

## Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr.

April 24, 1962 - September 16, 2023

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch

Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr., 61, formerly of Olive Branch, MS, was born April 24, 1962, in Memphis, TN to Eugene Sr. (Neal) and Joanne Hoover, and passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at Vanderbilt University Hospital in Nashville.

Gene was a member of Maples Memorial United Methodist Church in Olive Branch, MS. He graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy in 1985 and worked at Walgreens for 38 years. During his time at Walgreens, he worked many different roles, and at the time of his passing, he was the Regional Healthcare Director for the Tennessee/West Kentucky region. Gene was also selected to the 2008 School of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy due to his career accomplishments and professional service. His passion for the pharmaceutical field began while working at Hoover Drug Store in Olive Branch, which was owned and operated by his father. Gene met the love of his life, Debra Kaye Austin, who is also a pharmacist, at Walgreens on Elvis Presley Boulevard in Memphis in 1985, and they were married on June 17, 1988. Together they raised two boys, Austin and Dylan, while spending 35 amazing years together. Gene was a tremendous husband, father, brother, and friend. He truly embodied a Christ-like love with everyone he encountered

and made the most of every day. Gene loved spending time with his family, going to Ole Miss games, and taking care of his people.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7) Rest easy, Gene Hoover.

Preceding Gene in death were his parents, Pharmacist Eugene O'Neal Hoover, Sr. and Nurse Joanne M. Hoover, and his father-in-law, John Wayne Austin.

He is survived by his wife, Debra Austin Hoover of Franklin, TN; two sons, Austin Hoover of Franklin, TN, and Dylan Hoover (Sarah) of Madison, MS; sister, Debbie Hoover Shaw (Bud) of Olive Branch, MS; mother-in-law, Jimmie Kaye Daniel Austin of Randolph, MS; brother-in-laws, Danny Austin and John David Austin of Randolph, MS.

Friends are invited to a visitation with the family on Thursday, September 21, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Maples Memorial United Methodist Church (8745 Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS, 38654). A funeral service will be held Friday, September 22, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the church. Interment will follow at Blocker Cemetery. Friends are invited to a reception following the burial at the church in Wesley Hall. Reverend Kerry Powell and Reverend Neville Vanderburg will officiate.

The family asks those wishing to send a memorial donation in Gene's honor, please do so to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Donor services (LLS). Donations can be made through the website ([www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org)) or to P.O. Box 292705, Nashville, TN, 37229. Phone number: 888-557-7177. Memorial contributions may also be made to Maples Memorial United Methodist Church ([www.mapleschurch.org](http://www.mapleschurch.org)).

Online Condolences may be made to Gene's Tribute Wall at [www.colemanfuneralhome.com](http://www.colemanfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **21.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Maples Memorial United Methodist Church  
8745 Goodman Road  
Olive Branch, MS 38654

## Funeral Service

SEP **22.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Maples Memorial United Methodist Church  
8745 Goodman Road  
Olive Branch, MS 38654

# Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr.



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**Coleman Funeral Home** - September 20, 2023 at 05:02 PM

TK

*Robert and I are thinking of you and the kids. Your PL crew are here for you always. Love you*

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**Tracy m Komisar** - September 20, 2023 at 07:17 PM

JE

*Debra, So sorry to hear about Gene's passing. He was a football mgr. for me when I was coaching at Harding Academy. He did all of the behind the scenes work to make me look good. I have so many fond memories of our times together. My wife and I made a contribution to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in his memory. May God bless you with strength and courage in the days to come. With much appreciation and love, Coach Escue*

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**Jerry Escue** - September 22, 2023 at 01:03 PM

DH

*I guess it's weird for me to post since I'm suffering but I felt a calling. No words can express my loss. G.O.A.T. He was absolutely the greatest of all time!*

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**Debra Hoover** - September 27, 2023 at 09:09 PM

MD

*I thank God I was able to cross paths with Gene while working as a fellow pharmacist, leader and friend with Walgreens for many years. My memories are filled with laughter & lessons about the profession of pharmacy. He fulfilled his purpose, impacting many lives along the way. I could depend on Gene finding me at company dinners to drop off his desserts! I am sad for your loss. He will truly be missed.*

Michelle Dunmiles - September 28, 2023 at 11:46 PM

KR

*What a kind soul Gene was. All my love to you and your boys.*

Katie Roberts - October 07, 2023 at 09:17 AM

RW

“ *What an example you set for us all Gene. Not only professionally, but simply as a human being. I value every encouraging word and every point of connection we've shared, and hold it close. Thank you for always being a light. Your spirit will surely live on through every life you've touched.*

Robyn Williams - October 03, 2023 at 09:50 PM

CC

“ *I am so glad to have known Gene growing up- he was such a fun person to be around. I'll always have fond memories of our trips tubing on the lake and traveling for swimming. Sending you all love, and so sorry for your loss.*



Chris Clark - September 21, 2023 at 09:48 PM

PB

“ While I only knew Gene and Deb a relatively short time I felt and real friendship. He was a nice, kind and gentle soul. A prince of a guy!!  
And you could tell he thought the world of Deb!! My thoughts are with the family and especially Deb. I'll not pretend to even imagine how this has been. I can only hope you are at peace knowing he fought the good fight. And perhaps you can find some closure and peace in the following:  
“To live in the hearts of the ones we leave behind. Is not to die”.  
Thomas Campbell, Hallowed Ground.  
God bless you and your family, Phil Barbee, (your Saturday pourer at Total Wine.

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**Phil Barbee** - September 21, 2023 at 06:39 PM

SD

“ I first met Gene at Walgreens' Deerfield office in the mid-2000s. Through the years, I saw him only a few times a year, however he always took the time to check in and see how I was doing. His care and compassion for everyone was highly evident. The pharmacy community in the mid-South and our company have lost a true advocate for the profession. We will miss him.

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**Sue Drelicharz** - September 21, 2023 at 06:07 PM

LE

“ Debbie,  
So sorry for your loss. Love you

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**Leanne** - September 21, 2023 at 05:00 PM

DN

“ We are so sorry to hear about Gene. He was a great person I met Gene while I lived in Memphis when I worked in the pharmacy with Deb. Our condolences to Debra and the boys. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love ,  
Darleen and Jerry Nelson  
 Mooresville North Carolina

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**darleen nelson** - September 21, 2023 at 12:44 PM

SQ

“ I had the true privilege of working with Gene at Walgreens. He was a friend of mine and I will miss his insight and mentorship. Gene had a passion in serving our patients, who he truly cared about. He was sincere, a kind man, and the epitome of a Servant Leader.

My deepest condolences to the Hoover family.  
Stan Quintana  
Albuquerque, NM

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**Stan Quintana** - September 21, 2023 at 10:53 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



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September 21, 2023 at 07:57 AM



“ Words alone will never be enough to explain the amazing human being that Gene Hoover was. Growing up in the Walgreens family, everyone knew Gene Hoover. He embodied everything it meant to be a servant leader. Gene put everyone before himself and I will forever be grateful for that.

Nicole Williams - September 20, 2023 at 10:14 PM



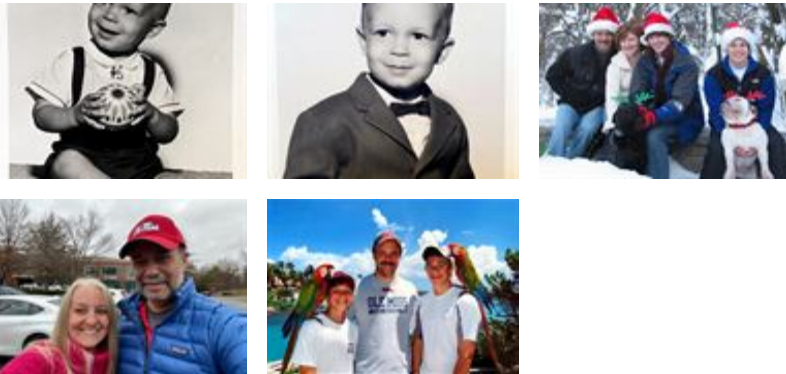
“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



September 20, 2023 at 07:13 PM



“ 71 files added to the album Life Tributes



Coleman Funeral Home - September 20, 2023 at 05:01 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..*



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September 20, 2023 at 04:50 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..

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September 20, 2023 at 04:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..*



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September 20, 2023 at 04:21 PM



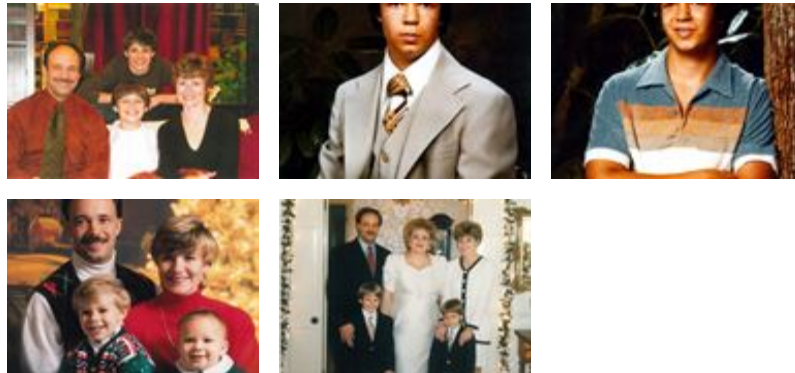
“ *I had the honor of Gene being a colleague at Walgreens and we worked together often through the years. He was a true southern gentleman. Always a positive attitude and never a negative word. He always looked to pick people up and encourage them. I feel fortunate to have known and work with him. In the later years when our paths crossed we would catch up on family updates. He was so proud of his family. I know he will be missed by many.*

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**Rex Swords** - September 20, 2023 at 03:30 PM



“ 6 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Coleman Funeral Home** - September 20, 2023 at 01:05 PM

BC

“ *In person, I only talked to Gene, once. He was the same in person, as over the phone. A very kind man, as well as helpful. That impression has stuck with me, since back when I was promoted to store manager in 2009 and trying to better serve my local Walgreens Community.*

**Brad Chambers** - September 20, 2023 at 12:34 PM

SP

“ *Sincerely, Robbie & Kimberly Pendleton purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..*



**Sincerely, Robbie & Kimberly Pendleton** - September 20, 2023 at 12:29 PM

MS

“ Mark and Susie Sherrill purchased the Divine Light for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



Mark and Susie Sherrill - September 20, 2023 at 05:47 AM

MS

“ Mark and Susie Sherrill planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..

Mark and Susie Sherrill - September 20, 2023 at 05:47 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



September 20, 2023 at 12:54 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



September 19, 2023 at 08:19 PM

RS

“ Debra , thoughts and prayers for you and the boys through this difficult time. Gene will certainly be missed! He was always the smiling face we loved seeing at Praire Life. I feel privileged to have met you both with your infectious zest for life. Love you ❤️

Rita Sneed - September 19, 2023 at 08:09 PM

CB

“ Cindy B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..

Cindy B. - September 19, 2023 at 06:22 PM

MS

“ Debra, My deepest sympathy to you, Austin and Dylan. Gene was a great colleague, husband, father, person and a dear friend. I will miss the (long) conversations both phone and outside around the fire. No Auburn/Ole Miss game in any sport will ever be the same for me. He was the kindest, most gentle soul I ever met and a true southern gentleman. Susie and I are saddened and will miss him immensely.

Mark Sherrill - September 19, 2023 at 02:19 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



September 19, 2023 at 02:13 PM

DH

“ Donna H. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



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Donna H. - September 19, 2023 at 12:58 PM

DH

“ Donna H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..

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Donna H. - September 19, 2023 at 12:58 PM

LL

“ On behalf of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), we will greatly miss Gene. He served on the Executive Committee for Nashville's Light The Night since 2014 and made such an impact for many years. Gene was the type of person who made everyone feel seen and heard- he had all the time in the world for each person. He truly brought light into every room he entered and made people feel welcome and valued.

Our sincerest condolences to his wife, Debra, and their two sons. Gene will be missed greatly.



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LLS - September 19, 2023 at 11:52 AM

AD

“ Gene will be greatly missed by his Walgreens Memphis family! Since my husband and I went to Ole Miss, I could always count on a spirited conversation about Ole Miss baseball or football whenever Gene was in town for a visit. His legacy of kindness for each person he came in contact with will not be forgotten.

Amy Dandridge - September 19, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



September 19, 2023 at 11:41 AM

KC

“ We have loved "the Hoovers" since we met you at Germantown Swim Team so many years ago. We have such good memories of fun and laughter with y'all. Gene was the best....warm, friendly, genuine and kind. He will be missed. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Kathleen Clark - September 19, 2023 at 11:33 AM

SW

“ I am so saddened by this loss. Gene was one of the nicest people I've ever had the opportunity to work with. He was a true gentleman. His concern for and kindness to others was an inspiration. Heaven is richer and earth is poorer with his passing. My sincere condolences go out to his wife and children.  
Sally West

Sally West - September 19, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..*



September 19, 2023 at 10:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..

September 19, 2023 at 10:31 AM



“ *Fall Fantasia was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..*



September 19, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..*



September 19, 2023 at 09:58 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket* was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



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September 19, 2023 at 09:36 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



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September 19, 2023 at 09:14 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



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September 19, 2023 at 07:57 AM

JC

“ Gene, I will miss you greatly. You were the most caring person I have ever met. Passionate for life in so many ways. Whether it was advocating for health through the advancement of the pharmacy profession, your volunteer work with numerous organizations, and most importantly the genuine care you had in wanting to make sure the people who surrounded you had what they needed and always checking in on our families. I will never forget our last conversation. Everyone truly “loves them some Gene Hoover”. Prayers Debra and family, may the healing hands of God support you and the memories be the light that guides you.

Jay Cox - September 19, 2023 at 06:50 AM

SW

“ Gene and I meet over 25 years ago when I was hired by Walgreens and worked closely together in the same district. He also hired my future wife while she was still in pharmacy school. Gene was a true gentleman and epitomized the pharmacy profession. Debra, please accept mine and Laura’s deepest sympathy.

Steve and Laura Walker - September 19, 2023 at 06:39 AM

SB

“ I first met Gene, as a pharmacy student, while working at a Walgreens in Bartlett, TN. I graduated and moved to Nashville, and we crossed paths again. I was greeted with the same warm and genuine smile from our first meeting, and it would be that way every single time I was graced with his presence. I had the pleasure of seeing him just a few weeks ago and if I would have known that would be my last time, I would have given him the biggest hug!! He was such a genuine and caring person, and he will be truly missed. My sincerest condolences to his wife, children, family and friends. With all my love, Dr. Sharonda Bass

Sharonda Bass - September 18, 2023 at 10:53 PM

PA

“ Sending sympathy for his family. I met Gene who was a supervisor when I began working as a pharmacist for Walgreens in the Memphis area in 2001. I remember a kind man with a warm smile and twinkle in his eye who was widely respected by the Walgreens family.

Phyllis Allen - September 18, 2023 at 10:25 PM

LB

“ Gene was a graduate of Ole Miss and loved his Rebels! He was a wonderful person and very considerate of people less fortunate than he. Gene was always such a wonderful friend to me and my family too! Gene Hoover was the kindest soul to everyone that knew him!! Rest in peace my dear FRIEND. You are missed Greatly.

Larry Bibb - September 18, 2023 at 09:32 PM

GL

“ Dear Gene, I will miss you very much! You were an incredible and caring human being to all the team members at Walgreens and the communities of people you served. I will miss your calls, your uplifting nature and your positive affirmations. You will be forever remembered in my heart and soul. My prayers go out to the family and each and every person that was blessed by Gene. We were all so very lucky to be part of his journey in life.

Georgia Lehoczky - September 18, 2023 at 09:13 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



September 18, 2023 at 08:43 PM

DO

“ Debra, I’m deeply sorry to hear of your loss. As a young graduate in ‘93 with the company, I remember the impact each of you had on me as a fledgling pharmacist when I crossed paths with each of you on shifts. You were each so kind to the “rookie”.  
Later, I recall having a great deal of respect for Gene in his then new position as a DM when he handled a situation between a pharmacist and prescriber with much wisdom while he covered another DM’s territory who away on vacation. I will never forget the professionalism he used in handling the situation at all levels! Besides all of that, he was so proud of his wife and sons! You could hear every time he spoke of y’all. Please know I am praying for each of you during this difficult time.

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**Dawn Oliger** - September 18, 2023 at 08:29 PM

SN

“ Shireen N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..

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**Shireen N.** - September 18, 2023 at 08:12 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



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September 18, 2023 at 07:21 PM

DG

“ Dennis and Cindy Griffin purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Dr. Eugene (Gene) O'Neal Hoover, Jr..



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**Dennis and Cindy Griffin** - September 18, 2023 at 07:04 PM

AS

“ I would like to send my condolences to Debra and her sons. I met Gene in 1985 when he first started with Walgreens. Gene was a very nice and caring person he treated all of the patients and coworkers with respect. The world has loss a great soul but to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. I'm sure he will be missed by everyone. Angela Smith Rph. Brown Deer Wi.

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**Angela Smith** - September 18, 2023 at 06:57 PM

KL

“ Gene was the type of person who made everyone he met feel like they held a special place. He brought light into every room he entered and made people feel welcome and wanted. He has positively impacted so many people and so many lives, he will be missed greatly.

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**Kelly Foglia Leader** - September 18, 2023 at 06:52 PM

 Mark Hoover

“ Gene was my cousin, my fraternity brother and friend. There has never been a better guy, than Gene. He always had an upbeat attitude, love to get things done and had a great sense of humor. He was one of the kindest souls you'd ever know. He had time for everyone and was loved by so many and was taken way too soon from us.

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**Mark Hoover** - September 18, 2023 at 06:43 PM