



## Jules "Gene" Kennett

October 8, 1928 - November 23, 2024

Jules "Gene" Kennett of Petersburg, Illinois, relinquished this world on Saturday, November 23, 2024. After 96 years of outsmarting Death, he is off riding with the bad boys once more. He was born in the family home on October 8, 1928, in Harvey, Illinois, to Beulah (Stanton) and Jewel Kennett. He was the oldest of 11 children and never let them forget it. He finished just enough schooling to be dangerous before he dropped out to help feed the family, working as a farm hand before enlisting in the Navy (1950-1954). He unflinchingly served his country during the Korean War and always had a story to prove it. He returned home and married the love of his life, Pauline Bolinger, on August 4, 1956, in Springfield, Illinois.

Gene was a beloved member of the Athens Christian Church where he freely gave his time and love to all who entered. In his younger years he was a talented plasterer, helping in the construction of Casa Bonita in Colorado. He then worked for the Sweet Water Elevator (RCM

Co-op) in Greenview, Illinois. After retirement, he proudly served his community through the Menard County EMS and Rescue Squad alongside his daughter Tracy. He was an avid fisherman and outdoorsman, spending hours in appreciation of all the colors nature provides. He loved watching NASCAR and the Denver Broncos play with his sons. He loved every dog he ever met and once he won the lottery, his dream was to open an animal rescue with his granddaughter Caitlin. He loved his family, his country, and his God above all else.

Gene is survived by his children: Tracy Lynn Kennett, Kevin Stanton Kennett, and Cody (wife Amy) Kennett; his grandchildren: Angie (husband Kainan) Rinaberger, Ian Winterbauer, Caitlin (partner Cassidy Phillips) Winterbauer, Courtney Kennett, Colton Kennett, Jayden Kennett, and Jaxsen Kennett; his great-grandchildren: Chloe Rinaberger, Kai Rinaberger, and Daxton Rinaberger, and Indrid Winterbauer; his siblings: Jim Kennett, Bruce Kennett, and Sharon Faulkner; and his grand-dogs: Angus and Harley.

Waiting to greet him was his wife, Pauline; his daughter Michele Ann Kennett; siblings Bill Kennett, Dick Kennett, Donnie Kennett, Danny Kennett, Kathy Kennett, Barbara Randall, and June Lamsargis; his dogs, Pooh and Shiloh; and too many friends to count.

A visitation will be held on Friday, December 13, 2024, at the Athens Christian Church from 9:00 am to 10:00 am followed by a memorial service. Internment will follow the service at 1:00 pm at Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois.

Memorial donations may be made to the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg is assisting Gene's family with arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Camp Butler National Cemetery

5063 Camp Butler Road  
Springfield, IL 62707  
(217) 492-4070

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 13. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Athens Christian Church  
1411 W State Route 29  
Athens, IL 62613

## Memorial Service

DEC 13. 10:00 AM (CT)

Athens Christian Church  
1411 W State Route 29  
Athens, IL 62613

## Burial

DEC 13. 1:00 PM (CT)

Camp Butler National Cemetery  
5063 Camp Butler Road  
Springfield, IL 62707  
(217) 492-4070



# Tribute Wall

BR

“ Uncle Gene was so special to me. Loved eating dinner with him every Friday and hearing his stories.He will be missed by everyone that knew him. Love you Uncle Gene. Give my daddy a hug for me. See you in Heaven one day. BRENDA

Brenda - December 12, 2024 at 06:53 PM

DL

“ Tracy and Cody, I am saddened to hear of Gene's passing. He was a big personality in Petersburg for many year. Prayers and hugs for you and your families. ❤️  
Dianne (Smothers) Leach

Dianne Leach - November 30, 2024 at 09:24 AM

LH

“ Larry and Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Jules "Gene" Kennett



Larry and Mary Hundt - November 29, 2024 at 12:48 PM

PB

“ Gene never saw a stranger and was a very positive person! We will miss him ar Athens Christian Church, but we will meet again!

Peggy and Gary Biggs - November 29, 2024 at 12:23 PM

BC

“ Years ago we bought a Chevy el Camino off gene and after we fixed it up 😊 he asked us to sell it back to him 😊 haven't even gene in years since moving to Oakford always enjoyed his stories he would tell us if he stopped by a  
Our garage , was sorry to hear about his passing ! 🙏🏻

Bambi coffey - November 28, 2024 at 11:28 AM

RK

“ I loved going out to eat with him and the family on Fridays. I regret not getting to know him earlier in life but I am glad to know he is with all his brothers and sisters now. RIP Gene. You will be missed.

Ryan Kennett - November 27, 2024 at 05:38 PM

MM

“ What a blessing it was to know Gene. Gene and another friend took care of my two young boys, Rhett and Luke, when he was 90-92 yrs old. They put them boys to work cleaning the church bathrooms, gym floors, and played basketball with them while another friend and I lead a Moms group. Gene would always say you remind me of my Michele (my name is also Michelle). He was a sweet Godly man and I am blessed to have known him. When I told the boys he passed, Rhett (9 yrs) said, "Well, now he's with the Lord, I am a little sad but happy to know he is with God!" He lived his life as a witness to the Lord. My condolences to the family.

Michelle Miller - November 27, 2024 at 12:07 PM