



Harold Gene Ledford

September 3, 1943 - August 17, 2024

Harold Gene Ledford, 80, of Slade, Kentucky, widower of Fran Ledford, passed away peacefully at Clark Regional Medical Center on Saturday, August 17, 2024, with his family by his side. He was born on September 3, 1943 in Stanton, Kentucky to the late Courtney and Anna Belle McKenzie Ledford.

Gene was a lineman for East Kentucky Power Cooperative, working tirelessly alongside his crew members to build and repair electric lines all over the state, keeping the lights on for millions of Kentuckians. In more recent years, he could often be found at Bruen's Restaurant in Stanton, where he was a regular fixture.

Gene was known as a man who knew everyone, and it seemed everyone knew him. To his family and friends, he was the guy who could make or fix virtually anything. Always ready with a warm smile and a greeting of "howdy," he knew no strangers.

A devoted family man, Gene will be dearly missed by his beloved daughters, Jennifer Ann (Pete) Koutoulas of Winchester and Stacy Lynn (Shane) Southwood of Paris. Others surviving him and mourning his loss include his grandsons, Nicholas Koutoulas and Timothy (Amanda) Koutoulas, both of Winchester; granddaughters Emily Southwood, serving in the US Air Force, and Erin Southwood of Paris; and one great grandson, Connor Koutoulas of Winchester. He is also survived by his brothers, Ira Ledford of Winchester and Trulan Ledford (Barbara) of Stanton; and a sister, Ruth Ledford Johnson of

Winchester; he also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, and a host of friends to mourn his passing.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 54 years, Fran Catron Ledford; his parents Courtney and Anna Belle Ledford; his brothers, Lawrence Ledford, Carl Ledford, Courtney Ledford Jr., and Truman Ledford; and his sisters, Beulah Ledford Toombs, Bonnie Ledford DeLong, Sylvia Ledford Frost, and Dorothy Ledford Rose.

A celebration of Gene's life will be held at Wells Funeral Home in Stanton on Thursday, August 22, at 11 AM, with visitation from 6 to 8 PM on Wednesday, August 21. Officiating will be Rev. Jeff Gaines.

Pallbearers will include Jansen Ledford, Steve Koutoulas, Greg Southwood, Nicholas Koutoulas, Tim Koutoulas, and Emily Southwood.

Honorary pallbearers include Gerald and Ruth Meadows, Steve Ledford, Cynthia McDaniel, Devona Ledford, and the staff at Bruen's Restaurant.

Burial will follow the service at the Ledford Cemetery in Pine Ridge, Kentucky.

Previous Events

Family Visitation

AUG **21**. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Wells Funeral Home
777 West College Avenue
P.O. Box 33
Stanton, KY 40380
wellsfuneralhome@yahoo.com

Visitation

AUG **21**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wells Funeral Home
777 West College Avenue
P.O. Box 33
Stanton, KY 40380
wellsfuneralhome@yahoo.com

Funeral Service

AUG **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wells Funeral Home
777 West College Avenue
P.O. Box 33
Stanton, KY 40380
wellsfuneralhome@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall



“ 4 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wells Funeral Home - August 21, 2024 at 09:57 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Harold Gene Ledford.*



August 20, 2024 at 08:55 PM



“ *From the Rose family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Gene Ledford.*

From the Rose family - August 20, 2024 at 08:55 PM

AL

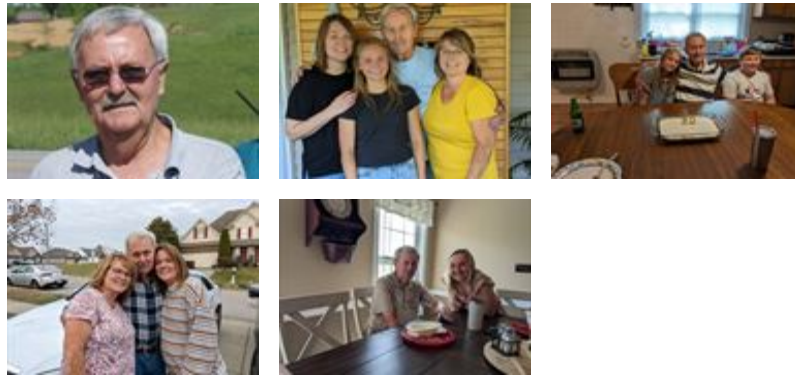
“ *Andi Ledford purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Harold Gene Ledford.*



Andi Ledford - August 20, 2024 at 05:31 PM



“ *110 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Wells Funeral Home - August 20, 2024 at 03:34 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harold Gene Ledford.*



August 20, 2024 at 11:32 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Harold Gene Ledford.*



August 20, 2024 at 10:30 AM

“Gene Ledford was absolutely among the kindest, most generous, most family-oriented men I have ever known. Along with my own dad, he was the best. He was my father-in-law, but I called him “Pap.”

Gene served the people of our region for decades. He was one of those people who gets called out on stormy nights when the lights go out. As a member of a line crew for East Kentucky Power Cooperative, he was out in rain, snow, cold, and blazing hot summer days, building and repairing the high-voltage transmission lines that carry the power to our homes.

About 30 years ago, he was forced to accept disability retirement when cancer claimed one of his lungs. Officially “disabled,” Gene didn’t know the meaning of the word. He spent the next decades doting on his loving wife, Fran, who passed away in 2018. He gardened, updated their home, built furniture for them and his daughters, worked at his hobby of restoring old sewing machines, and put up (and filled!) outbuildings on his property — Gene was a confirmed pack rat.) He was also “Mr. Fix-it” — he was always there to fix a balky lawn mower or change the brakes on our vehicles. He could fix or build anything. And if anyone needed a tool, a part, a nut or bolt, we knew to check with Gene because he almost certainly had what you needed, to borrow or to have.

After Fran's death, Gene slowed down quite a bit. The effects of years of breathing with one lung took its toll on his body, particularly his heart. But he continued to raise a garden and care for his home and grounds, along with a pasel of feral cats who took up residence at his place.

Gene was the ultimate family man who loved nothing better than doting on his daughters, his grandchildren, and his great-grandson. The only time there was any hint of conflict in the family was when we tried to refuse his demands that we accept money from him in return for our attempts to help him in later years. He would have

given every last penny he had to his family if we would have allowed him to. He wouldn't even buy himself a new car when he desperately needed to despite being easily able to afford it. At Christmas, he showered us with generous gifts.

We thought we had lost him a year ago when he suffered a collapse while at Bruen's Restaurant, where he was a daily fixture and much beloved by the staff. Thanks to their efforts, those of the Powell County EMS, and Clark Regional Hospital, he was revived when we thought he had died. That gave us the gift of another precious year with him -- a gift we will cherish forever.

I loved Gene dearly, and I know he loved us all; he was never shy about telling us. After a visit, we would always share hugs, and we would be given three admonitions from him: 1) "I love you", 2) "Be awful careful," and 3) "Does everybody have their phones?"

With his passing, Jen and I have now lost all of our parents. We and our siblings are now the patriarchs of our family. I feel completely inadequate to fill the shoes of our parents, but we have no other choice. The circle of life continues. But we have been left with great examples to follow.

Rest in peace, Pap.

Pete Koutoulas - August 20, 2024 at 09:17 AM

DT

“*Doanah Townsend lit a candle in memory of Harold Gene Ledford*”



Doanah Townsend - August 19, 2024 at 02:12 PM

JC

“ Gene was such a wonderful light when my sister and I went to Bruens, he was our table buddy and we always had wonderful conversations during our meals. Gene's quick laugh and big smile will be missed. Prayers for Gene's family to have comfort and strength now and in the days ahead. R.I.P. Gene.



Joanne Crowe - August 19, 2024 at 12:52 PM

DT

“ Dan Greear and Charlie Tomlin purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Harold Gene Ledford.



Dan Greear and Charlie Tomlin - August 19, 2024 at 12:32 PM

AM

“ Angelyn Maloney lit a candle in memory of Harold Gene Ledford



Angelyn Maloney - August 19, 2024 at 11:06 AM

JM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Gene was a kind and caring man. He loved his family and was so proud of you all. Jennifer, Stacy and your families, you all were his world. I enjoyed talking with him and he always talked about his girls and their families. It breaks our hearts for you all, but I know he is with Fran and no longer missing her. I am going to miss our conversations. Prayers, love and hugs to you all.

James & Cynthia McDaniel - August 18, 2024 at 04:30 PM