



## Wendell Gene Southern

March 20, 1932 - December 11, 2019

Joplin, MO-Wendell "Gene" Southern 87, went to his heavenly home on Dec. 11, 2019. He was born to Winford & Pauletta (Bayless) Southern on Mar. 20, 1932 in Avilla, MO. Gene's parents eventually moved to Carthage where they raised five sons.

Gene joined the Army and received an early honorable discharge due to a medical condition. In 1954 he united in marriage to Helen Louise Patrick and they had two children, Kevin Gene and Kenda Louise.

Gene enjoyed the fast life when it came to engines. He was a self-taught mechanic. Gene loved racing dirt bikes, motorcycles, go carts & cars (as long as it was not a Ford) He won many trophies at MO KAN and bragging rights from many races on county roads, Gene was an avid Nascar fan and was fortunate to see a few races at the speedways.

In 1990 he married his love, Sharon Faye (McConnell)-Grundy; just celebrated their 29th anniversary. Gene retired from Flex-O-Laters in 1994. He and Sharon moved to Port Isabel, Texas for several years. They met and made fast friends and some still stopping by Joplin on their snowbird trek south,

Gene is survived by his loving wife Sharon; Son Kevin (Julie) Southern and daughter Kenda (Mike) Townsend all of Joplin, Mo, Stepdaughter Kim Dickey and stepson Mark Grundy both of Carthage.

Brothers Merle (Carol) Southern of Rolla and George (Barbara) Southern of

Mt. Grove, MO

Gene was a beloved husband, dad, grandpa, and papa to 5 grandchildren & 7 great grandchildren.

Gene was preceded in death by Helen Louise (Patrick) Southern; his parents, Winford & Pauletta Southern; his brothers Randall and Larry Southern; a grandson, Kevin Townsend & best buddy Sparkie...

A celebration of life service will be 2pm, Saturday, January 4, 2020 at Victory Baptist Church, 117 County Rd & 96 HWY in Carthage, Missouri.

Arrangements are by Midland Cremation Society of Joplin.

# Tribute Wall

LJ

“ Gene and Sharon is the reason we kept returning to LIV from Colorado year after year. We were honored to celebrate Gene’s 80 th birthday with him in Mexico. We don’t dance but we did for Gene’s birthday! What a great guy. Love you Gene.

laurene johnson - December 19, 2019 at 07:57 PM

LB

“ Lucy Benefiel lit a candle in memory of Wendell Gene Southern



Lucy Benefiel - December 18, 2019 at 12:53 PM

LB

My sincere condolences to all the family..he will be missed by many,,RIP Gene,,till we meet again.

Lucy Benefiel - December 18, 2019 at 12:55 PM

SH

“ Sharon & Family,  
So sorry for your loss. I had the pleasure of knowing Gene for well over 50 years back to the days of "Boots" Drive In.  
I would run into Gene every once and a while and we would talk about the old times. Gene was always jumpy around plastic fishworms and stuffed baby alligators as I remember. Always enjoyed teasing him.  
God Bless  
Sid Hiatt  
sidhiatt@yahoo.com

Sid Hiatt - December 18, 2019 at 08:44 AM