



Donald Leon Gentry

November 12, 1944 - September 28, 2019

Donald Leon Gentry, age 74, of Henderson, KY, crossed the final finish line at 3:36 p.m. Saturday, September 28, 2019 at Methodist Hospital.

Leon's whole life revolved around cars and engines. He started working on cars at the tender age of 8 years old and never stopped. He was a dare devil who was full of life. He flew planes, raced motorcycles, raced cars, and restored engines. Leon was a friend to everyone and was the first to help anyone in need. He truly appreciated everyone and everything around him; always commenting on what a good life he has led. Leon adored his family and they adored him.

He was preceded in death by his parents Haywood and Susan Gentry.

Leon is survived by his wife of 55 years Linda Gentry of Henderson, KY; 2 daughters Brandi Neely and her husband Shane of Evansville, IN and Micki Shelton and her husband Scott of Henderson, KY; 2 sons Donnie Gentry and his wife Sharon of Henderson, KY and Chris Gentry and his wife Beth of Henderson, KY; 1 sister Jackie "Sissie" McHatton of Henderson, KY; 2 brothers Eugene Gentry and his wife Barbara of Henderson, KY and Larry Gentry and his wife Janet of Henderson, KY; 10 grandchildren: Cody Gentry, Haley Gentry, Kelsie Gentry, Libby Shelton, Macy Gentry, Hanna Shelton, Reid Pennington, Bella Shelton, Jack Gentry and Sophie Gentry; 3 step-grandchildren: Brittney Neely, Chelsea Oscarson and Dalton Neely; and 8 great-grandchildren.

Relatives and friends are invited to Leon's Life Celebration from 4:00 p.m. until

8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 and again on Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until the service time at Benton-Glunt Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday at the funeral home with Reverend Bret Eblen officiating. Burial will follow in Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Henderson.

Arrangements entrusted to Benton-Glunt Funeral Home, A Life Celebration® Home, online condolences may be made at www.bentonglunt.com.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memorial Gardens

8136 Highway 2084 S
Henderson, KY 42420
(270) 826-9623
roselawn@ccol.net
<http://www.bentonglunt.com/>

Previous Events

Life Celebration

OCT 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Benton-Glunt Funeral Home
629 S. Green Street
Henderson, KY 42420
(270) 827-3535
<https://www.bentonglunt.com/>

Life Celebration

OCT 3. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Benton-Glunt Funeral Home
629 S. Green Street
Henderson, KY 42420
(270) 827-3535
<https://www.bentonglunt.com/>

Funeral Service

OCT 3. 1:00 PM (CT)

Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home

629 S. Green St.

Henderson, KY 42420

(270) 827-3535

email@bentonglunttapp.com

<https://www.bentongluntandtappfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Leon Gentry*

November 29, 2022 at 08:01 AM



“ *I work with him at Eaton AXLES An he was a good man from all the importance of the employees of Eaton an me may God have mercy on you an your soul we love you all*

anthonymiller - July 22, 2022 at 11:20 AM



“ *Bill Cook so sorry to hear this, we ran around together as teenagers. Got to know each other through my dad Andrew Cook who were good friends with Jack amd Susan Gentry*

Johnnie M. Dsvis Cook - October 03, 2019 at 06:45 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Leon Gentry .*



October 03, 2019 at 09:40 AM



“ 70 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Benton-Glunt Funeral Home - October 02, 2019 at 11:44 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Donald Leon Gentry* .



October 02, 2019 at 10:01 AM



“ *Tom & Debbie Deen* purchased the *Emerald Garden Basket* for the family of *Donald Leon Gentry* .



Tom & Debbie Deen - October 02, 2019 at 08:04 AM



“ *East Paint Maintenance purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Leon Gentry .*



East Paint Maintenance - October 01, 2019 at 03:30 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Leon Gentry .*



October 01, 2019 at 01:03 PM



“ *Love, The employees of King's Custom Machine purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald Leon Gentry .*



Love, The employees of King's Custom Machine - October 01, 2019 at 11:44 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Leon Gentry .*



October 01, 2019 at 11:22 AM

JO

“Salute to Leon Gentry what a True Champion he Really was!
Thanks for the Memories and Thoughts and Prayers to Family”
Jonesey

Jonesey - October 01, 2019 at 09:52 AM

DM

“ Doug McHatton purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donald Leon Gentry .



Doug McHatton - October 01, 2019 at 09:04 AM

DG

“ I worked with Leon 16 years and had the honor of many times of being with him, trips to the Races, The Indianapolis 500 especially. What a great family man. What ever he did in life it was always centered around his wife and children. That kind of devotion is not seen a lot today and he did it for years. I will miss just knowing Leon is no longer here. But it's not that your gone, It's until I see you again. Thanks for being my friend Leon.

David R. Golday - October 01, 2019 at 07:13 AM

GJ

“ So sorry for your loss Linda, Gene, Jackie Dean, Larry. We all played together as children back in the days when families got together and knew their kin [2nd and 3rd cousins] early 50s. Our generation has reached the place whether our grandparents and parents were and now its our time to start to complete our journeys. May God Bless You All and Comfort You as you face the sad days ahead. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Much Love, Gloria Jean [Jeanne] Wright - Blair [Oval and Jesse's daughter].

Gloria Jean - October 01, 2019 at 12:29 AM

JG

“ Sorry to learn of your loss (he's up runnin the big show now) we bought an old stealth car from you years ago and was treated like family, much appreciated. The girard's from michigan

Jim girard - September 30, 2019 at 11:45 PM

BH

“ Thoughts and Prayers go to the family. So sorry for your loss. Thanks for the memories, LEON!.....Hartley family, Somerville, IN.

Beverly Hartley - September 30, 2019 at 09:48 PM

JC

“ Joe Chambers & The "Official Push Trucks" Crew purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Donald Leon Gentry .



Joe Chambers & The "Official Push Trucks" Crew -
September 30, 2019 at 09:45 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Donald Leon Gentry .*



September 30, 2019 at 09:03 PM



“ *Thank you Leon for running the wheels off those cars at Eldora while we watched.....thanks for all the memories.....*

Mark Knowles - September 30, 2019 at 07:43 PM



“ *Leon I Had So Many Great Times With You. The Trip To Racing Events, I Always Felt I Was Around One Of The Smartest Most Talented People Alive. I Remember Our Trips To Indianapolis And To The Indianapolis 500. Walking Through The Pit Area, Which I Never Would Have Been Able To Do. Just Standing There Watching You Interact With Racing Greats. (Johnny Rutherford, Rich Vogler, Mario Andretti. Gosh The List Could Go On And On. This World Has Lost A True Kind Giving Person. I Can Never Recall A Negative, Tasteless Or Obscene Word Out Of His Mouth. My Condolences Go Out To His Great Family. I'm Praying For You Guys. And Remember Its Not Goodbye, It's Until I See You Again. Thanks Leon For Being My Friend And Teaching A Young Kid When I Hired Into Eaton Axle At 18 So Much About Life. It Was My True Pleasure To Know You. David 😞*



David R. Goldayb - September 30, 2019 at 07:13 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Leon Gentry .



September 30, 2019 at 03:42 PM



“ Leon worked with my dad, Dickie Pruitt, at Eaton Axle for years not sure how many. I remember going to his house to drop off a part or have him look at a car. My dad said that he was the Man yo get the job done. Remember playing with the kids at the company picnic and at the Christmas parties when they still had them. He was a good man. Helped out others with out question. Leon, you have won the last and final race on this earth. Start racing on the streets of gold. You will be missed

Darla Pruitt Oliver - September 30, 2019 at 03:16 PM



Thank you so much; I'm the youngest of the 4 kids but I certainly remember daddy mentioning Dickie a lot.

Micki Shelton - September 30, 2019 at 04:03 PM



Thanks b.c. to everyone Leon was dearly loved and will be dearly missed

Linda Gentry - October 02, 2019 at 01:17 PM

DM

“ Many fond memories of growing up in Henderson & the Gentry farm near Uniontown. 'Tinkering' with our bicycles with Leon, Larry, & Bill Brantley; riding bicycles from Henderson to "bottoms" with our guns tied across the handlebars to hunt & fish the Ohio River & sloughs; disking farmland using his dad's "M" Farmall, riding on the tailgate of their truck & pulling toy race cars behind all the way from the farm back to Henderson; and hanging onto the rear bumpers and 'skiing' behind the car on snow packed streets in Henderson. How on earth did we ever survive, Leon?

Rest in peace, old friend, until we meet again.

Doug

Doug McHatton - September 30, 2019 at 02:30 PM

MS

Thank you Doug: I've heard daddy tell those stories many, many times. I would have loved to be around then, I'm sure it was a blast.

Micki Shelton - September 30, 2019 at 04:04 PM

JM

Of all of the hundreds of race drivers I've known, Leon was the one that I was perfectly comfortable asking questions of my heroes! The Gentrys are the salt of the earth and I'll treasure the memories I have of Leon and his gang.

John Mahoney - September 30, 2019 at 07:33 PM

WD

I always enjoyed watching Leon drive, primarily at Haubstadt when they ran on Sunday nights. He was also my hero at Terre Haute and other Mid-West tracks. The last thing I heard Leon say was down at DuQuoin a couple of years ago, Leon said " Sure wish I could still race." Am sure he is racing right now.

William Draper - September 30, 2019 at 09:24 PM