a true blessing to Amity and me.

Jan L. and Amity W. Kokochak

Jan Kokochak - November 05, 2011 at 07:05 PM