

Gene Alden Gant was born on June 26, 1936 in East Chicago, Indiana. He passed away on July 8, 2022 in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Gene was the youngest of six sons of Edward Louis Gant and Virgie Downs Gant. Edward and Virgie taught their sons Dorris, Leroy, Edward Jr., Rudolph, Calvin and Gene to love and serve the Lord, first and foremost. Edward worked in a steel mill in East Chicago, Indiana. He was a Deacon in their church. Virgie was a homemaker, who also managed the family-owned, corner candy store in East Chicago. Their children learned to cherish time together and the value of hard work.

At a young age, Gene's father Edward passed away unexpectedly from a medical condition, leaving Virgie widowed with six sons. She prayerfully packed everyone up and moved to Decatur, Michigan believing that it would be a land of greater opportunity for her family. There, she purchased farmland, and created a homestead for her family.

Virgie found love again and married Jonas Harris. They had two daughters, Carol and Shirley, and two sons, Larry and Dennis. Virgie loved and nurtured all her children, eight boys and two girls, and brought them up in the Lord.

Gene was always a good help to his family. He and his siblings were good students, completing their daily chores, and attending church regularly. Gene accepted Jesus as his Savior at an early age.

Gene enjoyed playing basketball in grade school and high school. He was a particularly skilled player, and a member of the Decatur Raiders High School basketball team. As a senior in 1954, he was selected as a member of the Michigan State High School Athletic Association All-Star Team and received an athletic scholarship to Western Michigan University.

Later he enlisted in the Air Force and attended school in Biloxi Mississippi for heavy ground radio and transmitters. While stationed in Biloxi he became an instructor in this specific skill area. In 1960 he received an honorable discharge from the Air Force and returned to Kalamazoo. There he took a job at the Sutherland Paper Company.

In 1964 Gene met the love of his life, Ivory. They were married in 1966.

Gene believed Consumers Power would be a good match for the skills he gained in the military. He set his sights on an engineering job at Consumers and achieved his goals. Gene retired after 30 plus years at Consumers.

In January 1984, Gene became a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Soon after, his family also joined the church. They enjoyed and appreciated the love and fellowship of their church family. Service became a big part of Gene's life. He served on the church Benevolent Board, New Member Ministry, Senior Usher Board and the Trustee Board. Pastor Moore designated him as his special projects trustee. Gene enjoyed using his professional skill set, people skills, and life experience to complete these projects. He enjoyed reading and studying his Bible. His favorite Scripture was 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and of a sound mind."

When at home with his wife and family, Gene enjoyed celebrating holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas. He loved his beautiful wife Ivory's delicious, home-cooked meals. He loved laughter and having lively discussions and fun with Ivory, Gene, Elma, Julie, and his beautiful granddaughter Brittany. His brother-in-law and extended family were often part of the fun too. He was so proud of his family and loved them with his whole heart.

A memorable family vacation happened in 1993, when they visited Ivory's childhood home of Birmingham, Alabama. They enjoyed seeing the historical sites and getting reacquainted with Ivory's childhood friends.

As patriarch of the Gant Family, Gene took his role very seriously, always checking on his sisters, nieces and nephews, providing encouragement, assistance, a Word from the Lord and Godly wisdom.

Together Gene and Ivory depended upon the Lord to help them build their home and family. Their favorite scripture gives hope of the promise of God: Revelation 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain."

Gene Gant was preceded in death by his parents and seven brothers. He is survived by his wife Ivory Gant, his son Gene (Elma) Gant, daughter Julie Gant, granddaughter Brittany Gant, sisters Carol Crawley and Shirley Ward; nephews, nieces, and a host of family and friends.

Cemetery Details

Mount Ever-Rest Memorial Park

3941 S. Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 18. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
120 Roberson Street
kalamazoo, MI 49007-3557

A Service in Loving Memory

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120 Roberson Street
kalamazoo, MI 49007-3557

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Gene A. Gant*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mr. Gene A. Gant*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Kelley Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant*



Kelley Family - January 09, 2023 at 08:41 PM



“ *Denise Turner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant*



Denise Turner - July 28, 2022 at 08:08 PM

SJ

“ *Susan Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant*



Susan Johnson - July 20, 2022 at 10:42 AM

RS

“ *Renafoord Owens, Sr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant*



Renafoord Owens, Sr - July 19, 2022 at 09:29 PM

JD

“ *Heartfelt condolences to the Gant family! May God continue to bless and comfort you in the loss of your love one.*

John & Carolyn Davis - July 18, 2022 at 12:02 PM

BB

“ *I could not have asked for better neighbors than Mr. And Mrs. Gene Gant.....they watched over my son and me after my husband died.....always had words of encouragement and sound advice...He will be missed...love to the family*

Becky Bigelow and Alex

Becky Bigelow - July 17, 2022 at 02:36 PM

IS

“ *Ingrid Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant*



Ingrid Smith - July 17, 2022 at 10:05 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Gene A. Gant.*



July 17, 2022 at 06:56 AM

HW

“ *Helen Word lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant*



Helen Word - July 16, 2022 at 10:45 PM

PC

“ *Perry And Wonda Clark lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant*



Perry and Wonda Clark - July 16, 2022 at 09:49 PM

BE

“ *My heart and condolences goes out to the entire Gant family*



benard1254@yahoo.com - July 15, 2022 at 08:26 PM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant*



Pauline Gardner - July 15, 2022 at 04:45 PM

SB

“ *Sonia Barbee-Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant*



Sonia Barbee-Wilkerson - July 15, 2022 at 04:30 PM

JE

“ *Jo Ann Embrey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant*



Jo Ann Embrey - July 15, 2022 at 12:55 PM

CG

“ Prayers that our Lord and savior Jesus will comfort that Gant family. We will miss our conversations with you. Curtis & Elaine Gardner. RIP



Curtis & Elaine Gardner - July 15, 2022 at 12:49 PM

BW

“ Bernice & Amanda Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant



Bernice & Amanda Watson - July 14, 2022 at 09:20 PM

EG

“ Edith Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene A. Gant



Edith Gardner - July 14, 2022 at 04:59 PM

HB

“ I'm Praying for your comforter and strength. That God's love will give you peace in your heart.



Helen Brooks - July 14, 2022 at 04:29 PM

CE

“ *Mr. Gene Gant was a wonderful and kind friend. We send our condolences to the family.*
RL and Charmane Echols

Charmane Echols - July 14, 2022 at 01:21 PM