



Gene Oliver Sparks

July 22, 1932 - October 3, 2018

Conway, SC...Mr. Gene O. Sparks, 86, passed away at his home Wednesday, October 3, 2018.

Born July 22, 1932 in Scott County, MS. Mr. Sparks was the son of the late Leon and Janice Rowe Sparks. Gene was delivered by his grandfather, Dr. Sparks, at home. He passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on October 3, 2018. He grew up on a family farm with five brothers and two sisters. He graduated from Morton High School where he served as student body president. After attending Millsaps College, he served two years in the United States Army and found his way to South Carolina where he met the love of his life, Nita Page Forehand. They were married at the First Baptist Church of Conway in 1953.

Gene was a devoted husband of 64 years, father, grandfather and avid, self-taught sailor who enthusiastically led community and church outreach. He rose to the position of Post Master where he remained until his retirement in 1988. His kindness shone to all he served as twice Chairman of Deacons, choir member and soloist at First Baptist, on the board of directors and as frequent performer at the Theatre of the Republic. He worked hard and loved to fellowship as president of the Lions Club and American Legion member, Board member of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Chairman of Horry County Election Commission. Uncle Gene, as he was known to many, helped

found Volunteers in Probation in the 70's and parented many foster children.

Mr. Sparks was predeceased by three brothers and one sister. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Nita Forehand Sparks of Conway; his sons, John Marshall Sparks of Myrtle Beach and Lt. Col. (Ret.) Alan Norwood (Kristi) Sparks of Mt. Pleasant, SC; his daughters, Renee Sparks (Jeffrey) Defalco and Mary Grace Sparks of Conway; his grandchildren, Page Louise Curry of Conway, Jacob Sparks of Mt. Pleasant, SC, and Katharine Sparks; his brothers, Richard Sparks of Jackson, MS, and Daniel Sparks of Georgia; and his sister, Janet Howerton of Jackson, MS.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00AM Saturday, October 6, 2018 at First Baptist Church of Conway, officiated by Rev. Rocky Taylor. The family will receive friends at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, Friday, October 5, 2018 from 5:00PM-7:00PM.

Memorial donations may be made to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of SC, 1314 Lincoln St., Columbia, SC 29201 or to The Theater of the Republic, 331 Main St., Conway, SC 29526.

Please sign the online guest register at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, is serving the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **5**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel
608 Beaty Street
Conway, SC 29526

Memorial Service

OCT **6**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Conway
603 Elm Street
Conway, SC 29526
<http://www.fbconway.org>

Tribute Wall

SM

“ Sharon Myers lit a candle in memory of Gene Oliver Sparks



Sharon Myers - October 07, 2018 at 04:53 AM

RB

“ Rhonda Butler lit a candle in memory of Gene Oliver Sparks



Rhonda Butler - October 06, 2018 at 10:38 PM

PA

“ Renee and family,

I can't help but think of the phrase, "Well done, good and faithful servant" when I looked at all the dear photos and read your father's obituary. His friendly smile and pleasant demeanor is something I will always remember from whenever I dashed into the Post Office to buy stamps or mail a package. He was dedicated to his family, his town and his country which is obvious in all the ways he served. May all your sweet memories of him sustain you during this time of sadness, as you rejoice in his new life with God, no longer in pain.

Paula Vaught Adams

Paula Vaught Adams - October 06, 2018 at 09:38 PM

EJ

“ *Edward Jordan lit a candle in memory of Gene Oliver Sparks*



Edward Jordan - October 05, 2018 at 03:19 PM

PO

“ *So very sorry to hear of Gene's passing. I have many fond memories of his warmth, ready smile and especially his distinct sense of humor. Nita, Rene, Johnny, Alan and all of the family, may your memories of him keep you in peace during this time and beyond. Much Love to you all.*

Pat Oliver

Pat Oliver - October 05, 2018 at 02:47 PM

WU

“ *Thanks for your service Soldier !!!*
Wayne Williams
United States Marine Corps



Wayne Williams - USMC - October 05, 2018 at 01:55 PM

TE

“ *My sincere condolences to the Sparks family.
May God be with you during this special time.*



Tessa Edmondson - October 05, 2018 at 12:07 PM



“ *43 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Goldfinch Funeral Home - October 05, 2018 at 10:11 AM

FH

“ *Nita I am so sorry to hear about Gene. I know it's been a struggle
but now we know he is in a greater place. He was so sweet to me
when I was teaching pre-school at First Baptist. You are in my
thoughts and prayers.*

Faye Hickson

Faye Hickson - October 05, 2018 at 10:01 AM

DB

“ So saddened to hear about Gene. Will always remember his laughter and kindness to all.

Debby Brooks

Debby Brook - October 05, 2018 at 08:03 AM

BA

“ Sending our heartfelt condolences to the Sparks family. Gene had a beautiful heart and we were so happy to have met him through his son Alan, who is married to our daughter. Gene and Nita visited us several times in Charlotte and I loved seeing him playing with our mutual grandkids. May he rest in peace.



Beverly Angell - October 04, 2018 at 09:42 PM