



## Eugene J. Davis

June 3, 1915 - August 19, 2014

Eugene J. Davis, at the age of 99, was called home to his Heavenly Father on August 19, 2014.

Gene was born in Little Falls, New York to the late Michael and Emma Davis on June 3, 1915. He was one of eight children.

He was a man of strong faith. His faith was the core of his life he lived. He enjoyed life. His smiles, kind words and positive attitude were endearing to those who knew him. He loved his family and always supported his children in their chosen fields of endeavor.

Gene served his country for two years during World War II. He was a member of an Engineer Aviation Battalion.

Following the war, he entered Marshall University majoring in accounting. He met his loving wife, Hannah at Marshall. They were married November 26, 1947 in Our Lady of Peace Chapel, Lynbrook, Long Island NY. They moved to Toledo in 1948.

He worked in the composing room of the Toledo Blade for over 50 years and retired at the age of 82. Gene was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church for 62 years, always supportive of the church and school. He ushered at the 10 am Sunday mass for over 40 years and served on several fundraising campaigns.

He was a charter member of the Third Degree Knights of Columbus St. Jude/South Toledo Council 3904. He was also a member of the Fourth Degree K of C Bishop Hoffman Assembly #907, serving as Faithful Navigator

from 1959-1960.

He was elected by the Blade members for 40 consecutive years to the Board of Directors of the Toledo Blade Federal Credit Union.

For recreation, Gene's great love was playing tennis. He enjoyed the game immensely and was a fierce competitor. He also enjoyed playing cards. He and his wife looked forward to having dinner and playing bridge with friends. Following his retirement he and his wife traveled throughout the United States and Canada. They had no agenda except their final destination stopping when there was a place of interest they wished to explore. A trip to Italy with their son, Father Mark, in celebration of Father Mark's ordination and their 50th wedding anniversary was a highlight.

Gene was a member of Shadow Valley Tennis Club, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo Dioceses Parents of Priests and the Toledo Ballet Association (26yrs). He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Hannah; children: Jim (Diana) of Toledo, Nancy (Tom) Stevens of Denver Colorado, and Father Mark, Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Bowling Green Ohio; grandchildren: James and Alexandria Davis; step-grandchildren: Julie, David, Chelsea Britton and Maeve, Fiona DeLisle. Also surviving are two sisters; Dixie Spencer of Sarasota, FL and Garry McClean of Long Island, NY and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers; Frank, Leo, Bill, and sisters; Lorraine Ross and Ann Pytko.

The family would like to express appreciation to the staff of the Franciscan Care Center and a special thank you to Sister Jordan for the wonderful care Gene received. Also, we are grateful for the loving care given to Gene by Tammie Simon, Mattie Meyers and Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Visitation will be on Friday, August 22 from 3-8 pm at the Coyle Funeral home on Reynolds Road. Mass of the Christian Burial will be Saturday morning at 10 am at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Toledo.

Memorial contributions may be made in Gene's honor to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church or The Eugene and Hannah Davis Scholarship at St. John's Jesuit High School.



# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

5725 Hill Ave  
Toledo, OH 43615

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **22**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614  
(419) 865-1295  
<https://www.coylefuneralhome.com>

## Funeral

AUG **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church  
2255 Central Grove  
Toledo, OH 43614

# Tribute Wall

KS

“ To Father Mark, Hannah and the rest of the family, my prayers go out to you. Gene was a good man who led a good life. Celebrate the time you shared. God smiles when he thinks of your family.  
Kevin & Chris Smith

Kevin Ross Smith - August 25, 2014 at 11:39 AM

MS

“ TO THE DAVIS FAMILY, I REMEMBER ALL THE GOOD TIMES WE HAD ON COPLAND AND BABYSITTING JIM AND NANCY. YOU WERE TERRIFIC NEIGHBORS AND A LOVING FAMILY. MAY GENE REST IN PEACE AND MAY GOD GRANT YOU COMFORT AT THIS SAD TIME.

MARY ANN (NOPPER) SHIPLEY  
ATHENS, GEORGIA

MARY ANN SHIPLEY - August 23, 2014 at 12:40 PM

JS

“ HANNA: I AM SO SORRY I CANNOT BE WITH AT THIS TIME, AND AM SO SORRY FOR THE LOSS OF GENE - I TRULY LIKED HIM AND I OFTEN REMEMBER SOME OF THE GOOD TIMES WE HAD TOGETHER. MY PRAYERS ARE FOR YOU.  
LOVE, JEAN SMITH



JEAN SMITH - August 23, 2014 at 10:41 AM

DM

“ I was saddened to read of Gene's death. He was truly a remarkable man, and I only wish that I'd known him better! His many years on earth were a gift from God, which is only fitting for a man of such deep faith, and all who knew him and his gentle ways regarded him as a treasured gift. I was on *The Blade* copy desk for 33 years and retired in 2001. I'd forgotten that Gene had retired that many years ahead of me. I had many occasions to work in the composing room, and it was there in the hustle and bustle of getting an edition "to bed" that I got to know your husband and father. It was a mutual friend, Chet Sullwold, who introduced us.

May you find comfort in your faith and in your many memories. Also know that I and many other news personnel at *The Blade* feel blessed to have known Gene and to have worked with him.

Sincerely,

David F. Mertz, Bowling Green

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David F. Mertz - August 22, 2014 at 10:31 PM

MD

“ Father Mark and Family, Your Dad still had the great smile and I'm sure his calm demeanor that I always remembered thru our basketball years at St.John's.What a great long and fruitful life he had! Although I know he will be missed he truly was a gift to have as long as you did-My thoughts and prayers are w/ u! Michael Dzienny

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michael dzienny - August 22, 2014 at 02:04 PM

JA

“ Mrs. Davis & Family,  
Wonderful memories at SJJ over the years where the Davis Family was always in the picture. A wonderful man and a wonderful life...Job well done Mr. Davis. We wish all of you the best !

Richard, Louise & Jeff Arman

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Jeff Arman - August 22, 2014 at 01:36 PM

RE

“ *Fr. Mark, Mrs. Davis and Family,*

*We are truly sorry for your loss. My husband and I did not know Mr. Davis personally, but we felt we came to know him through Fr. Mark when he would talk about his family during mass at St. Al's and how wonderful all of you are.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Heaven has just given all of us another angel to watch over everyone.*

*Our Deepest Sympathies,*

*Mike and Renee Black  
Parishioners at St. Alysious*

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**Renee** - August 22, 2014 at 12:26 PM

RS

“ *Gene was a truly gentle spirit, an oasis of peace in the racket and mayhem of the Blade composing room and news operation. I am proud to have known him.  
May light eternal shine upon him.*

*Rebekah Scott  
Moratinos, Palencia, Spain*

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**rebekah scott** - August 22, 2014 at 10:27 AM

“ News article) Eugene J. Davis, 99, who worked in *The Blade's* composing room for half of the 20th century and served his church and credit union, died Tuesday in Franciscan Care Center, Sylvania, where he lived the last 10 months. Mr. Davis of South Toledo had dementia and congestive heart failure, said his wife, Hannah. He retired in early 1998 from *The Blade*, where he'd worked since August, 1948. In the days of hot-metal typesetting machines, he evaluated prospective ads to determine what fonts and sizes they should be set in based on the layout, said Dave Georgia, who worked with him as a printer and later supervised him as a shift foreman.

"He was one of the most pleasant guys," Mr. Georgia said. "I never saw the guy angry the entire time I knew him. He was low key and did his job."

Mr. Davis was a proofreader for many years, checking articles and advertisements word by word, line by line to make sure the newspaper was error-free.

"He felt he was learning something every day," his wife said. "The children could not understand why he would not retire. He said, 'I love my job.' That tells it all."

His son Jim said: "He liked it because it was different every day. It kept him stimulated, and he enjoyed that. Dad was a very smart guy."

For decades, Mr. Davis was on the board of what was then called the *Blade Federal Credit Union*.

"That was Gene. He was always involved in something where he felt he was doing something that was positive," his wife said.

He was a 62-year member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish.

For more than 40 years he was an usher at 10 a.m. Sunday Mass.

He was born June 3, 1915, in Little Falls, N.Y. He was 14 when his father died, and his mother chose him, the second oldest of eight, to help take care of the family.

"He was a strong individual," his wife said.

He was an Army veteran of World War II - he built air strips while in an engineer aviation battalion in India. Afterward, he attended Marshall University.

*He and his wife played bridge with friends, and he last played tennis at age 89.*

*Surviving are his wife, Hannah Davis, whom he married Nov. 26, 1947; sons, Jim and the Rev. Mark Davis, who is pastor of St. Aloysius Church, Bowling Green; daughter, Nancy Stevens; sisters, Dixie Spencer and Garry McLean; two grandchildren, and five step-grandchildren.*

*Visitation will be from 3-8 p.m. today in the Coyle Funeral Home. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.*

*The family suggests tributes to the church or the Eugene and Hannah Davis scholarship fund at St. John's Jesuit High School. Contact Blade Staff Writer Mark Zaborney at: [mzaborney@theblade.com](mailto:mzaborney@theblade.com) or 419-724-6182. Published in Toledo Blade on Aug. 22, 2014*

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**Coyle** - August 22, 2014 at 09:39 AM

SC

“*Fr. Mark, Mom Davis, and family,  
Sincere Sympathy at the loss of your dear Husband and Father! His LIFE has been eternally upgraded to FULLNESS OF LOVE IN THE TRINITY!!! I count it pure privilege to have known him, even a little, and to have the experience of being on the same tennis court with him (in his 80's)! What a beautiful legacy Eugene leaves to all of you, to his world, and to all who know him! He will be so powerful intercessor in heaven for you all!  
His picture reveals a gentleness and kindness unmatched!  
My prayers and condolences, Fr. Mark and Mom Davis!  
Sr. Carroll*

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**Sr. Carroll** - August 22, 2014 at 09:10 AM

CM

“ Dear Hannah and family,

*So sorry to see Gene's passing. We will be unable to attend the showing as we will be gone during that time. Just know you are in our thoughts and of course in our prayers during this time.*

*May God bless you, keep you, and help you and may your memories carry you through life.*

*Jim and Cindy McCaw*

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**Cindy McCaw** - August 21, 2014 at 05:28 PM

LN

“ Fr. Mark,

*I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I wish I could share my condolences with you in person but I have a visitation and a funeral for a family member at the same time as your dad's. Please know that I am thinking about you and your family during this difficult time.*  
*Laurie Neary*

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**laurie Neary** - August 21, 2014 at 12:17 PM

SB

*JD and Diana,*  
*We are so sorry to hear of the passing of your father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family*  
*John, Sandy and Jason Bigler*

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**Sandy Bigler** - August 21, 2014 at 02:01 PM