



## Donald Gene Payne

November 19, 1946 - March 6, 2024

Donald "Gene" Payne, 77, of Irvington, passed away Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at his home.

He was born November 19, 1946, in rural Dix, Illinois, to Harold and Lois (Ferguson) Payne. He married Joyce Thompson on October 9, 1971, and she survives in Centralia.

Gene is also survived by his daughter: Jennifer Henning and husband Shane of Lee's Summit, Missouri, son: J.T. Payne and wife Andi of Overland Park, Kansas, grandson: Joshua Freed of Lincoln, Nebraska, expecting granddaughter: Daisy Payne in March of 2024, brother: Jerry Payne of Chicago, sister: Karen Ellis and husband Darrell of Bloomington, Indiana, several nieces and nephews, and special friend: Candy Guern of Irvington. He was preceded in death by his parents, son-in-law: Bill Freed, and sister-in-law: Jan Payne.

Gene graduated from Woodlawn High School and Centralia Junior College. He served in the U.S. Army, where he proudly served in the Honor Guard. He previously worked at Community Trust Bank in Irvington for 17 years, before becoming an independent oil producer. Gene was the owner/operator of Payne Oil, later known as JAG Oil. He also owned/operated Irvington Self Storage and previously owned Payne's Pre-owned Cars in Irvington.

Gene was an avid St. Louis Cardinal's Fan and enjoyed collecting Cardinals Memorabilia. He attended the St. Louis Cardinal's Fantasy Camp in 1984. He enjoyed hot rods, car shows, and traveling. Most of all, he treasured spending

time with his family and friends and lending a helping hand when needed. Playing sports with his son and the neighborhood boys were some of his best memories and he said it kept him young. Gene started every day with the goal of making everyone he came in contact with to laugh at least once. He was of the Christian Faith and attended the Calumet Street Christian Church in Centralia for many years.

Funeral Services will be held at 12:00 pm on Saturday, March 9, 2024 at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia with Pastor Anthony Sweeney officiating. Gene's wishes were to have anyone that plans to attend, to please wear their western wear and "Cowboy Up" in memory of him. A Visitation will be held Saturday, March 9, 2024 from 10:00 am until the time of service at the funeral home on Saturday. Entombment will follow at the Hillcrest Lakeside Mausoleum and Military Honors accorded at the chapel by the Centralia American Legion Post 446 and the Centralia V.F.W. Post 2055. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Calumet Street Christian Church in Centralia and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street, Centralia, Illinois, 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to Gene's Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the Sutherland Funeral Homes Facebook page.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 9. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

## Funeral Service

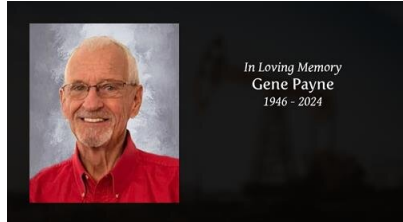
MAR 9. 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Gene Payne*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - March 09, 2024 at 10:27 AM

AL

“ *Alex, Lindsay, Marvin, Peach & Lilly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Gene Payne.*

Alex, Lindsay, Marvin, Peach & Lilly - March 08, 2024 at 03:52 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Gene Payne.*



March 08, 2024 at 03:52 PM

ST

“ *Gene and I were classmates at Woodlawn High. He was a good friend and a gentleman. He always had a smile.*

*Sandy (Breeze) Tinsley*

Sandy Tinsley - March 08, 2024 at 03:30 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donald Gene Payne.*



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March 08, 2024 at 09:51 AM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Donald Gene Payne.*



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March 07, 2024 at 07:46 PM



“ *Gene used to go to Grandma's Kitchen almost daily and he would get the whole place laughing with a story...He was always kind and would get everyone to smile. One day i was there visiting and he walked in with a huge bunch of sunflowers. He handed them to me and said have a great day! That man was a sweetheart!! Rhonda & Rich Rumer, Las Vegas, NV*

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**Rhonda Rumer** - March 07, 2024 at 05:22 PM



“ *Jhoana D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Gene Payne.*

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**Jhoana D.** - March 07, 2024 at 01:44 PM

DG

“ Dylan and Haley Gruse purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Donald Gene Payne.



Dylan and Haley Gruse - March 07, 2024 at 01:32 PM

TC

“ Tiim-Cindy Coats lit a candle in memory of Donald Gene Payne



Tiim-Cindy Coats - March 07, 2024 at 07:41 AM

SR

“ Stephen & Brittany Rich purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donald Gene Payne.



Stephen & Brittany Rich - March 06, 2024 at 09:08 PM

RW

“ Thanks for the memories Gene. The ball games. The boating. The help and support over the years. Grateful for our last visit. We new it was a last goodbye. It was good to see you and to know your suffering would soon be over. We certainly couldn't see life ending this way. It was great to talk of our faith, our hope, and the grace of our savior. Rest in peace my friend. Rest in peace.

Randy Wright - March 06, 2024 at 04:14 PM

AC

*We can't thank Gene enough for all of his kindness towards our Gma and Gpa Creed over the years...even helping with the other neighbors getting Gpa's lawn mower delivered to the same funeral home ❤️ I told him numerous times how his kind words about my grandparents, my father and family touched my heart...and always will...thank you Gene on so many levels...sending our sympathies to your family and wishing you peace...much love and thank you hugs from us all!*

**Angela Creed** - March 06, 2024 at 04:52 PM

DH

*Gene had the special talent of lighting up a room with laughter and smiles. I think he was the first STL Cards fanatic I ever met. I will never forget his impressive collection of memorabilia and stories to match.*

**Damon Harbison** - March 06, 2024 at 05:15 PM

AP

*GENE WAS MY FIRST COUSIN BUT TO ME HE WAS THE OLDER BROTHER I NEVER HAD*

**ALAN PITCHFORD** - March 06, 2024 at 08:52 PM

VM

*Joyce and Jennifer, so sorry to hear about Gene's passing. Hugs from Columbia Missouri Victoria and Mario Migliore*

**Victoria Migliore** - March 07, 2024 at 06:29 PM

DL

*I went to Woodlawn HS with Gene but the story I remember was when we had a youth group at Mt. Catherine Church. The group sat in the back rows of the Church. It seems that Gene was entertaining the rest of us and our laughter reached his Mother. It only took one look from his Mom as if to say.. "Straighten up and stop it". We all straightened up and the show ended. The comments here proves that Gene never stopped entertaining!*

**Dottie (Wilson) Lawrence** - March 09, 2024 at 04:03 PM

EC

*So sorry to hear about Gene's passing. He was one of those guys who made Irvington such a great place to grow up --always friendly and helpful. Sincere sympathy to Joyce and Jennifer and family.*

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**Elaine Chapman** - March 27, 2024 at 08:32 PM