



Gene Maurice Holden, Jr.

November 9, 1968 - August 22, 2025

Gene M. Holden Jr., 56, of Castle Hayne, NC, passed away on August 22, 2025. He is survived by his son, Adam Holden (“Cool Breeze”), and his fiancée, Carla; his beloved granddaughters, Hallie Grace (“Hallie Bug”) and Emory Rae (“Em”); his parents, Gene M. Holden Sr. and Linda Wescott Holden, whose unwavering love and support meant the world to him; his brother Ricky Holden, and his wife, Candy; and their daughter, Cassie. The greatest joy of Gene’s life was his son, Adam. Their bond was extraordinary, and through the time they shared, Gene passed along countless life lessons, instilling in Adam values of respect, resilience, and love that will remain with him forever.

In recent years, Gene embraced his most treasured role as “Pop Pop” to his granddaughters, Hallie and Emory. He cherished the time they spent together, taking pride in being with them and delighting in watching them grow.

Gene leaves behind a special relationship with Michele Pecoraro, Adam’s mother, who was a constant source of love and support in his life. During his illness, Gene placed his trust in Michele to care for him, and her presence and devotion brought him great comfort through his final days.

Gene will also be remembered for the many friendships he nurtured over the years. His circle of friends was wide and true, and he often spoke of how fortunate he felt to be loved and cared for by so many. He gave that same love back to everyone around him, leaving a legacy of kindness, loyalty, and joy. He never met a stranger, and he had a gift for putting a smile on

everyone's face.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Freya's Haus, 55 Scott's Hill Loop Rd, Scott's Hill, NC on September 7, beginning at 2:30 PM. A Special prayer will be given by Pastor Wayne Cottle at 3:30 PM.

Tribute Wall

AF

“ So very sorry you got sick! We will all miss you and are fortunate enough yo kniw! I remember school days at Peabody! We were always trying to have fun nomatter how we had to do it!!! Always a laugh and smiles from you!💕💕

Anne Farrah - September 05, 2025 at 11:25 PM

AP

“ I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. Praying for all of you during this difficult time. ❤️🙏

Ali Patz - September 04, 2025 at 12:07 PM

DC

“ Gene and Ricky grew up beside us in Castle Hayne the boys was closer to my sister's age, but I considered both of them friends even though they were much younger than me. I've tried to keep up with them over the years, but it's been hard. Ricky disappeared and I only was able to talk to Gene once in a while he will surely be missed.

Daniel Cameron - August 30, 2025 at 07:07 PM

BW

“ To the family and friends that will be able to attend or read this, I'm going to Miss Jean he always made me smile he always treated me like a brother. Save me a spot on the bench. Virgo Laney get her done!

Billy williams - August 27, 2025 at 01:16 PM

TG

“ Fly high my forever friend, your memory will be missed and cherished here on alllll the loved ones and sooo many people's lives you touched through such special endless friendships, Never will be forgotten, You're gone to soon but we'll all see you there when our time comes, Endless Prayers and strength and comfort sent to your beautiful family 🙏💔🙏

Tracy Garland - August 26, 2025 at 07:37 PM

JB

“ 🙏💔🙏

Jennifer Wright Batson - August 26, 2025 at 06:10 PM

CY

“ Gene you were an all around great person and I was lucky to have known you. May you rest in peace friend. My condolences to your family.

Crissy Young - August 26, 2025 at 06:07 PM

AM

“ A friend or family member planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gene Maurice Holden, Jr..

A friend or family member - August 26, 2025 at 05:03 PM

JA

“ We will miss your smiling face so very much. You always brought happiness and a smile to our office. Your light will always shine brightly. Sending thoughts and prayers to those he left behind.

JENNIE AVERY - August 26, 2025 at 04:55 PM

SH

“ *What a beautiful soul he was and a smile as bright as all the stars in the sky ✨ My deepest sympathys to his family .*

Stacy Honeycutt - August 26, 2025 at 02:54 PM

MW

“ *Rest easy my childhood friend ~ shearing hills was the hood, aka "castle hayne crew"..... so many memories growing up with you.... neighborhood, ballpark, school.... life in general. Keep smiling Gene~ you are sooooo loved!!*

Michele Watkins-Hopkins - August 26, 2025 at 12:25 PM

JS

“ *Gene was a great guy! Gone too soon. Prayers for peace and comfort to his family and all that knew and loved him.*

Jamie Saffo - August 26, 2025 at 10:58 AM

DL

“ *Every once in a long while, if your fortunate you'll cross paths with a person who's infectious smile and goofy personality seems larger than life itself and it makes an impression on you that lasts a lifetime! That was Gene. For the better part of my life I was both honored & privileged to call him my friend! Im gonna miss you Gene. Thanks for being there brother! Fair Winds & following seas. Stand down, we have the watch.*

Danny Lewis - August 26, 2025 at 08:11 AM

UK

“ Heaven gained an amazing angel. Prayers for his family and loved ones in this difficult time. His smile and laughter were so contagious, such a kind soul, hilarious and goofy. He will forever be remembered as the life of the party ❤️Gone too soon, but never forgotten. RIP Gene

Ursula Krikelas - August 25, 2025 at 10:17 PM

CC

“ God Bless you Gene. I didn't know you that well but from what I do remember you were a great dad. You were always so nice and friendly it was like we had known you for years. Go Rest In Peace My Friend. May God Bless your sweet family through this time.

Christy Cloutier - August 25, 2025 at 10:00 PM

SB

“ Loved sharing stories with Gene. My favorite was when he showed up after being on St John's during the hurricane and shared how he lived on tuna fish....What a hero in my life💕🙏

Sandy Buck - August 25, 2025 at 09:56 PM

KL

“ Ill.miss you for sure Gene, i always enjoyed catching up with you when i was in town, and our talks on the phone. Ill see ya on the other side,, love ya buddy..kl.

Keith lewis - August 25, 2025 at 09:50 PM

FH

“ Rip brother you will be missed. Prayers for the family

Frank hyatt - August 25, 2025 at 09:41 PM

TL

“ With a heavy heart Gene will be missed, and my prayers go out to his family Gene was always just a happy person and always making you laugh

Travis Lanier - August 25, 2025 at 08:34 PM

JB

“ Only knew Gene briefly when he worked for SSA at the State Port but I always enjoyed talking with him I thought a lot of him.I'm sorry for your loss he was a fine fellow

James BrownJr - August 25, 2025 at 08:32 PM

JC

“ I'll always remember Genes infectious smile....

James Crowell - August 25, 2025 at 08:19 PM

LD

“ No matter what gathering we were at, Gene always made a point to say hello and spend time with friends! I will always remember him for that!

Leah Hanner Davis - August 25, 2025 at 08:04 PM

DH

“ Me and Gene had some good times together when we were in school. He always had a smile on his face and he would always go out of his way to talk with someone if they were down. He will be missed.

Danny Heath - August 25, 2025 at 08:04 PM

RG

“ The world will not be as bright without that infectious laugh. He will be missed by so many friends and that includes his former Laney Bucs family!

Robin DeVane Gregory - August 25, 2025 at 07:46 PM

SB

“ Had some fun times along the years !! Always had the best smile just so good at heart ❤️ He will be missed!!

Shane Box - August 25, 2025 at 07:41 PM

MC

“ To one of the most outgoing people I ever met... RIP Buddy..

Mike carver - August 25, 2025 at 06:54 PM

DM

“ I'll miss you brother

Deryll McCaskill - August 25, 2025 at 06:28 PM

KC

“ The world has lost a truly remarkable soul. His smile lit up a room. Prayers for his family and friends.

Karen Corbett - August 25, 2025 at 06:18 PM

CJ

“ Gene was such a gentle soul. Running into him when I would come to town always put a smile on my face. He always had something cool to talk about. You will be missed my long time friend. Hoping angel wings will wrap and keep your family safe here. XxxRIP

Christina Garner Jordan - August 25, 2025 at 06:01 PM

RT

“ *Godspeed Sir. Go rest high*

Robert Turner - August 25, 2025 at 05:29 PM

SW

“ *You definitely left your mark here in Texas. Prayers for all your family and friends. Rest In Peace my friend.*

Sheila white - August 25, 2025 at 05:21 PM

RP

“ *There really isn't any words for time like this but growing up on Middletown I got to know Gene at a really young age and he did set foundations on friendship his smile never forgotten his kind words always spoken too. I will miss him very much even though I didn't get to see him much the latter part of our lives doesn't Mean I never stopped thinking of our middle sound friends love you my friend but I shall see you again someday.*

Regina Edmonds Page - August 25, 2025 at 05:21 PM

LG

“ *You will be missed. Prayers for you and your family*

Lesley Graves - August 25, 2025 at 05:16 PM

SB

“ *Praying for Gene's Family during this time of beaverment. The Bonham family.*

Sarah Bob and John Bonham - August 25, 2025 at 05:13 PM