



## Eugene "Gene" Thornton

May 15, 1931 - June 24, 2020

On Wednesday, June 24, 2020, Eugene "Gene" Thornton, 89, died unexpectedly and went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Monday, June 29, 2020 at Lakeview Memorial Park with Rev. David Surrett officiating. All Covid-19 Protocols and Guidelines will apply at the service. Friends and family may visit Forbis and Dick North Elm Street Funeral Home to view and sign the guestbook on Sunday, June 28 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Gene was born in Sampson County, NC to the late Henry Felix Thornton and Clyde Haney Thornton. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers John Thornton, Paul Haney, Clayton Haney, Lonnie Thornton, Charlie Thornton, Jerry Thornton, Norwood Thornton and sisters Emma Williams, Lela Ezzell, Evelyn Compton and Janie Haney (infant).

He is survived by his loving family including his wife of 67 years, Bettie T. Thornton, daughter Kathy T. McConnell (Edward), son Jeffery K. Thornton (Patricia) and sisters Ellen Bearden, Virginia Cosgrove, Mildred Wilson (Walt), Betty Whaley (Tony) and numerous nieces and nephews.

Gene was retired from Lorillard Tobacco Co., a US Air Force Veteran, a member of the American Legion Cone Post 386 and a member of Emmanuel Wesleyan Church. He considered himself a "shade-tree" mechanic and was well known by his circle of friends for his ability to diagnose problems and work on just about any make of older model car. He enjoyed spending time with his family and close friends, helping other people, attending monthly meals with other Lorillard retirees, The Friends and Neighbors Senior Meeting and working in the hot dog sales at the American Legion and Carraway Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Emmanuel Wesleyan Church, 3233 Yanceyville St., Greensboro NC 27405 or American Legion Cone Post 386, 1206 American Legion St., Greensboro NC 27405.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Lakeview Memorial Park**

3600 N. OHenry Blvd.

Greensboro, NC, 27405

**JUN**

**29**

**Graveside Service**

11:00AM

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Lakeview Memorial Park

3600 N. OHenry Blvd., Greensboro, NC, US, 27405

# Comments

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“ What a wonderful man who meant so much to so many people. There never has been a kinder, gentle, more loving man than Mr Gene. He was especially kind and a good friend to my Dad, JC Pearman in his last few years of life. My family and I told him how much he meant to all of us and Gene loved us as well. It was so sad to hear of his death but I know the Lord just reached down for him, took him in his arms and said "come home my good and faithful servant." My heart goes out to you, Bettie and family. He was always bragging on "his bride" and telling us how much he loved her and his children. His church family is going to miss him and his wonderful, encouraging words! I know he was greeted by some of his loved ones and many, many friends and they are rejoicing in heaven waiting for us. May the Lord bless the memory of my friend, Gene Thornton. I loved him too.

**Cindy Barham** - June 29 at 04:40 PM

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“ Special prayers for you, Betty and your family. Gene was a such a special person with a unique personality. I will miss his sweet smile. He will always live in our hearts. We will miss him so much at Emmanuel Wesleyan Church.  
Love,  
Jill Ballance

**Jill Ballance** - June 28 at 07:22 AM

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“ My prayers are with Bettie, Kathy, Jeffery and their families. So sorry for your loss.



**Peggy McCorkle** - June 27 at 05:13 PM