



W.E. Gene Perkins

August 4, 1936 - January 27, 2021

W.E. (Gene) Perkins was born in Anna, Texas on August 4th, 1936 to his parents James Ervin and Johnnie B Perkins. After joining the Navy, Gene worked with his Father at Mustang Engine Rebuilders and later for the Garland Independent School District. He worked and lived in Garland and was never far away from his Mom and Dad. He married Katherine Drain Perkins in 1963. They were married for 49 years and she preceded him in death, in 2012. They were members of Temple Baptist Church in Garland, Texas where Gene taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. He was a Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Texas #441. They loved to square dance, travel together, and play 42... Gene loved people. Once retired, he continued to work part-time for Restland Funeral Home. His gift was telling jokes and stories, making people laugh to lift their hearts and spirits, if only for a moment.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his high school sweetheart and now wife, Leo Petty Perkins. They were married in 1955, and again in 2013. Two children: Son, Benny Ray Perkins and his wife Melinda Perkins of Richardson, Texas. Daughter, Cathy Rivera Perkins and her wife Elizavet Rivera Perkins of Farmers Branch, Texas. Brothers: Jim Perkins and wife Seldra Perkins of Canton, Texas. Charles Perkins and wife Linda Perkins of Balch Springs. Grandchildren: Thomas, Jennifer, Elizabeth, Matthew, Jessica and Blake, ten Great Grandchildren, nieces and nephews and a host of family and friends.

His family in heaven awaiting him: Parents: James and Johnny Perkins. Sister: Patsy Landrum and her daughter Danene Booze. Nephew: Mark Perkins, son of Jim and Seldra Perkins.

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, and kindness shown to them.

Visitation for family and friends will be held at the Rest Haven Funeral Home on February 4, 2021, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. 2500 Hwy 66, Rockwall, Texas 75087. A private funeral will be held for the family.

Events

FEB **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

4

The Gathering at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall Location
2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

Comments



“ A great storyteller. He had a heck of a memory. I loved hearing him recite long long long poems. Will miss Gene. RIP

Michael Brundy - February 10 at 01:04 PM



“ He wasn't really a cowboy
but I suppose he could have been.
He could lead you to a sigh
or make you want to grin

with the stories he collected,
other's words he'd memorize
then share with expertise.
Each performance was a prize.

At his imaginary campfire
he could spin a mighty tale
about a dog licking a plate clean
or the "check" that's in the "mail".

Oh! He could take you into other worlds
Like Little Orphant Annie.
His skill was unsurpassed and
his talents were many.

So lift your eyes toward Heaven,
ponder twinkling stars a while
and know that they are twinkling
'cause Gene made the angels smile.

~Beth Ayers

Beth Ayers - February 09 at 09:37 PM



“ Gene was such a delight. He joined the North 40 Storytelling Guild where he was a treasured member. He regaled us with his poems and we often asked for favorites. If you know his poems you probably know which one was requested often! Katherine was the perfect foil as she would sit there quietly but give him that "look". I'm sure his mansion in glory will be visited by long time friends and family. RIP dear friend and fellow storyteller. Well done good and faithful servant.

Minetta Smith - February 08 at 08:22 PM



“ Robert Ball sent a virtual gift in memory of W.E. Gene Perkins



Robert Ball - February 08 at 02:51 PM



“ Gene was Mr. Sunshine! If he saw someone with a sad expression, he'd go introduce himself and tell them a joke or funny story to leave them laughing!

Robert - February 08 at 02:52 PM



“ What a great memory, what a great storyteller. I remember just sitting being amazed at what he could do. We will miss you much. RIP.

Michael - February 10 at 01:06 PM



“ Robert Ball sent a virtual gift in memory of W.E. Gene Perkins



Robert Ball - February 08 at 02:47 PM



“ My name is Bob Ball and Gene was my neighbor 2 doors down in Farmers Branch for several years. From the moment we met, I knew he was special and Gene quickly became my “MUSE”. Gene “weaseled his way” into my heart (just he did to you – he just had that way about him) and Gene became my inspiring, gregarious and entertaining friend. Gene introduced me to STORYTELLING through a group at the Farmers Branch Senior Center which met every Monday morning. As our relationship grew, we traveled to many Storytelling Conferences and Cowboy Poetry events through out North Texas for several years. You know how much he loved to recite poetry, and after a lot of arm twisting, Gene recorded two CDs of Cowboy Stories and Poetry that he gave away to his family and friends.

When Gene was “in the mood” ... he could capture an audience – it didn't matter to Gene - 1 person or 100. To Gene, “life was a stage where he - the jovial Dr. Gene Perkins would wield his “surgical scapulae of laughter” to heal and inspire his listeners. Yes! He believed and practiced that “Laughter was the Best Medicine”!

So today in this place ... Gene would be disappointed if we did not back a little and let the Master Storyteller Gene Perkins have the stage as we revel and reveal his life through our stories and our joyful events and our precious memories.

I rejoice with Gene and envy him as he is sharing in the eternal joy of heaven!

Robert - February 08 at 02:49 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of W.E. Gene Perkins.



February 03 at 02:23 AM