



Leon Gaines

June 18, 1923 - October 1, 2011

Leon Newton Gaines of Springdale died October 1, 2011 at Circle of Life, Springdale, Arkansas.

He was born to Taylor Murbeth Gaines and Amanda Eldora Yates Gaines on June 18, 1923 in Coal hill, Arkansas. He was predeceased in death by his parents, by his wife of his first marriage Mildred Struble Gaines and by his sister, Opal Quisenberry and Gladys Swatzel, and a brother, Ralph Gaines.

He is survived by Donna Kaye Cypert Gaines, his wife by his second marriage on June 1, 1984; by a son Jim Edward Gaines of Dallas, Texas and a daughter Toni Gaines Holden and son-in-law Bill Holden of North Fort Myers, Florida; grandchildren Taylor Gaines and Elise Edrington of Little Rock and Cayla-Marie Jackson and Aaron Jackson of Fayetteville. He is also survived by a niece, Judy Richardson of Baytown, Texas and nephews Lloyd Quisenberry of Baytown, Texas and Mike Gaines of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Leon enlisted in the US Army Air Corp at the beginning of WWII and served as a tail gunner on B24's, flying 51 combat missions over enemy territory. He received an honorable discharge with the rank of Staff Sgt. in 1943. He was a member of American Legion Post 1.

Leon then attended the University of Arkansas and graduated with Masters

Degrees in Education and Counseling. He served in administrative positions in Arkansas School Districts of Roger, Springdale and Batesville until his retirement in 1985.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Springdale.

Leon was a kind and gentle person who loved his family, friends, and country. He always had a ready smile for any person with whom he had contact.

A graveside memorial service with military honors will be held for family and friends at the National Cemetery, 700 Government Ave., Fayetteville, AR. Service will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 2 pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Arkansas Children's Hospital, 1 Children's Way, Slot 661, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202.

Tribute Wall



“ *Leon Gaines*

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *I was a teacher at Elmwood Jr. High and worked for Mr. Gaines when he was vice-principal as well as when he was principal. He was a dear, sweet man and it was a pleasure and privilege to work for him.*

May 29, 2013 at 05:02 PM



“ *I worked with L.N. at Elmwood in Rogers. It was an honor to be one of his teachers. He was a gentle, but firm principal and loved by all. He will be missed.*
Pam Garrett

October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Donna, you and Leon have always been very dear to me and have always had a special place in my heart. Christmas was always the time of year I got to see you all and the smiles, laughs and memories will never fade. I love you so much and I am so sorry for the loss. He will always be remembered as a great, great man.Griff*

October 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Gaines was the vice-principal at Elmwood while I was a student (1975-1978). I spoke often with Mr. Gaines while working as an office assistant and always found his stories to be interesting. However, my favorite memory is Mr. Gaines (who everyone thought was old then) and a teacher dancing, quite well, to "Rock Around the Clock" at a "Sock Hop" dance rally in Kirksey Gym. Everyone laughed and were impressed by the moves. God bless you during this time.*

October 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Donna,*

I started working with Mr. Gaines in 1979 at Elmwood Junior High in Rogers. I always appreciated his willingness to help me and enjoyed his company. He was a good friend. I am sure he will be greatly missed. With our deepest sympathy.

Sincerely,

Roger and Darcy Brooks

October 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Leon was the sweetest man I have ever met and my family and I will miss him dearly. We will always remember the good time we shared as neighbors and what a pleasure it was to know such a wonderful person. He was always smiling, always happy and would give the shirt off his back to anyone. He will truly be missed in our lives. Rest in peace my friend!!*

October 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Donna,

*You know how Bruce and I love Leon. He was such a gentle kind man. We so enjoyed playing cards with the two of you every Friday & Saturday night. Our camping trips, etc, etc... The girls think of you two as their 2nd grandparents. Leon will always have a special place in our hearts. He will be greatly missed.
Rest in peace Mr Gaines...we love you!*

October 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM