



H. E. "Gene" Brightwell

May 19, 1935 - April 15, 2025

H. E. "Gene" Brightwell, 89, of Nitro WV entered peacefully into the arms of his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Gene was born May 19, 1935 in St. Albans, WV to the late Raymond and Louise Brightwell. He was also preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Mary Ann Brightwell; brothers, Carroll "Piggy" Brightwell, Darrell Brightwell and Ronald Brightwell.

He was a graduate of St. Albans High School, class of 1954. Where he excelled in sports and is a proud member of the Saint Albans High School Hall of Fame. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Nitro and retired as a master electrician from Union Carbide with 42 years of service. His compassion for sports and to mentor children, led him to touch many lives coaching Little League football and baseball in Nitro area. His many interests included the Cincinnati Reds, WVU Mountaineers and the desire to always improve and compete with his senior friends on the golf course.

Gene was a devoted husband and father to Gary (Mary), Pam (Steve) and Eric. Grandchildren; David (Lindsay), Alex, Daylen, Justin (Amber) Cavender and great grandchildren, Layla, Easton and Eleanor. He is also survived by his brother's, Leonard and Jerry Wayne Brightwell

A celebration of Gene's life will be held at 2:00 pm Monday, April 21, 2025 at Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, St. Albans with the Rev. Michael Perry officiating. Burial will be in Cunningham Memorial Park, St. Albans.

Friends may call from 12 to 2 pm Monday prior to the funeral service.

You may visit Gene's tribute page at BartlettNichols.com to share memories or condolences with the family.

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, family owned and located at 409 Sixth Avenue, St. Albans is honored to serve the Brightwell family.

Cemetery Details

Cunningham Memorial Park

815 Cunningham Lane
St. Albans, WV 25177

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 21. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home
409 Sixth Avenue
Saint Albans, WV 25177
(304) 727-4325

Funeral Service

APR 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home
409 Sixth Avenue
Saint Albans, WV 25177
(304) 727-4325

Tribute Wall

TH

“ Sending prayers for the Brightwell family. Gene was a wonderful man.

Toni Shrewsbury Hardy

Toni Hardy - May 19, 2025 at 10:23 AM

MB

“ I have known Gene for 60 years. He was a fine gentleman and a friend. I enjoyed seeing Gene on Sunday morning sharing WVU news each time. We often talked about local sports since I was may have worked a certain game I may officiated one of many games weather it be high school or college. I always I had special respect for this man.

Michael "Mike" Beller - April 21, 2025 at 10:39 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell.



April 21, 2025 at 09:46 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell.

April 21, 2025 at 09:46 AM

JM

“ I have known and his family all my life, he was a good man and will be missed by those who knew and loved him. Goodbye my friend.

Jim Meddings - April 19, 2025 at 11:30 AM

TF

“ The Hogshead Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell.



The Hogshead Family - April 18, 2025 at 04:12 PM

TF

“ The Hogshead Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell.

The Hogshead Family - April 18, 2025 at 04:12 PM

CR

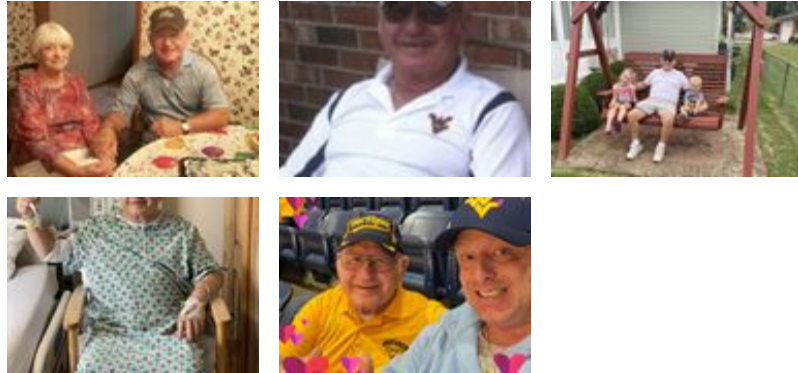
“ Cecil R Roberts lit a candle in memory of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell



Cecil R Roberts - April 18, 2025 at 03:47 PM



“ 113 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home - April 18, 2025 at 01:15 PM



“ From Shane & Diane Hudson purchased the *Crystal Cross Bouquet* for the family of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell.



From Shane & Diane Hudson - April 18, 2025 at 01:27 AM



“ From Shane & Diane Hudson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell.

From Shane & Diane Hudson - April 18, 2025 at 01:27 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell.*



April 17, 2025 at 04:02 PM



“ *Gene Brightwell was an Icon in Nitro who always had a warm smile and a loving heart especially towards Nitro youth. As a classmate of Gary's, I had many opportunities to share situations with the Brightwells who lived one street over at Nitro's famous "Westside". All of us friends took pride in living there spending many days at the city park and city pool. If it were not for Gary, I would not have had a chance to play college baseball. Gary was the best high school player I ever knew. Gene was so proud of all his beloved children and lived his life sacrificing for their good and loving them unconditionally. Gene treated all Nitro youth as if they were his own. Although my heart is broken, I celebrate Gene being reunited with my Dad as they can now go watch a ballgame in heaven. Virtual hugs to the entire family...I will forever respect and love each of you...❤️💪🙏🙏*

Perry Estep - April 17, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ *I remember both Gene and Mary Ann fondly. Our dads (Bob Hornish) played golf together for years and shared the ups and downs of the Red and the Mountaineers. May God grant you peace as you remember the legacy of love that he left to all of you. Terri Hornish Bannister*

Terri Bannister - April 17, 2025 at 08:08 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell.

April 17, 2025 at 04:40 AM



“ Gary,
My sincere condolences and special thoughts and prayers to You and your family.
Reading your Dad's obituary, it is easy to understand your caring, sincere and honest personality and your excellent work ethics as your Dad was obviously your role model in every aspect of your upbringing.
You and , Tony also, stand out in my Kellogg memories as two, of the most hard working dedicated employees I ever had the pleasure of hiring and working beside.
I wish You and Mary comfort in this time of sadness, but know that your Dad is at home with the Lord where we will all be reunited together in heaven.
Thank You for the opportunity to have known and worked with a person that your Dad (and I know your Mom) molded into the Gary Brightwell that I have great memories.
Derek Stanley
Former Kellogg's coworker.

Derek Stanley - April 16, 2025 at 05:15 PM



“ My condolences to all of Gene's family. I have many boyhood and school memories from St. Albans. While we didn't see each other much after the "Class of 54", we've always been friends. Bob Howell, Knox, Indiana.

Bob Howell - April 16, 2025 at 04:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell.*



April 16, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of H. E. "Gene" Brightwell.

April 16, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ *My prayers and thoughts go out to my Brightwell family. Uncle Gene was a great man and loved by so many. Although I hadn't seen him in a while, I can remember he always called me "gal" and was always smiling. He made everyone feel they were important and had a very kind heart. What a family reunion must be happening in heaven right now with my dad, Gene, and Uncle Darrell.*

Lisa Thompson - April 16, 2025 at 01:20 PM