



## Gene Towell

October 20, 1936 - February 17, 2016

Gene Towell, 79, a lifelong resident of Morgan County, passed from this life at 7:20 a.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 in the comfort of his own home after an extended illness. Gene was one of eight children born to the late Vern and Frances M. (Winn) Towell. He was born in Morgan County, Indiana, on October 20, 1936.

Gene was a graduate of Eminence High School with the class of 1954. It was that year that he also met the love of his life, Lena Faye (Owens) Towell. After a two-year courtship, the two were married on June 22, 1956 at the Corinth Baptist Church in Plano, Indiana. As a young man, Gene worked at Wabco in Indianapolis as a machine repairman for 25+ years. When the company closed the doors, he then went to work for Bastin Oil Company (later known as Kiel Brothers) in Martinsville for the following 20+ years. While employed at Bastin Oil, Gene began driving a school bus for the MSD of Martinsville in the early 1980's. He continued driving through 2015, gaining the love, respect and admiration of an immeasurable number of children and their families.

He was a dedicated and longtime member of the Paragon Bible Baptist Church, as well as, a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge #74 F & AM and the Scottish Rite. Gene was an avid fisherman who took pleasure in sharing his catch with family and friends. He also enjoyed IU Basketball, woodworking and most importantly, he cherished time spent with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his loving family who miss him deeply including his wife of nearly 60 years, Lena F. Towell of Martinsville; son, Mike Towell (wife, Alicia) of Martinsville; daughter, Paula Towell (Jean Perrin) of Lebanon, IN; sister, Dolly Hall of Eminence; four granddaughters, Chandra Crook (Billy), Miranda Livingston (Eric Lee), Brianda Hacker (Tyler) and Michaela Towell (Devin Garrett); seven great granddaughters and one great grandson.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Billy and Gail Towell and five sisters, Evelyn Beers, Pauline Stierwalt, Maxine Pruitt, Marie Miller and Leora Pickrell. Family and friends are invited to visit on Sunday, February 21, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and one hour prior to funeral service on Monday at Neal & Summers Funeral and Cremation Center, Martinsville. He will be laid to rest in Mt. Gilead Cemetery immediately following an 11:00 a.m. funeral service on Monday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to the Paragon Bible Baptist Church, 249 S. Union St., Paragon, IN 46166. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family at [www.nealandusmmers.com](http://www.nealandusmmers.com)

# Cemetery

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## Mt. Gilead Cemetery

Martinsville, IN,

# Events

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**FEB** **Visitation** 01:00PM - 05:00PM

**21**

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Neal & Summers Funeral and Cremation Center  
110 E. Poston Road, Martinsville, IN, US, 46151

**FEB** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**22**

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Neal & Summers Funeral and Cremation Center  
110 E. Poston Road, Martinsville, IN, US, 46151

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

**22**

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Neal & Summers Funeral and Cremation Center  
110 E. Poston Road, Martinsville, IN, US, 46151

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Neal & Summers Mortuary** - February 21, 2016 at 04:15 PM

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“ so sad to read about Gene passing away, but he will always hold a bright spot in my memories of Gene and his family. God Bless each of you. Your friend: Sharon Thacker  
Rike Pharr Texas



**Sharon Rike** - February 21, 2016 at 08:39 PM

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“ Rhonda K Rooker Walls lit a candle in memory of Gene Towell



**Rhonda K Rooker Walls** - February 21, 2016 at 11:15 AM

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“ 120 files added to the album LifeTributes





“ Our deepest sympathy to the family, your in our thoughts & prayers.

**Roy & Stacy Thompson** - February 21, 2016 at 01:13 AM

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“ Gene was a great guy, met him once at Troy Stanleys Philip 66 here in Martinsville, also have had the pleasure of being friends with his Son Mike and his wife Alicia, my Love and my prayers are with you all, May God surround you all with Angels of love and give you comfort during this difficult time.



**MIKE Cook " HOSS "** - February 20, 2016 at 09:09 PM

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“ Gene was my sons bus driver until his illness. My son always had stories about him. He will be missed by many



**Julie steinway** - February 20, 2016 at 09:36 AM

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“ Lena, please know that you, Mike and Paula are in my prayers. I am so sorry for your loss and I pray for comfort and peace for you and your family. GOD BLESS!!!





“ Gene was my bus driver for years! Later on we talked often while I had drill at the armory and he and his wife would walk laps inside. Such a great man!

Ryan Lundy - February 20, 2016 at 01:18 AM

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“ Gene was my bus driver for years. He kept in touch with us after we moved to Wisconsin and after we moved back. One of my favorite people in the whole world. He always made us smile. I'm heartbroken. Please accept our condolences.

Amanda Hunt - February 19, 2016 at 05:39 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss. Gene always had a sweet smile on his face. He will be missed by all. May God bless his family.

Evelyn Schoolcraft Prange - February 19, 2016 at 05:34 PM

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“ Gene was a great man who always had a wonderful smile. He will be missed.

Lisa Stierwalt - February 19, 2016 at 01:10 PM

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“ Towell Family,

My thoughts and dearest sympathies are with all of you at this difficult time. I have so many fond memories of Gene but, remember most of all, his laugh, his kindness and his willingness to drop everything to help me whenever I needed it. He always made me feel welcome and loved. I spent so much time at your house, he probably thought he was raising me! I am so glad that my boys got the chance to know him and spend time with him too. May you have comfort in knowing that Gene touched many lives with his kind and loving spirit. Such a great man.

Love,  
Holli Bemis Terrell

Holli Bemis Terrell - February 19, 2016 at 12:54 PM

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“ Lena and family, Know that you are in many thoughts and prayers at this troubled time. You have blessed hope and peace and it's my hope that you rest in that now. God Bless each of you, Gene has run his race now he can rest. Scott, Janet and Mahalah Wilson.

**Janet Wilson** - February 19, 2016 at 08:58 AM

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“ My thoughts and prayers to the Towell family.



**Julie Payne** - February 19, 2016 at 08:32 AM

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“ Dear Aunt Lena, Mike, & Paula....

So sorry that I will not be able to be there at this time. But, please know that I'll certainly share your grief and will be there in spirit. I'm sure going to miss Uncle Gene and the many traits that made him such a great man and uncle. May God grant you all peace to help you through this difficult time.

Much love and many hugs,  
Judi

**Judi Eitnier** - February 19, 2016 at 08:20 AM

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“ Lena Faye: I send my love and sympathy at Genes passing. He was always an outgoing man and a good man! Course--he was from Eminence! Will be thinking of you and kids during this time and loss

Keith Gray

**Keith Gray** - February 19, 2016 at 05:46 AM

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“ Lena Faye I am so sorry for your loss. I know Gene is with God and not suffering. God will be with you as he always is.

Sheila Gray



Sheila Gray - February 19, 2016 at 03:26 AM

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“ Gene was a great man. He was my bus driver and friend. You will be missed.

Ike Tumey - February 18, 2016 at 08:03 PM



“ Lena Faye, I am so sorry that a loooong time friend has lost her soul mate. May God comfort and give you peace.

Janice Enk - February 19, 2016 at 08:59 AM



“ My dear neighbor for many years and like a grandpa to Dylan and shared the same birthday as Dylan. Many, many memories. Comfort and peace at this time.

Dawn - February 19, 2016 at 09:18 AM



“ Lena Faye sorry about the passing of Gene. I remember him with a sweet smile on his face and very friendly. I had just asked about you the other day ! God bless you in this time of sorrow. You will be in my thoughts and prayers .

Ginger - February 19, 2016 at 09:53 PM



“ Sorry Lena Faye didn't think you would know who this was without putting Ginger Bastin Fowler !

Ginger - February 19, 2016 at 09:58 PM



“ Worked with Jean as a fellow bus driver and I went to school with Paula. Great guy! Sorry to hear this. Keep the faith Acts24:15

Johnny Barnes - February 20, 2016 at 03:50 PM



“ So sorry for your loss!! Gene always had a smile on his face!! Praying for all!!

Marilyn Carpenter - February 21, 2016 at 09:26 AM