



## James E. "Gene" Goodson

November 30, 1938 - June 1, 2019

1938-2019

Gene Goodson, age 80, passed away peacefully in the Goodson home on Chavez Road on June 1, 2019, surrounded by family and loved ones. James Eugene "Gene" Goodson was born in Dodson, Montana on November 30, 1938, but Belen became his true home after moving here with his family as a child in the 1940s. After graduating from Belen High School in 1956, he joined the U.S. Navy, where he was trained in San Diego as a signalman. His ship's mission was to support the nuclear tests near the Marshall Islands. He was discharged honorably in 1961. His next stop was in Kansas, where he learned factory-grade welding skills working on farm implements—training that would serve him well in the years to come. On his return to Belen in 1964, he met the love of his life, Ann Cherry. One summer day, Ann and her friends were throwing water balloons intended for another car, but a balloon that Ann tossed happened to fly through the open window of Gene's '56 Chevy Bel-Air. He turned his car around and got out, face soaked in water, more than upset. Ann thought the whole episode was quite funny, and when he drove off, she told her friends that one day she would marry him. They were married a year later, and together they built a home, a family, a business, and a lifetime of working side-by-side. After working as a heavy machinery operator, railroad switchman, and plumber, Gene received his contractor's license to work in concrete and excavating. Within a few years, the pair launched their own

septic installation business. But work and love only partly defined Gene—beneath his many hats was an always-present grin, and a willingness to have fun. Have you ever known a man who rode his motorcycle to the store with his trusted beagle sitting happily on the gas tank, his ears flopping in the wind? Or a business owner who loved inviting his crew of laborers on paid coffee breaks filled with jokes and laughter that sometimes lasted hours? That was Gene. His was the never-ending upbeat chatter and laughter heard every morning throughout Belen's coffee shops for decades. His favorite was the Whiteway Café, where it was almost a shock to not see him carrying on at breakfast at the back table. Gene could not leave without stopping to swap stories with everyone. There was never a waitress that he didn't make smile, nor a waiter that he didn't make laugh. Besides socializing, one of Gene's other passions was bowling, where he was a league regular every Monday night at Sugar Bowl Lanes for years. Despite (or maybe because of) his signature hop to start his approach, Gene was a magnificent bowler. His high game was 288, just one strike short of a perfect 300. Not bad for a guy who spent so much time chatting with other league bowlers that he often had to be reminded that it was his turn to throw the next ball. In his later years, as he received health care at the Veteran's Administration hospital in Albuquerque, Gene enjoyed chatting with fellow service veterans, bringing his signature way of working the room to yet another audience. What might define Gene the most was his warm heart toward family, friends, and even strangers. He once came across a couple with car problems who couldn't find a repair shop on Thanksgiving Day. Gene didn't hesitate; he loaded up the strangers and brought them home for a turkey feast with his family. It was this type of ease with kindness that followed Gene everywhere he went. Gene Goodson is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Ann Goodson; son Casey, and his wife Kim; daughter Gena; daughter Ellen and her family; and grandchildren Emily, Baley, and Brady. He was preceded in death by his parents, Delmar and Dora Goodson; grandson Zohn Orozco; and brother Raymond Goodson. He attended church at New Life Fellowship, where his son Casey is pastor.

Services will be held Friday, June 7th at New Life Fellowship. Visitation will be at 10:00am and the funeral service begins at 11:00am. A reception will be held at the church immediately after the service. Please sign Gene's online tribute at [www.romerofuneralhomenm.com](http://www.romerofuneralhomenm.com) Romero Funeral Home, 609 N Main St., Belen, NM

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

New Life Fellowship  
601 Christopher Dr  
Belen, NM 87002

## Celebration of Life

JUN 7. 11:00 AM (MT)

New Life Fellowship  
601 Christopher Dr  
Belen, NM 87002

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Michael Brophy lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



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**Michael brophy** - July 01, 2019 at 08:28 PM

TP

“ *We just learned of Gene's passing and want to extend our sympathy and prayers to all the family.  
Gene always had a smile for everyone and was a great friend and customer over the years. We will truly miss him.  
Sincerely, Dee and Tom Patterson*

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**Tom & Dee Patterson** - June 20, 2019 at 01:31 PM

BM

“ *Bonnie Montoya lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



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**Bonnie Montoya** - June 13, 2019 at 02:19 AM

GF

“ Please accept my family's sincere condolences on the loss of your dear loved one Mr. Goodson. May you find comfort in fond memories of him, and peace in God's assured promise to awaken those asleep in death to perfect health and conditions under his new Earthly government.

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**Greene Family** - June 12, 2019 at 11:34 AM

HA

“ Gene was a great man. He gave me the opportunity to work for him. He taught me what it was to work in harsh environments. The skills he taught me served me well in the Marine.Corps. I also had the opportunity to bowl with Mr. Goodson. He was a great teacher and very patient when things weren't going well. Gene was a devoted husband and was a great example of what a traditional marriage looks like. I always enjoyed working, playing and going to coffee with the Goodsons and he will be missed.

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**Hladik Aaron** - June 08, 2019 at 09:22 PM

DS

“ May Our Dear Lord Bless the memory of Gene, a friend to all. Heart felt condolences to Ann and the entire family.

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**Danny & Loretta Sachs** - June 08, 2019 at 06:16 PM

TF

“ We just heard the news and we know that Gene is in a better place with that big happy smile on his face. He will be missed by all. Our condolences go out to all the family.  
Chris, Corine and Jim Knecht

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**The Knecht family** - June 07, 2019 at 09:46 PM

HY

“ *Honni Young lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



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**Honni Young** - June 07, 2019 at 06:17 PM

“ Gene, the gentle giant with an even bigger heart and smile.

*It was Sugar Bowl Lanes, during my early years ... I was one of Ann's Junior bowlers. I always thought of Fred Flintstone watching Gene bowl because how he would hop and shuffle his feet. As my skills got better, I started bowling in the men's leagues on Monday night's and eventually asked Gene to be my teammate for the Belen city tournament. We ended up winning it that year and then again the year after.*

*Everyone knew Gene riding through town in his truck wearing his big hat and a spare tire cover with the big yellow smiley face that said have a nice day. He would also entertain guests and friends showing his shop and concrete jungle when they would come over and visit.*

*As the years went by, I enjoyed his company at the morning coffee table and Friday night dinners with many of our friends. We would all enjoy his stories and jokes, but most of all, the times he and Ann would have battles on when to leave the cafe. Ann would say very stern like, Ok Gene, we're leaving in 10 minutes. Well the 10 minutes would pass by and Gene would still be sitting down, obviously in no hurry to leave.*

*He had the timing down just right though, because just before Ann lost her patience, Gene was up and ready to walk out to the truck. We used to say Gene, Ann's gonna leave you one of these days. With a big smile and jokingly he would say really, that would be nice-I wouldn't have anymore headaches.*

*Or the times we would enjoy a movie and a tub of popcorn, Gene would usually be passed out and snoring by the middle of the show, or sometimes sooner. It was Ann's sharp elbows that would either wake him up or to stop him from snoring.*

*Or the times that the Goodson's would host us for the holidays and*

*Ann would cook a magnificent buffet meal for everyone to enjoy. Gene would be the official host and talk with everyone.*

*It wasn't until he retired that his ailments unfortunately started to begin. And through these life's trials and tribulations, there was an even stronger person right by his side. His loving and devoted wife, of almost 54 years. In 2015 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, a milestone that some people are not blessed with. Almost 54 years together, I'd say their love for each other was "concrete". And to think it all started with a little water balloon.*

*No matter what kind of day Gene was having, he always had a smile on his face, just like the big yellow smiley face on his truck. The world surely needs more people like him. Even on his last days, his heart and a smile never wavered, just like the American flag he proudly served to protect.*

*He worked hard all his life, beating up his hands, arms, elbows, knees and back. God was working hard too, preparing a place for Gene, and now after all the years of Ann's headaches, hard work and illness, Gene is now free and God can peacefully rest his soul. And really, how peaceful to be at home surrounded by your family when God calls your number. When you hear thunder in the sky, know Gene is bowling his perfect 300.*

*Ann, Casey, Gena my heart goes out to each of you and your extended family. Thank you for letting me be part of your life and most of all, a friend.*

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**Manny Garcia** - June 07, 2019 at 03:47 PM

MR

“ Ann Casey and gena and Goodson family I'm am sorry for the loss of your husband and dad god bless guys and god bless him May he rip the Rimorin family will be praying for your family in this time of need sorry he always made me laugh and smile when I was around him he will be missed

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**marcus rimorin** - June 06, 2019 at 04:25 PM

JJ

“ Our sincere condolences go out to Ann and the entire family of Gene Goodson. Gene was a nice caring man not only for his family, which came first, but for his community and friends. May the Lord's perpetual light shine upon him for eternity. Juan & Josie Julian

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**Juan & Josie Julian** - June 06, 2019 at 12:06 PM

TF

“ Tony F Padilla Family lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson



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**Tony F Padilla Family** - June 05, 2019 at 05:17 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James E. "Gene" Goodson.



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June 04, 2019 at 04:42 PM

JM

“ *Jennie Mascarena lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



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**Jennie Mascarena** - June 03, 2019 at 10:41 PM

RG

“ *Gene will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*



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**Robert Gromatzky** - June 03, 2019 at 09:36 PM

KS

“ *Oh Gene how your warm loving smile will be missed! My heart goes out to all of the Goodson Family!  
With a Smile and a hug!!!  
Kelli Szuch*

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**Kelli Szuch** - June 03, 2019 at 09:12 PM

FG

“ *Ann, you and your family are in our prayers--  
that God will provide for all your needs, and  
that He give you all peace and comfort. 🙏🏻✝️  
🙏🏻 Sam and Frances Garcia*



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**Frances Garcia** - June 03, 2019 at 08:58 PM

GG

“ *Gena Goodson lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



**Gena Goodson** - June 03, 2019 at 07:59 PM

SG

“ *Sylvia Baldonado Garcia lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



**Sylvia Baldonado Garcia** - June 03, 2019 at 05:14 PM

DR

“ *Dicky And Suzanne Romero lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



**Dicky and Suzanne Romero** - June 03, 2019 at 02:05 PM

RS

“ *Lit a candle in Memory of James "Gene" Goodson.*

*Sincerely,  
Ruby Salas & Family*



**Ruby Salas** - June 03, 2019 at 01:35 PM

LB

“ *Lola Kouba And Larry Binfield lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



**Lola Kouba and Larry Binfield** - June 03, 2019 at 11:23 AM

Bernardine  
Baca  
Spiers

“ *Bernardine Baca Spiers lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



**Bernardine Baca Spiers** - June 03, 2019 at 08:27 AM

CE

“ *Charles & Diane Eaton lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



**Charles & Diane Eaton** - June 02, 2019 at 11:35 PM

BC

“ *I am so sorry to hear about your loss. God bless and protect you all.*



**Beverly Castillo** - June 02, 2019 at 10:05 PM

MS

“ *Martin & Wendy Sawyer lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



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**Martin & Wendy Sawyer** - June 02, 2019 at 09:28 PM



“ *Lorraine Marquez lit a candle in memory of James E. "Gene" Goodson*



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**Lorraine Marquez** - June 02, 2019 at 10:52 AM

MS

*We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Gene Goodson. This family is a pillar in the Belen community. He was a great neighbor and friend. Gene leaves an amazing legacy of kindness that he has instilled in his family. Prayers for Danny and the rest of the Goodson family. Rudy and Margaret Sachs*

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**Margaret Sachs** - June 10, 2019 at 03:50 PM

BM

*A sad moment came over my heart when I heard of Gene's passing. He always made me laugh. I think he put a smile on everyone's face. Our deepest condolences to Ann and the family. Little mischievous big man. I was proud to have known him. I will miss seeing you at our craft shows. RIP Mr. Goodson*

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**Bonnie Montoya** - June 13, 2019 at 02:18 AM