



Gary Eugene Parks

July 6, 1946 - September 23, 2024

Gary Eugene Parks, 78, of Newport, TN, passed away suddenly on Monday, September 23, 2024, at the University of Tennessee Medical Center following an accident.

Eugene was born on July 6, 1946, to the late Roe and Carrie Henderson Parks in Newport, TN. In 1963, Eugene joined the U.S. Army and completed three tours of duty in Vietnam. Eugene was injured during those tours and was a double Purple Heart recipient. Eugene was also awarded the following: the Soldier's Medal, three Bronze Stars, an Air Medal, an Army Commendation, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. After twenty years of service, in 1983, he retired from the Army and immediately went to work for Dugway Proving Ground in Utah, where he worked as a civilian contractor for the next 18 years. Eugene loved our country and was very proud of his service. Eugene also spent many years volunteering for our county in different ways, including Keeping Cocke County Beautiful.

Eugene was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters (Mary, Edna, and Sarah), and three brothers (Dedrick, Ronnie, and Roger). He is survived by his loving wife of ten years, Edith Williams Parks, two sisters (Maxine and Vernie), and one brother (James). Eugene had three daughters: Mary Katherine Goldsberry, Eugenia Rene Parks (Toni), Jennifer Collins (Bob), and one stepson, Chad Webb (Heather), along with eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Eugene will be greatly missed by his family and friends and his precious Danny Boy whom he loved dearly.

Graveside service will be held 11 am Tuesday, October 1, 2024 in Resthaven Memorial Gardens, with Military Honors.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Resthaven Memorial Gardens

Dandridge, TN 37725

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Resthaven Memorial Gardens
Dandridge, TN 37725

Tribute Wall



“ *Manes Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Gary Eugene Parks*



Manes Funeral Home, Inc. - September 27, 2024 at 02:18 PM

SL

You will be greatly missed

Sheila Lunsford - September 27, 2024 at 11:48 AM

MI

Oh my sweet nephew I will miss you so much! Thank you for bringing so much happiness into our lives and leaving us with all the wonderful memories. My love forever and a day! Aunt Martha

Martha Ignace - September 27, 2024 at 12:14 PM



His dream, his life, his family. good bye. God bless those left behind. 🌸
🙏

Ann DeWeese - September 27, 2024 at 07:17 PM

ST

Thanks for your service to our country. A true hero.

Steven and Loretta Taylor - October 08, 2024 at 10:16 AM

DK

“ I was always so happy to see GARY come thru the door at the DAV. He was able to get along with everybody. We all felt Humble and Proud of Him . GARY Thank You For sharing your life with us. Dave W.Kenney Commander Chapter 102

David Kenney - November 11, 2024 at 06:51 PM

CH

“ I work at AutoZone, I helped Gary many times. I knew he was Vietnam veteran and a decorated veteran. I didn't know the extent how decorated till now. I lost a friend a few years ago, Lt. Col.Ivan Hall who was also decorated veteran. I do believe they knew each other from Dugway, but they never said. Gary was such a a wonderful man.

Carroll Hurley - October 13, 2024 at 02:07 AM

JG

“ The Paratrooper's Pray before the Battle

“If I must die, I pray that I die as a man would die, without complaining, without pleading and safe in the feeling that I have done the best for what I believed was right.”



Janet Maxine Parks Gordon - October 05, 2024 at 04:45 PM

BK

“ I knew Gary from what seemed like another life because it was so long ago.

When Gary lived in Utah he and my mom met. I was a young teenage boy at the time. He was like a father to me for many years. He took me on numerous airplane trips to fly ins and air shows and we spent a lot of time together. There are no words for how grateful I am to have known Gary when I did. He provided me with support and direction at a time in my life when I needed it most. I'll always be grateful to you Gary. I still miss and love you and think about you even though it's been 16 years since we last saw each other. I hope your family knows you were loved by many, even some they may have never met.

Brad Koffel - October 03, 2024 at 01:02 AM



Brad- I want you to know that my dad truly loved you kiddo, you and your mom. She was Grandma Jan to my boys for many many years, she was the only Grandma from our side of the family that they ever knew, we all know that. I want you to know that he always spoke so fondly of you, and watching you become a young man and then a dad made him so proud. He was always proud of the man that you've become, and I know that given the choice he is watching over you and yours.

Love, Jennifer Parks-Collins

Jennifer Parks-Collins - June 11 at 10:24 PM

AJ

“ So sorry for your loss

Austin Johnson - October 01, 2024 at 09:44 AM

SM

“ So sorry for your loss



Stephanie, Wayne & Brooke McClanahan - October 01, 2024 at 09:42 AM

LS

“ Edith and Family,
So sorry to hear of your loss. Eugene was such a sweet person.
Prayers for you all.
Willis & Louise Suggs

Louise W Suggs - September 27, 2024 at 03:04 PM

GH

“ Not long after I joined Cave Hill Church he stopped me one Sunday morning and gave me a cross keychain with my initials on the back of it ,it is hanging from my rear view mirror and it reminds me of him every time I see it, he and Edith were a big encouragement to me.

Gary Holt - September 27, 2024 at 02:30 PM

AS

“ So sorry we loved Eugene praying for u all
Loved Amy,Kenzie and Tyler



Amy L Starnes - September 27, 2024 at 02:09 PM



“ 75 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Manes Funeral Home, Inc. - September 27, 2024 at 10:01 AM

BS

“ *Edith and family, I went to school with Eugene at NGS and hadn't seen him in years. I had thought about him but didn't know where he was, then I ran into him almost 6 years ago. It was really good to see him and catch up. Sherry and I were sorry to hear about his passing. We're praying for you. Bryce Strange*

Bryce Strange - September 26, 2024 at 08:09 PM

DG

“ *Sending my deepest condolences to all of the family and friends 🙏🙏🙏*



Debbie Gann - September 26, 2024 at 05:10 PM

JM

“ *Jan McMahan lit a candle in memory of Gary Parks*



Jan McMahan - September 26, 2024 at 04:09 PM

TK

“ *Gary consistently went to the reunion of the helicopter Squadron he was in when he was wounded. He was a door gunner, one of the most dangerous jobs. He was hit through the seat and would have died if another soldier didn't risk his life to pull him out of the helicopter under heavy fire.*

Tera Kolvenbach - September 26, 2024 at 02:59 PM

TK

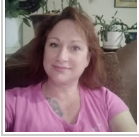
“ *My greatest memory of Gary is when we were in an US aviation history museum. They had replicas of the planes all in black. The challenge was to name every plane by its silhouette only. Gary could do that readily! He got them all right.*

Tera Kolvenbach - September 26, 2024 at 02:52 PM

SO

“ *Edith I am so sorry. Prayers*

Susan Owenby - September 26, 2024 at 01:45 PM



“ 2 files added to the album GArY



Marree Goldestberree - September 26, 2024 at 01:31 PM

GW

“ Edith my sincere condolences. Hugh and I had begun getting to know Eugene and we're very impressed with him. A wonderful person we thought the world of. If you need anything please let us know.



Glenda Willis - September 26, 2024 at 11:47 AM

AH

“ Edith, my sweet friend, I am so sorry to hear of your husband's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Anna Hance - September 26, 2024 at 11:33 AM

NW

“ Edith, I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers now and in the days ahead.

Nanette Wilds - September 26, 2024 at 11:10 AM

BJ

“ Me and my son met gary few years ago and thought allot of him! Great veteran who served our country!! Especially with my son going into military . Gary had plenty advice and stories to tell my son. Kaden kept in touch and would just stop by Gary’s house after school to talk military. We are so sorry for your loss and pray for your family during this time!! Kaden Johnson will miss you ole friend!! Johnson family.

Brett Johnson - September 26, 2024 at 08:26 AM

MH

“ So sorry for your loss. When I lived in Dugway so was Gary. I grew up playing with his daughters. What great memories we have of going snow tubing and roasting hotdogs. He was a great role model. I will miss him. Mitzy Hall

mitzy d hall - September 26, 2024 at 08:21 AM

DS

“ Sadden to learn of the loss of Gary. He was a true hero. My thought's and prayers are with Edith, Chad and the family. Go rest high on that mountain my friend.

Darryl Mark Strange - September 26, 2024 at 07:46 AM