

Thomas Gene Reid

January 24, 1938 ~ July 24, 2024

Thomas Gene Reid was born January 24, 1938, in Manti Utah, to Donald Thomas and Verlie Genevieve Brown Reid. At that time, he had an older brother Jack. Gene loved to tell everyone that he was born in a polygamist house. The family moved to Provo, Utah in 1941, where a brother Donald and a sister Janice were born.

Gene played softball, basketball, football, and wrestled. He lettered in wrestling in high school. Gene and his brothers were very involved in scouting as well as their dad serving as the scoutmaster. Their scout troop trained and excelled so much that they certified in Search and Rescue and were called out many times to help rescue people in trouble.

He loved fishing, hunting, and camping, which continued throughout his life until his health prohibited it.

Gene graduated from Provo High School on May 26, 1956, and enlisted in the Navy May 29,1956, at Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah. He then was on his way to San Diego Navel Training Academy for his 8-week basic training and then 6 months of Sonar School. He was then stationed on the USS PRESTON, a WWII Destroyer, where he served until his Honorable Discharge in August 1960, after extending his final cruise and obtained the rank of 3rd Class Sonar Petty Officer. During his Navy years he had bad luck with cars. Once he and four of his buddies came back to Provo on a weekend leave to pick up his car. On the way back to base, they ran into a big snowstorm in Scipio. They were snowed-in for a week. When he got back to the ship, he was busted down from Sonar Gang to Deck Crew. Another time he was showing off in his car for a girl near the base, he slipped off the clutch and broke an axle. He left the car at the girls' house because he had to get back to the ship. When he went back to get it, he found that her mother had it towed away. In 1958 while Gene was deployed his brother Jack was killed in a car accident. Because they were out at sea Gene was not able to attend the funeral.

After he was discharged, he came back to Utah and started working for the Rio Grande Railroad in April 1961. On June 23, 1961, he married Mary Jeanne Hansen. They made their home in Orem, Utah and had three children, Cyndi, John, and Andy. Gene and Jean were divorced in 1985. While the kids were growing up Gene coached little league and the family went on many camping road trips rock and gem hunting, he loved looking for garnets, which were his birthstone. They were members of a CB radio club, where he made lots of friends and enjoyed participating in fund raisers, campouts, and skunk hunts. He was a backyard mechanic and passed his love of cars to his boys, he also taught his boys to hunt and was with them when John shot his biggest deer, putting it in the back of his station wagon to haul it out.

While working for the railroad he was transferred from Geneva Gate 2 Yard to the Provo Yard, then to Helper, then to the Roper yard in Salt Lake City. While living in Salt Lake he met Bette Lee Pettet. They were married on June 18th, 1988. Their marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple on September 14, 1993. They enjoyed almost

30 years together before she passed away on January 23, 2016. While he was married to Bette, they participated in several bowling leagues, enjoyed going to concerts, and volunteering at a summer camp where kids with special needs were taught how to ride horses with specially designed saddles.

He was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and served as an ordinance worker in the Salt Lake Temple.

In 2010 Gene and the family received some surprising but happy news from his time in the Navy, he had a daughter that he had never known. Malinda was a joyful addition to the family as the oldest sister.

After Bette passed away, he rescued Spike from a local shelter. Spike became his constant companion and provided lots of love and support. Spikes' health seemed to deteriorate along with Gene's. Spike will be buried with Gene as Lady was buried with Bette.

In 2017 he then met Toni Ellsworth and they married on August 11, 2018. They made their home in Taylorsville, Utah. Gene and Toni loved attending shows at the Desert Star Playhouse and attending concerts, especially their favorite local trio SunShade 'n Rain.

In May of 2023 Gene was able to take part in the Military Honor Flight, flying to Washington D.C. where they visited the war memorials and spent time with other veterans. His son John was honored to be able to accompany him. They had a wonderful time and were humbled by the experience, especially the changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery.

In January of this year his bother Donald passed away. This hit Gene extremely hard as they had been very close most their lives, sometimes acting like an old arguing married couple.

Family and family history were especially important to Gene. He had Great-Great Grandfathers on both his mom and dads' side of the family that came from Scotland. He was very proud of his Scottish heritage and hoped to one day visit. He enjoyed attending all the kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews' blessings, baptisms, weddings, and other family get togethers.

Gene will be missed by his wife Toni Ellsworth-Reid of Taylorsville, Daughters Malinda Hoyal of Deming, NM, Cynthia 'Cyndi' Stock of Nephi, Sons John (Deb) Reid of Payson, Andru (Carol) Reid of Rocky Mount NC. Stepson's Justin (Daphne) Pearce of Sandy, Jesse (Heather) Pearce of Herriman, Stepdaughter Rachael (Robert) Soper of West Valley, Sister Janice (Jerry) Nelson of Preston ID, Brothers in Law Topper (Katie) Pardoe of South Lake TX, Bill Pardoe of Taylorsville, Sisters in Law Pamilla Pardoe of Tuolumne CA, Patti (Will) Liu of Edinburgh Scotland, 25 Grand Children, 31 Great-Grandchildren, 3 Great-Great-Grandchildren and numerous Nephews, Nieces, Cousins and Dear Friends.

He is preceded in death by parents Tom and Gen Reid, Wife Bette Reid, Stepdaughter Doreen Ellsworth, Brothers John Wilber 'Jack' Reid, Donald 'Don' Thomas Reid Jr., Sisters in Law Nancy 'Nan' Reid, Shirlene Reid Day, Son in Law Terry Stock, fur baby Lady. He will be buried with his other fur baby Spike who has been his constant companion for the last 8 1/2 years.

A viewing will be held on Sunday August 4th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. and Monday August 5, 2024, from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. with the funeral following at 10:00 a.m. at the LDS Stake Center 4845 S Woodhaven Dr. Taylorsville, Utah. Burial at the Bountiful City Cemetery 2224 S 200 W, Bountiful, Utah with full Military Honors and escort by the Patriot Guard Riders. For those who wish to attend services virtually, you may do so by clicking the "Watch Services" button above, or by using this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89276723877.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Applegate Hospice, especially Bridgett, Mirta, Laura, and Jewels. Also, to the staff at Holladay Healthcare Center and the staff at the V.A. hospital, for the care that was given to Gene in his final days. Also, thank you to Larkin Mortuary for their patience with us while arranging services.