



## Mr. Merriel Eugene "Gene" Chaney

July 25, 1946 - December 24, 2023

Merriel Eugene (Gene) Chaney, age 77, lost his courageous battle with melanoma and passed to heaven from his home in Scottsboro, AL, on December 24, 2023. Gene was born on July 25, 1946, in Cherokee County, AL. He was named after two uncles who were killed in WWII – Merriel Louis Chaney (U.S. Marine) was killed in Saipan in the Pacific in 1944, and Horace Eugene Sloan (U.S. Army) was killed in Germany in 1945.

Gene's parents were Frank Baker Chaney and Bernice Elkins Chaney, and he was the fourth of eight children. As a young boy, Gene always enjoyed the outdoors, all things nature, hunting, and playing sports. Oftentimes, he was the one who brought home dinner for his family while out hunting, even as young as 9 years old. He loved to read and enjoyed history and geography. Gene always loved watching and studying birds of all kinds and had a natural artistic ability to paint and draw, and later became a wood carver of ducks, birds, and mammals. Gene graduated from Sparkman High School in Madison County, AL in 1964. While in high school, he played basketball and was best known as a jump shooter. His first car was a 1959 Ford Fairlane that he bought with his first job out of high school.

Gene met his wife, Priscilla Jean Melton, in 1964, and they were married on May 28, 1966, in Huntsville, AL. They were married for 57 years. In their early years of marriage, they moved to several locations – Greenwood, SC; Galion and Mansfield, OH; Chambersburg and Hershey, PA; Dothan, AL; then settled in Scottsboro, AL in October 1971. Gene and Priscilla have two children –

(Jeff)ery Eugene Chaney was born in 1968 in Chambersburg, PA. Jeff graduated from Scottsboro High School in 1986. He graduated from Calhoun Community College in 1988 where he played basketball, and from Freed Hardeman University where he played baseball in 1991. Jeff and his wife, Melinda Hood Chaney, live in Trenton, GA, and have three sons, who were Gene's pride and joy – Halen Tate Chaney (17), Rock Cadence Chaney (15) and Axl Crue Chaney (13). There's nothing that could put a smile on his face more than those three boys. He was very proud of them and loved them very much.

Gene and Priscilla also have a daughter, Tangela (Tangie) Chaney Holland, who was born in 1971 in Dothan AL. Tangie graduated from Scottsboro High School in 1989 and from Auburn University in 1993. Tangie and her husband, Jamie Christopher Holland, live in Birmingham, AL.

Gene retired at age 55 from Verizon, formally General Telephone Electric, after 35 years of service. Later, he took a part time job delivering materials all over the country. He loved traveling and seeing the United States from end to end, and that part-time job gave him the opportunity to do just that. It also provided him with friendships that he cherished at the pawn shop, getting to talk adventures, hunting, and sports.

Being retired allowed Gene to spend more time doing what he loved – fishing and hunting. If you needed to find him, he was usually in the woods or in his modest boat out on Lake Guntersville – typically showing up the guys with the big fancy boats with all the fish he caught! Gene had expert local knowledge of the waters in and around Goosepond/North Sauty. He often interacted with professional anglers from as early as the 1980s to more recent years. Being outdoors was his happy place, but he also loved drawing nature scenes and carving birds of all kinds – from small finches to eagles. Gene was also known to love sports, especially the Auburn Tigers. He has been a die-hard Auburn fan since 1955.

Gene and Priscilla were members of Grant Church of Christ in Grant, AL, for several years. Prior to that, they were members of Broad Street Church of

Christ in Scottsboro, AL.

Gene was a warrior through his battle with melanoma, beginning in December 2019. He endured numerous surgeries, biopsies, chemotherapy, radiation, skin grafts, CT scans, MRIs, and much more. Throughout his treatment journey, he traveled to either Chattanooga, Nashville, or Huntsville every two to three weeks for almost 4 years. Priscilla was Gene's caregiver throughout his journey, and she remained loyal to keeping him comfortable until his last breath.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Baker Chaney (1973) and Bernice Elkins Chaney (2019), his brothers, Walter Hezekiah Chaney (2022) and McKinley Lew Chaney (2023), and his nephew, John Clinton (Clint) Chaney, who passed away at age 35 from melanoma in 2008.

Gene is survived by his wife, his children and their spouses, three grandsons, five siblings: Patricia Ann Voce (Walter) – Columbia, TN, Sarah Chaney Cox (Don) – Harvest, AL, John Henry Chaney – Gurley, AL, Joyce Gail Chaney – Harvest, AL, and Phillip David Chaney (Angel) –Scottsboro, AL, his uncle, Hosea Chaney (Gay) – Huntsville, AL, numerous nieces and nephews, mother-in-law, Sarah Ruth Melton – Scottsboro, AL, and his sisters-in-law, Sue Elmore Chaney – Harvest, AL and Brenda Earls Chaney – Madison, AL. Memorial service will be held at Scottsboro Funeral Home on January 6, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Melanoma Research Fund, Scottsboro/Jackson County Animal Shelter, or any animal rescue service.

The family wishes to express their appreciation for all the love and support during this difficult journey. A special thank you to Surgical Oncology (Chattanooga, TN), Tennessee Oncology (Chattanooga, TN), Tennessee Oncology (Nashville, TN), Alliance Cancer Care Radiation Oncology (Huntsville, AL), and Aveanna Hospice Care (Scottsboro, AL) for providing the care, treatments and surgeries throughout Gene's cancer journey.

## Arrangements Entrusted to Scottsboro Funeral Home

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Scottsboro Funeral Home  
1502 County Park Road  
Scottsboro, AL 35769  
(256) 574-3965  
scottsbороfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.scottsbороfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

TH

“ I still miss my Dad every single day. He was my hero.

Tangie Holland - June 10, 2024 at 08:16 PM

BJ

“ Priscilla so sorry to hear about Gene, always liked him and your family. Bill and Lynn Jones! Lots of fun at the baseball fields!

bill jones - January 07, 2024 at 12:35 PM

TH

Thank you, Mr Jones. Remember those days very well. I loved the baseball field as a little girl.

Tangie

Tangie Chaney Holland - January 15, 2024 at 02:18 PM

DA

“ thought a lot of Eugene very trustworthy person good family person will miss him from Don Anderson old class mate at Sparkman high school class of 64

Donald Anderson - January 05, 2024 at 08:42 PM

TH

Mr Don. He loved his classmates. I know he truly cherished and appreciated your friendship.

Tangie

Tangie Chaney Holland - January 15, 2024 at 02:19 PM



“ 70 files added to the album Life Tributes



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**Scottsboro Funeral Home and Pinehaven Memorial Gardens - January 05, 2024**  
at 12:49 PM

JK

“ Eugene and I first met when we were 15 years old. It was the first day of 9th grade at Monrovia Jr High. He was the established student there; I was the new student. I needed someone to follow to make sure I went to the correct places which our schedule required. Eugene was that person. He was friendly and receptive to us new kids. I found him to be serious but had a humorous side. He drew cartoons and shared them with classmates. His artistic side was budding, but I didn't recognize it at the time. We went on to Sparkman High for grades 10, 11 and 12. After graduation our professions took us different directions. We did not reconnect for about 50 years. We reconnected at a high school reunion after we were retired. We started taking day long car rides, telling each other about our families and our experiences over the last 50 years. He told me about his fishing and hunting adventures. There were a lot of them! I don't hunt or fish but enjoy nature. I enjoyed hearing his stories. He took me to every crack, crevice, then down every dirt road and pig trail in Jackson County. There are a lot of them! At age 70 we hiked to the Walls of Jericho. During this reconnecting time was when I learned his budding artistic ability had blossomed over the years. That bud didn't just turn into a single rose but an entire rose garden. Several of our classmates and I have birds which he carved. We have a piece of his art as a way to remember him. In a sense we have a piece of him to look at and admire for the rest of our lives. I will do just that! I miss you, my friend.

*Jerry Keel*

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**Jerry Keel** - January 02, 2024 at 11:05 PM

TH

*He certainly cherished your friendship and was grateful you reconnected. So beautifully written. Thank you for sharing!*

*Tangie*

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**tangie holland** - April 22, 2024 at 04:06 PM

JB

“ My late husband, Don Brewer, and I met Gene and Priscilla in church. We often went to lunch or “supper” together or as a group. We enjoyed their company! Gene definitely was an outdoorsman and had some great stories to tell. RIP friend.  
Jean Brewer



jean Brewer - December 29, 2023 at 04:41 PM

JB

Prayers for Priscilla and family  
May God comfort you all during this difficult period.  
Jean Brewer

jean Brewer - December 29, 2023 at 04:46 PM

TH

Thank you, Mrs Brewer. They definitely enjoyed getting to know you both.

Tangie

tangie holland - April 22, 2024 at 04:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Merriel Eugene "Gene" Chaney.



December 29, 2023 at 08:59 AM

JH

“ I knew Eugene from high school. My deepest condolences to Priscilla and family.

James Helton - December 27, 2023 at 09:07 PM



*Thank you. We really appreciate your thoughts.*

*Tangie*

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**tangie holland** - April 22, 2024 at 04:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Merriel Eugene "Gene" Chaney.*



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December 27, 2023 at 01:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Merriel Eugene "Gene" Chaney.

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December 27, 2023 at 01:46 PM