



Gene Allen Lafitte

August 6, 1940 - September 25, 2021

Gene Allen Lafitte, D. Ph., 81, of Tishomingo, Oklahoma, died peacefully at home September 25, 2021.

A memorial service for Gene will be held on Saturday, October 2 at Fletcher Auditorium, Murray State College, 1 Murray Campus, Tishomingo, OK 73460 at 11:00 a.m. Serving as honorary Pallbearers will be John Anthony, Jim Harkey, Tom Burch, Bill Corbin, Eddie Fuson, Terrell Holland, Carl Atteberry, Landon Wood, Tom Knowles, Randy Martin, Dennis Camp, Dewayne Wellman, Calvin Harkins, Craig Murray and Mark Eck.

Gene was born in Lucien, Oklahoma on August 6, 1940 to William Washington Lafitte and Dollie Estelle Butler Lafitte. He was raised in southern Oklahoma attending Tonkawa and Ardmore City Schools, then graduating from Tishomingo High School in 1958. After the death of Gene's mother when he was just a teen, many families in Tishomingo helped and encouraged Gene along the way. Some became maternal figures in his life, especially Iva Oberlender, his mother's best friend. He attended Murray State College and the University of Oklahoma's School of Pharmacy. During college, Gene played a mean Boogie-Woogie on the piano in his beloved band "The Velvatones".

Before becoming a pharmacist Gene learned of a chance from Joe Bailey Cobb to work on a trail crew for Yosemite National Park. He was honored to have the opportunity for such an adventure. This helped to cement a lifelong love of nature and the wilderness. He was an avid quail and duck hunter for many years and later enjoyed hiking and nature walks. Gene loved his many bird dogs, too.

In 1961, while attending the University of Oklahoma, Gene married Anne Glenn. They had two children Glenn and Suzanne. Gene began his career as a pharmacist at Norman Regional Hospital before moving back to Tishomingo in 1965 to open Gene Lafitte Pharmacy. With his new pharmacy, Gene endeavored to fill a void in his hometown by stocking veterinary supplies, vaccinations, and animal health products during a time when there was no local veterinarian. This was the beginning of many dear friendships of the

many local ranching and farming families in the area. Gene's appreciation of his community was evident in the Gene Lafitte Pharmacy Hat Collection that he proudly displayed at the pharmacy. Over the years, members of the community started leaving their hats with Gene. His beloved collection grew to over 200 hats from local families, ranchers, farmers, customers, and friends. That collection has since been donated to The Johnston County Historical Museum in Tishomingo.

For over 55 years, Gene enjoyed being a pharmacist serving his community and customers, he said it was the greatest reward of his life. He loved visiting with his customers. One of his great joys was working side-by-side with his daughter, Suzanne, for over 20 years at Gene Lafitte Pharmacy. Gene was also extremely proud of his many hardworking employees over the years, several of whom later became pharmacists. In 2020, Gene was honored by being selected to receive the Ralph D. Beinfang Outstanding Practitioner Award by the Oklahoma College of Pharmacy Alumni Association. Over the years, he served on the boards of Murray State College, First State Bank, later known as Landmark bank, Johnston County Health Department, Johnston County Mental Health, and has served as President of the Chamber of Commerce. Gene was also an advocate of AA.

In 1986, Gene married Judy Goins Davenport, gaining a step-daughter, Karen, as well as a beloved mother-in-law in Judy's mother, Hazel Goins. Gene and Hazel loved to go on Sunday drives in the area and even rode the Heartland Express train from Ardmore, Oklahoma to Fort Worth, Texas.

Gene is survived by his wife, Judy, of the home; son Glenn Allen Lafitte and wife, Leah; daughter Suzanne Lafitte; and stepdaughter Karen Davenport and husband, Grant MacManus; grandchildren Taylor Lafitte, Griffin Lafitte and wife, Morgan; Bailey Chronister and husband, Cale; Justin Rankins; and Cortney Davison. Gene is also survived by four great grandchildren.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Billy Lafitte.

The Lafitte family would like to extend a special thank you to our dear friend Linda Jolly and to Gene's many caregivers and Victory Hospice of Tishomingo who helped to give care and comfort to Gene over this past year.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations can be made in honor of Gene to any of the following: Ardmore Animal Care, Inc. Animal Shelter, 321 Carol Brown Blvd, Ardmore, OK 73401, 580 223-7070; Murray State College Foundation, One Murray

Campus, Tishomingo, OK 73460; The Tishomingo Volunteer Fire Department, 204 S. Capital Ave., Ste. 3, Tishomingo, Oklahoma 73460, 580 371-3051 or online www.tishfire.com; Johnston County Reaching Out, PO Box 773, Tishomingo, OK 73460; Sunshine Industries, 500 Park St SE, Ardmore, OK 73401.

Due to the health risks associated with the spread of COVID, please be respectful and social distance as much as possible while attending the services. Masks are respectfully requested. And please note, that if you are feeling ill, please send an online condolence to the family at www.dearmanfuneralhome.com in lieu of attending in person.

Events

OCT **Celebration of Life** 11:00AM

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Fletcher Auditorium

Tishomingo, OK, US

Comments



“ I remember when Gene and Judy stayed all night with us after his brother’s funeral years ago. Early the next morning Gene was up sitting in a chair with his Bible and praying. Precious memories of a man who loved the Lord.

Judy Robinson - October 04, 2021 at 12:29 PM



“ Gene was a good friend and avid quail hunter with my father, Roy Laughlin. He was a kind man.

Faye Orr - October 02, 2021 at 11:33 AM



“ Glenn & Suzanne,
Your dad will be missed dearly. I remember the old pharmacy where myself and Dana always hung out because Kay Deaver worked there. It was so much fun and your dad was always so sweet to me over the years. He always came to the window to talk to me when I picked up my prescriptions. I don't think there was a time he didn't stop what he was doing and speak to me. He always asked how myself, the girls and David were doing. When the pharmacy sold and the name changed - it was like a huge part of Tish was gone. Lafitte Pharmacy was a landmark to Tish. Your dad was a very generous and caring man that I will greatly miss! God Bless your families.
Love, Tootie

Patricia Wood - October 02, 2021 at 11:30 AM



“ When I was in grade school, I traded my bird dog to Gene for a skate board. While I was in college, I worked at his pharmacy. Gene was a caring and thoughtful person and will be greatly missed. Lea Stallings

Lea Stallings - October 02, 2021 at 11:27 AM



“ Judy, Glen and Suzanne, so sorry to hear about Gene. I always stopped by to see him whenever I was in Tish. He was one of a kind and will always have a special place in my heart. Shawn and I hate to miss tomorrow and celebrating Gene's life. His was a life well lived! Love to all Kay Hoffman Smith

Kay Hoffman Smith - October 01, 2021 at 09:20 PM



“ I will never forget Gene and all his fishing, hunting and the great meals that followed. We had fun times traveling to OU bowl games together, especially when we won!! RIP Gene. Will love you forever.

Kay Hoffman Smith - October 01, 2021 at 09:06 PM



“ I loved working for Gene. He always brightened my day and he was an amazing mentor. He will be missed, but may his legacy live on. Praying for the family. We will always have the VW memories and his funny voices playing in our minds.

Christina Yandell-Cantrell - September 30, 2021 at 10:46 AM



“ Gene has always been a part of my life. He made sure my grandmother, Annie, had her medicine & a ride to town if she wanted to go. He always had a lollipop for me. The last time I went to the pharmacy, while he was there; he gave me a lollipop with a grin that told me he hadn't forgotten. I will miss him. Always in my heart.

Catherine Ratliff Walker - September 30, 2021 at 10:14 AM



“ His imitation of doing his duck voice to the kids that came in

Lwhitmire - September 28, 2021 at 07:22 PM



“ Gene was such a sweet, kind person. I'm thankful for all the years he was a part of our community. What a beautiful smile he always shared with us. My condolences and prayers for Judy, Glenn & Suzanne.

Nancy Spencer - September 28, 2021 at 05:26 PM



“ Judy,
Ed and I send our prayers for you and your family. We loved Gene like family and will never forget his beautiful smile and his enthusiasm to see his friends. May he rest in peace with no more pain and sadness and may you live with only good memories of your life together. We are here for you.
Love,
Ed and Reta Fuson

Reta Fuson - September 28, 2021 at 01:03 PM



“ We loved and appreciated Gene very much and are sorry not to make his memorial. Judy, we send love and prayers for you
Agnes and Elmer Blackburn

Agnes Blackburn - September 28, 2021 at 08:52 AM



“ He was the most generous man I have ever met my parents house so much



Melimda Mcpherson - September 28, 2021 at 08:10 AM



“ I really loved Gene he was a friend and pharmacist of my family since I was little he was a very nice person my thoughts and prayers go out to his family he will be missed

Brenda mcdade - September 28, 2021 at 12:11 AM



“ I was blessed to have had the chance to be one of Gene's CHHAs at one point. I've never met a soul as kind as his. He was the most pleasant human being alive. Praying hard for Mrs. Judy and their families.

Ashley - September 27, 2021 at 10:36 PM



“ Gene, was one of the first people Roy and I met when moving to Tishomingo 28 years ago. He was such a nice man, always there to lend a hand. Prayers to Susanne and Family. Debbie White

Debbie White - September 27, 2021 at 10:25 PM



“ Gene and Judy were dear to our Randy that lives at Carter County Group Homes in Lone Grove. I worked with Gene when he still had his pharmacy in the IGA and Randy kept me updated on Gene over the past 12 years. I know he will be sorely missed but Randy treasured their friendship and also knows he will see him again

tammy - September 27, 2021 at 09:43 PM



“ My husband, Wes Gose and I had so many wonderful memories and good times with Gene and Judy and will miss him so much. Rest in peace Gene and God be with you.

Mary Lou Gose - September 27, 2021 at 09:21 PM



“ I loved working with Gene at the pharmacy. He was like a brother. Judy my love to you and family and I loved Gene. He was one of the good guys.
Pat Webb

Patricia Webb - September 27, 2021 at 07:35 PM