



Kenneth Gene Faris

September 13, 1926 - November 14, 2013

Gene was born at Indiana Springs, Indiana on September 13, 1926. He was the son of Forrest and Opal (Sargent) Faris. His mother died when he was two years old. A wonderful step-mother, Elizabeth Chastain, in fact became his mother. Gene died on Thursday evening at home.

Gene graduated from Campbellsburg High School after attending school for 3 ½ years. He was named to the Indiana High School all-star basketball team for the 1944 season. He entered Indiana University after graduating from high school. He was awarded three varsity letters in basketball, and led the team in scoring during the 1944-1945 season. He received three degrees from Indiana University-BS, MS, and Ed.D.

Gene served two tours of duty in the armed services. His university attendance was interrupted when he was called to serve in 1945. He graduated from OCS at Ft. Knox Kentucky and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Armored field. He served in Germany during his tour of duty. He was again called to serve during the Korean War.

Gene is survived by his wife; Betty, his children; Jane Newborn

(Barry), Kathy Parrott, Linda Webb (Mark), Mike Faris (Steve Poynter), grandchildren; Lauren Newborn, Darin Newborn, Jason Newborn, Kristin Newborn, Kourtney Parrott, Kassady Parrott, Rachael Burnworth (Josh), and Emilee Webb. He is also survived by his great-grandchildren; Jayla Hutton, Devon Newborn, Tony Newborn, and Amiyah Newborn, sister, Lois Shively (John) of Tampa, Florida and many nieces and nephews.

Gene married his second grade sweetheart, Betty Jane (Rosenbaum) Faris on July 10, 1948. As Gene said on many occasions, Betty didn't turn an eye in his direction until they were third year students at Indiana University. They celebrated 65 wonderful years together.

Gene started his professional career as a high school teacher and coach. His first position was at Montpelier High School, which was interrupted by his call to service during the Korean War. On release from the service, he joined the faculty at University High School as a teacher and coach. Due to health, he had to give up his coaching job and joined the staff of the Indiana University Audio-Visual Center and the faculty of the School of Education. During his 37 year career at Indiana University he served in many roles including Professor of Education (Instructional Systems Technology), Dean for Learning Resources, Executive Assistant to two Presidents, Grand Marshall of the University and Executive Director of the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System.

Gene received many outside grants to support his great interest in the use of new technologies in secondary and higher education classrooms. He published widely in his area of professional

interest and received numerous commendations for his work. Upon retirement, he was awarded the President's Medal for Excellence by Indiana University.

Gene was a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

There will be an open-house Celebration of Life 1-4pm Sunday November 17, 2013 at the Allen Funeral Home 4155 S. Old State Road 37 Bloomington, IN.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, or I.U. Health Bloomington Hospital Hospice.

Allen Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Friends can send condolences to www.allenfuneralhome.org

Tribute Wall

LC

“ To Betty, Jane, Kathy, Linda, Mike, and all of your families,

I was so saddened to hear of the passing of Gene. He was the wonderful head of a great family. Knowing all of you helped to make my growing up a very special time, with the horses and all of the other things that come along in life. Gene will always hold a very special place in my heart. He was a man rich in all of the good things that life has to offer. Take care, all of you. Celebrate him today!

Liz Carpenter Carr - October 26, 2015 at 04:08 PM

AS

“ Dear Betty and Family, We were saddened to learn of Gene's passing. Our sincere condolences to each of you, but just expressing those condolences is not enough.

During my IU career, I was so privileged to have Gene as a mentor and friend. Whether we talked business or fishing, or basketball, our conversations and friendship were always enjoyable, and much appreciated by me. Gene was one of those men who always made those who knew him appreciate his candor, and his compassion. To earn Gene's friendship and his respect always made me feel blessed to have served Indiana University with him.

I have so many many memories of the staff meetings with Ludlow, Whalen, Hagen, and Gus Liebenow, and both Sara and I so much enjoyed your wonderful parties. We loved your home on Maple Grove Road, and actually, our path to move to the country and away from the city was very much because of how much we admired your lifestyle on that beautiful farm.

May you find comfort in the memories of Gene's wonderful impact on others. He was special man..... Alan & Sara McNabb

Alan & Sara McNabb - October 26, 2015 at 04:08 PM

HP

“ Dear Betty and Family,
Please accept my great sympathy for your terrible loss of husband, father, and grandfather. My contacts with Gene, both at IU and in the University Club, were always pleasant. He was a kind and gentle man and these qualities contributed to his success as an important member of the faculty at IU. You must have many wonderful memories of Gene and my hope is that you find them of comfort at this difficult time.

Harriet Pfister - October 26, 2015 at 04:08 PM

LW

“ I had the pleasure of working alongside Gene when he served on the board of directors of the Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations (IPBS)- a consortium Indiana PBS and NPR stations. Representing WTIU/WFIU, Gene and Bill Kroll were thoughtful mentors to me in my earliest days as President and General Manager of WFYI in Indianapolis. I will always remember the encouragement and kind ways in which Gene made me feel welcome in my new and expanded role. What a wonderful role model and example of servant-leadership. My thoughts are with the entire Faris family at this sad time of loss. I wish you all the best. Lloyd Wright

Lloyd Wright - October 26, 2015 at 04:08 PM

RO

“ We will miss Gene. He was a fine gentlemen who we had the honor of knowing for many years as members of the IU Retirees Association. Our condolences to Betty and the family.

Robert Dodd - October 26, 2015 at 04:08 PM

RS

“ To Betty and the Faris family. You are great neighbors and friends. Gene is great, and will always be remembered as a wonderful man and friendly neighbor. We are lucky to have known him for the past 15 years, and we will certainly miss him.

We send our love and respect.

Call us if you need us!

Dick&Susan

Richard & Susan Mabry - October 26, 2015 at 04:08 PM

HA

“ *An outstanding educator, an avid golfer, a man who loved his family, a solid citizen, a true professional are all words that describe Gene. Now, may each of you find solace at his death, knowing full well that the man from a small Southern Indiana town made his mark, and etched it well. May he rest in peace!*

Harmon Baldwin - October 26, 2015 at 04:08 PM

DD

“ *Betty*
We were so sorry to learn of Gene's passing. The two of you were all time favorite neighbors and we had a great respect for both of you. We are sorry to miss the Celebration of Life as we are in Oregon for the funeral of my sister, but will try to be in touch soon.

Dick & Donna

Dick & Donna McGarvey - October 26, 2015 at 04:08 PM

DE

“ *Betty, I am so sorry for the loss of Gene. Charlotte and I have talked about visiting with you and Gene but somehow it never happened. I never does it seems. I will always treasure the time I viisted with Gene at Bell Trace and having my picture taken with him and of course the signature on my IU Champions tee shirt. He was a great man wonderful man and it is a loss not only to you but to those who knew him as well. I would love to try to keep in contact with you from time to time if that is ok. I will come to the Celebration of Life at Allens on Sunday. I know Charlotte (Cher) will come as well. Will see you then.*

Debbie Wolfe - October 26, 2015 at 04:08 PM