



Mr. Gene Oden

January 5, 1933 - May 20, 2017

Funeral services for Mr. Walter E. "Gene" Oden, 84, of DeBerry, Texas will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday 23, 2017 at the Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Ken Camp officiating. Burial will follow in the Panola Mt. Zion Cemetery under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home. Visitation will be Tuesday morning from 9 – 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Mr.. Oden passed away peacefully at his DeBerry home May 20, 2017. After a prolonged illness resulting from heart surgery and multiple strokes.

Mr. Walter Eugene "Gene" Oden was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, January 5, 1933 and lived in DeBerry all his life except for his time away in college and traveling playing professional baseball. Active in sports all of his life he played basketball and baseball for Carthage High School, baseball for Panola College, baseball for the University of Texas and professional baseball with the Baltimore Organization where he became friends and roommates with Brooks Robinson. Upon his marriage to Sandra White in 1956 she joined them in the apartment in San Antonio where they played for the San Antonio Missions and he continued calling her "roomie" all the 61 years of their marriage. He and Brooks remained close friends thru all the years. He began his teaching career in Elysian Fields ISD in 1959 where he remained for 34 years as teacher, coach, Athletic Director, Principal and Assistant Superintendent. Gene was loved and admired by all he taught and coached. Gene was a member of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Panola, Texas and hosted many independent basketball tournaments to raise money for the

church playing along with his brother Donald Ray Oden, who preceded him in death.

During his teaching years he continued to enjoy sports playing Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch Softball with teams in Texas and Louisiana. He especially enjoyed his years with the Cajun Kings in Shreveport and looked forward to the "Boys of Summer" Reunion each year. At the age of 50 he organized a team made up with his three sons and their friends and this team named Rainbow was a consistent winner which every team tried to beat. He played first base on this team refusing to sit himself on the bench. In his later years he turned to golf and spent many enjoyable hours with his friends at Marshall Lakeside Country Club, Carthage Country Club and LaTex Golf Course. His favorite saying was "Watching sports is good, playing is better and winning is best".

Gene is survived by his wife, Sandra White Oden and three sons. Walter Dale Oden, Ronald Gene Oden and Stephen Neal Oden, all of DeBerry. He also leaves a devoted grandson Cody Ray Oden also of DeBerry. He is also survived by his sister and brother-in-law Toby and Mack Monday and sister-in-law Mary Del Oden, also nephew Matt Oden and niece Vonn Oden, all of Kilgore, Texas. He came from a close-knit family and leaves many close cousins.

In lieu of flowers donation may be made to R. A. Tompkins Masonic Lodge, P.O. Box 1681, Waskom, Texas 75692, where he was a 65 year member; Heartsway Hospice, 437 W. Panola St., Carthage, Texas 75633 whose care was indispensable or Panola Mt. Zion Cemetery Assoc., P.O. Box 243, Panola, Texas 75685. An online guestbook may be signed at www.hawthornfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Panola Mt. Zion Cemetery

1167 CR 328
DeBerry, TX 75639

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 23. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel
307 W Wellington St.
Carthage, Tx

Service

MAY 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel
307 W Wellington St.
Carthage, Tx

Tribute Wall

RS

“ *Renee' (Jernigan) Sutton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene Oden*



Renee' (Jernigan) Sutton - May 27, 2017 at 02:07 AM

RS

Prayers go out to the family as the days come.R.I.P Mr Oden

Renee' (Jernigan) Sutton - May 27, 2017 at 02:09 AM

KS

“ *Gene was always Gene whenever our paths would cross. Never any pretense and that's what I liked about him. It was a privilege to have been his friend. Kenny Sinclair*

Kenny Sinclair - May 25, 2017 at 08:50 PM

CW

“ *Prayers for all the family. Toby, I know how much you will miss Gene, as much as you miss Donnie. God Bless You.*

Charlotte Ware - May 25, 2017 at 04:05 PM

TC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Mr. Oden was Principal when Rex and I attended EFHS. He was always fair, guided us all with a kind heart and hand. He always called me "Tiff", I loved him then, but probably did not appreciate him as much as I did later in life. He was truly a kind soul and "one of the good guys". He will be missed.

*Rex & Tiffany Collier
Denton, TX*

Tiffany Collier - May 24, 2017 at 04:51 PM

KW

“ Sandra my prayers are with you ! He was such a kind man !
Respected by many !

Kandi Wallace - May 24, 2017 at 12:17 AM

AT

“ I have so many wonderful memories of being welcomed into the family DeBerry home so many years ago; My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Mrs. Oden, Thumper, Ronnie, Stevie and the entire extended family and community that loved this kind soul.

Audrey Ledford Trout

Audrey Ledford Trout - May 23, 2017 at 12:24 PM

SW

“ Praying for each of you . Mr. Oden was a good man. Sherry Mize Wilks

Sherry Mize Wilks - May 23, 2017 at 10:11 AM

BD

“ Prayers for your family. Charles "Butch" Dannhaeuser

Butch Dannhaeuser - May 22, 2017 at 07:30 PM

GF

“ Greg and Hunter Faulkner purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Mr. Gene Oden.



Greg and Hunter Faulkner - May 22, 2017 at 04:18 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Gene Oden.



May 22, 2017 at 04:13 PM

DD

“ Prayers are with you, Oden family. Mr. Oden was my high school principal. Love to you Mrs. Sandra and Thumper, Ronnie Gene and Stevie.

*Dawn Walsh Dillard
Class of 1979*

Dawn Walsh Dillard - May 22, 2017 at 03:27 PM

AN

“ A great guy who was a great competitor in all activities. May God grant comfort to the family.

Andy and June Nutt

Andy and June Nutt - May 22, 2017 at 03:00 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Gene Oden.



May 22, 2017 at 01:46 PM

AT

“ Abilene Office Grand Prix Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Gene Oden.



Abilene Office Grand Prix Team - May 22, 2017 at 01:30 PM

PW

“ PAM WORKS lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene Oden



PAM WORKS - May 22, 2017 at 08:23 AM

MS

“ I'm so very sorry for your loss. Just remember you will see him later at a very happy reunion, with our Heavenly Father. Mr. Gene Oden was our principal at Elysian Fields, and he was good. We will miss him.

margaret gibbs shimell - May 21, 2017 at 08:16 PM

RG

“ Mr. Oden was such a sweet, caring man. I'll always have pleasant memories of him as my principal at Elysian Fields High School. God be with his family and give them peace in the knowledge that he's resting in the arms of Jesus now. Give them grace to face their loss until they see him again.

robin goodale - May 21, 2017 at 06:58 PM

LP

“ Lots of wonderful memories in that wonderful household. I remember when I would be there late or early mornings he would always "remind" Me that I had school that I did not need to miss. Such a great man, a great husband and father. My heart breaks for his family. They are in my thoughts and prayers.

Lynda Prince - May 21, 2017 at 03:28 PM

VH

“ Thoughts are with the family Rest in Peace Mr. Oden.

Vickie Hall



Vickie Hall - May 21, 2017 at 02:47 PM

GF

“ Well one of best men I have ever know. I was thinking about him this week and have no idea why ... Sandra, Ronnie, Stevie and Walter Dale I love u guys and loved Gene. I always loved playing golf with and be around him. I know heaven has gained a good one. He and Donnie have to be hooting and hollering up there with a bunch of other Deberry Folks , Mary Helen and Ol James Bailey. Quite a group up there I will try to make funeral. Hookem Horns.

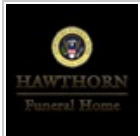
Greg Faulkner - May 21, 2017 at 02:20 PM



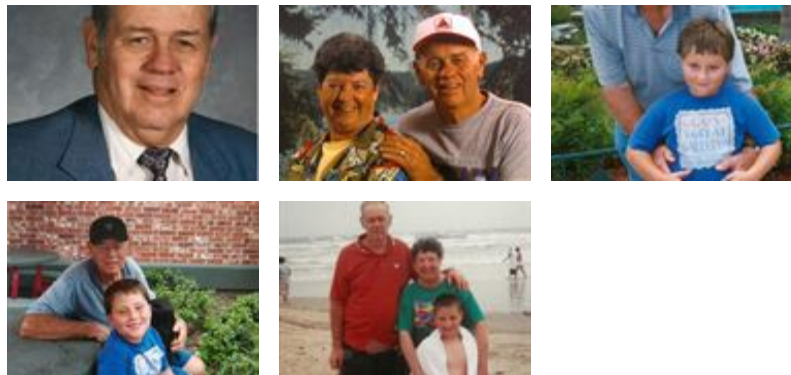
“ Amazing Arboricola was purchased for the family of Mr. Gene Oden.



May 21, 2017 at 10:25 AM



“ 56 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hawthorn Funeral Home - May 21, 2017 at 08:37 AM

TK

So sad to hear. Mr. Oden was the BEST! Prayers for Ms. Sandra, Thumper, Ronnie and Stevie. Terri Nelson Kay

Terri Kay - May 21, 2017 at 09:08 AM



“ *He will be greatly missed by all in the EF/DeBerry area. A great person, teacher, coach, principal, and assistant superintendent. Prayers to the family.*

Shawnee Fuller - May 20, 2017 at 11:07 PM

TL

“ *So sorry for your loss! You are all in our prayers 🙏 Scotty & Tonya*

Tonya Lovelace - May 20, 2017 at 10:50 PM

VG

“ *Everyone that had the privilege to know Gene knows he was a great teacher and coach. He was just and all around great person. He will be missed by many friends and family. He was a very fun coach. He cared about his team. They need more coaches like him.*

Praying for the family and all his friends.

Vicki Martin Guilliams

Marshall, TX

Vicki Martin Guilliams - May 20, 2017 at 10:41 PM

MR

“ *Sandra and family,
I just received the news of the loss of Coach. Alice Langley posted it on Face Book and our son Fred Rike sent me the news. I have only fond memories of Coach. He made sports so much fun. I don't think he coached Toby the first year of his coaching at EF. Coach took Molly Bogue and myself to Austin. We had qualified for the state tennis tournament and won a silver medal in doubles. He did coach the girls basketball team my senior year - 1959-1960.
I regret that I am unable to attend his funeral service. We live 380 miles west of Carthage. We will pray for the family and the entire Rainbow community. He may have lost a few times in sports, but he was a real winner in life. He will be missed.*

*Mary Vallen Metcalf Rike
8847 FM 2163
Haskell, Texas 79521*

Mary Vallen Metcalf Rike - May 20, 2017 at 10:17 PM

MH

Just saw this on Facebook and am so sorry to read this. He was an awesome teacher and coach. He'll be missed and I'll be praying for the family and a host of many friends.

Martha Holland - May 20, 2017 at 10:32 PM

TM

“ *Tommie McKinney lit a candle in memory of Mr. Gene Oden*



Tommie McKinney - May 20, 2017 at 10:03 PM

TM

“ You all are in my thoughts and prayers! Very sorry for your loss!

*Tommie Nicar McKinney
Class of 1981, EF*

Tommie McKinney - May 20, 2017 at 10:03 PM

KM

“ Sincere condolences to each member and friend of Gene Oden. He will surely be missed by his community and many friends.

Keats and Becky Mullikin

Keats and Becky Mullikin - May 20, 2017 at 09:39 PM

AL

“ Coach Oden is loved by so many who were taught and coached by him. There are so many wonderful and interesting stories and memories that will keep him alive forever in our hearts.

Alice Langley - May 20, 2017 at 09:08 PM

AL

“ 1 file added to the album Coach Oden



Alice Langley - May 20, 2017 at 09:06 PM

KM

“ Sandra,
My prayers are with you and your family. You know that he is walking those golden streets. I hope that you can get some rest. You have always been very special to me.

Kay Mauritzen - May 20, 2017 at 02:48 PM

RS

To Sandra, her sons, and my beloved Cody,
All of you are in our prayers - both today and in the days ahead,
Robbie Sutlive and everyone at Walnut Springs Baptist Church

Robbie Sutlive - May 21, 2017 at 05:18 PM

PD

I am so sorry for the Oden family. Prayers going up for your peace and comfort during this time. Makes me go back to my school days with a smile.

Pam Davis - May 21, 2017 at 06:00 PM

GF

Sorry to hear about the loss of Gene. One of the good guys.

Gay Faulkner - May 22, 2017 at 01:32 PM

KW

One of the best I have ever known. Mr Oden always treated me very well. Great competitor who always had a saying no matter the sport. If life is a race, no doubt Mr Oden finished first.

Kelly Warner - May 22, 2017 at 06:53 PM

BH

Words cannot express how sad i was to hear of Mr' Odens passing. My prayers for Mrs Sandra, Thumper. Ronny , Stevie and Cody. and all the family and friends. Gene was loved and respected by so manyHe touched the lives of many kids at EF.. He will never be forgotten. I will never forget the great times playing and watching the slow pitch softball games in DeBerry. Then the times we spent after the games at their house. Love from my family to you all. Brenda Jernigan Hill

Brenda Jernigan Hill - May 23, 2017 at 12:01 AM



Vinita Lewis

My sincere sympathies, thoughts and prayers to Mrs Oden, Thumper, Ronny and Stevie. Always had enormous respect for this man who was always very nice to me. May God bless and comfort ya'll. Vinita (Kincaid) Lewis

Vinita Lewis - May 24, 2017 at 02:56 AM

RG

I will always remember Mr. Oden as a wonderful man who always treated me like one of his own.(Even if that meant an occasional swat with the board!) I have so many great memories of him and his family as we were growing up. My family's prayers are with the Oden family as they celebrate the full life of Mr. Gene.

*May the living Lord Jesus Christ go with you.
May He go above you to watch over you,
Behind you to encourage you,
Beside you to befriend you, Within you to give you peace and,
Before you to show you His way
Now and forevermore.
Amen*

*Robert Griffing
Katy, Texas*

Class of '81 EFHS

Robert Griffing - May 24, 2017 at 09:17 AM

CR

I will always remember what an outstanding baseball player he was. I was truly in awe of his talent. It seems that he is leaving a big pair of shoes to fill. My sincere sorrow your loss.

charles reeves - May 24, 2017 at 01:36 PM