



Eugene Henry Jr.

July 22, 1928 - November 25, 2023

Eugene Henry Jr., age 95, was born July 22, 1928, in New Haven, Michigan. The son of Eugene Henry Sr. and Cornelia Suggs, he was born a dreamer! While staying with his grandmother during middle school and high school, Eugene dreamed of piloting planes at the Civilian Airport in Hillsboro, Illinois. Determined to make his dream come true, Eugene began spending time at the airport. He eventually convinced airport officials to let him work there to pay for flying lessons. With newfound inspiration, he joined the ROTC and graduated from high school with honors. While attending the Tuskegee Institute of Technology in Alabama, Eugene also enrolled in Tuskegee's Reserve Officer Training Program. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Tuskegee in 1952.

On October 22, 1952, Eugene entered the U.S. Air Force as a second lieutenant and was assigned to radar control school at Tyndall Air Force Base, followed by radar control where he was an officer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. After completing air control training, he began multi-engine planes training, which enabled him to command a variety of planes. Eugene flew a multitude of aircraft, most notably the KB-50, aircraft refueler, throughout Europe and Southeast Asia. He has more than 5,000 flight time hours. As pilot in command of the KB-50 and C-130, cargo carrier, he flew throughout 14 countries. One of the highlights of his military career was being chosen to fly a select group of ambassadors in a C-130 to

Romania, which during that time, was behind the Iron Curtain. He was seen as a persistent, tactful, skilled, and steady combat leader. A veteran of the Vietnam conflict, Eugene retired from the Air Force in 1972 as a Major. He later was commissioned as lieutenant colonel in the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the Air Force. Eugene's combined flight time between the Air Force and Civil Air Patrol led to him receiving The Master Pilot Award for flying 50 years or more without an accident or mishap. Eugene's dream of flying spanned 74 years.

A man of God and country, Eugene faithfully served St. Philip AME Church in Decatur, Georgia, as a trustee, a member of the Sanctuary Choir as well as the Media Ministry. Membership in his beloved fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc., spanned more than 60 years. He also was active in the community via his involvement with the Atlanta chapter of Tuskegee Airmen International, the board of Peachtree DeKalb Airport, the National Railway Historical Society, the Bloopers Bowling League, and as an ambassador for the Georgia Council for International Visitors. Eugene's love of deep-sea fishing, his personal boat, weekly bowling, being a ham radio operator, golfing, and taking care of his yard, kept him busy until his final days.

Lt. Col. Eugene Henry Jr. filed his last flight plan on November 25, 2023, when he departed his earthly life at North Decatur Emory Hospital. To celebrate his legacy, he leaves his daughters Sharon (Kenneth) Harrison of Waynesboro, Mississippi, from his union with Eloise Pettus, and Cheryl Dion Henry of Smyrna, Georgia, from his 59-year union with Berlena Campbell Henry; brother Donald Henry of Livonia, Michigan; sisters Blanche Sheldon and Elizabeth Abrom of Farmington Hills, Michigan; grandchildren Curtis (Lindsey) Philon, Cathy Witherspoon, and Crystal (Jonathan) Graves; seven great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and friends.

Lt. Col. Eugene Henry Jr. your mission is complete...

You are cleared to land on runway Heaven!

Cemetery Details

Georgia National Cemetery

1080 Scott Hudgens Drive
Canton, Ga 30114

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 15. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy
Decatur, GA 30034
(404) 241-5656

Celebration of Life

DEC 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Philip AME Church
240 Candler Rd SE
Atlanta, GA 30317-3436
(404) 371-0749

Burial w/ Military Honors

DEC 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Georgia National Cemetery
1080 Scott Hudgens Drive
Canton, Ga 30114

Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Eugene Henry Jr.



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - December 12, 2023 at 05:47 PM



“ I was born and raised in Hillsboro, IL and went to Winhold School and Jr. High with Eugene before I moved. I knew that he became a pilot but that is all I knew. Lee Paris

Lee Paris - May 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eugene Henry Jr..



February 22, 2024 at 08:37 AM



“ Benore Logistic Systems, Inc. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eugene Henry Jr..

Benore Logistic Systems, Inc. - February 22, 2024 at 08:37 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eugene Henry Jr..*



December 15, 2023 at 03:29 PM



“ *Tony & Veronica purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Eugene Henry Jr..*



Tony & Veronica - December 12, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Eugene Henry. My prayers are with all of you.
E. JoAnn Bacon*



E J Bacon - December 07, 2023 at 11:59 PM



“ *Mr Henry you will be missed. Such a sweet sweet man. I am so lucky I got to meet you and that your daughter and I have become good friends. You will always be in my heart as well as hers. Comfort and peace . My condolences to the family. God has gained another angel . rest in leave with your Beautiful Bride. ..Tonya Robinson .*

Tonya M Robinson - December 07, 2023 at 09:05 PM

BR

Here's sending sincere condolences to you, Cheryl and the rest of your family. Indeed, your young Spirited Dad will be missed by many. My fondest memory of him is his response when I inquired if he was apart of the Seniors at the church. In his quiet manner he responded "those are old folk". Truly he had a young spirit and kept it moving. Peace and love, Bettye Richardson-Brown and family

Bettye Richardson-Brown - December 08, 2023 at 02:15 PM

PB

“ *My deepest sympathy goes out to Eugene's family. I have greatly enjoyed bowling with Gene and talking with him about some of his military time, I am a Vietnam Veteran. Paul Bunch*

Paul Bunch - December 07, 2023 at 05:44 PM

TR

“ *Thanks for the memories of the time we shared as bowling team mates, you will always have a special place in my heart.*
Thomas Regular



Thomas M Regular - December 07, 2023 at 01:45 PM

RM

“ Brother Eugene Henry ,

My departed Brother of Alpha, you led a remarkable life, and you were an inspiration to me. Today is full of memories of a Brother laid to rest and every single one of them is filled with an unspeakable Joy.

For you were someone Special and always such a Joy to know. There was so much pain when it time to let you go.

That's why this heartfelt message is sent to Heaven for the angels to take care of you and give you all the love and admiration I have for you.

“There goes a man of high impulse, of princely mien and grace. There goes a man of humble faith, a credit to his race..... There goes the best man in and out for He is an Alphaman.”

*Brother Richard L. Morgan,R.Ph.
Nu Mu Lambda Chapter
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.*

Richard Morgan - December 06, 2023 at 08:56 PM

RM

“ Richard Morgan lit a candle in memory of Eugene Henry Jr.



Richard Morgan - December 06, 2023 at 08:23 PM

NT

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Nate Thomas - December 06, 2023 at 11:47 AM

NF

“ Norrington AMEZ Church Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Eugene Henry Jr.



Norrington AMEZ Church Family - December 03, 2023 at 09:19 AM

NF

Cheryl we are praying collectively for you during the loss of a friend and your dad. God will see you through it, just stay with him.

Norrington AMEZ Church Family - December 03, 2023 at 09:22 AM

VM

“ Vera C McKinnon sent a virtual gift in memory of Eugene Henry Jr.



Vera C McKinnon - December 03, 2023 at 09:17 AM

RY

“ *My sincere condolences to the Henry family. Gene was/is a great friend and brother who will be missed by many. Rest well my friend, I'll see you afterwhile!*



Rev. Richard A. Yancey - December 03, 2023 at 08:16 AM

JK

“ *Mr. Henry. I am truly gonna miss you. You were a very good friend to me and my family. May God bless your soul. I know you are already in heaven looking for someone to cook you some pork chops lol. Rest in peace my buddy.*

Jackie Knox - December 02, 2023 at 05:17 PM

RP

My heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family. He was a Man of God, gentleman and man's man. He exuded that in a humble and gracious way. He lived his dash! Well done, faithful servant, father and friend.

Rev. Jerri A. Porter - December 03, 2023 at 11:53 AM

EJ

*Peace be with you in the coming days and throughout your life because you made your parents happy and proud. Stay strong dear Cheryl
Elizabeth Johns, Alexandria Virginia*

Elizabeth Johns - December 19, 2023 at 10:56 AM