



## Cecil Baxendale

February 24, 1948 - February 9, 2010

Gene was born February 24, 1948, to Cecil and Marie (Wood) Baxendale, in McAlester, Oklahoma; he was taken from this earth to live with our Lord on February 9, 2010. He served in the United States Navy for 26 years, retiring in 1996. Gene spent the majority of his service in Tyler, TX, as a Naval Reserve Recruiter, but also had duty stations in Honolulu, HI, and Tucson, AZ. During his distinguished career in the Navy, he was honored numerous times for his outstanding achievements. After retirement, Gene began his second career in the western-wear industry where he quickly became well known for his honesty, integrity and work ethic. He received salesman of the year award and set record sales in his territories. He loved his work and customers. Since May 16, 1999, Gene was an active and devoted member of Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Tyler, TX. Gene is survived by his wife, Martha (Holland) Baxendale, his children, William Herring and family of Prosper, TX, Renee (Baxendale) Medlin and family of Sachse, TX, Clinton Baxendale of Galveston, TX, and his brother James Old, along with many cousins, nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Cecil Eugene "Gene" Baxendale will be held at Stewart Family Funeral Home on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, at 1:30 pm. Burial of his ashes will be at the Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery on Wednesday, February 17, 2010, at 1:30 pm. Gene loved God, his family and friends, and his country. He will be greatly missed here on Earth. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Colonial Hills Baptist Church of Tyler, your own church home, or, because of Gene's love of animals, your local Humane Society.

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ *What a wonderful Christian man. I have known him for probably 10 years. He was always positive, upbeat, and such a joy to be around. We shared a lot of talks about our God. I find comfort in knowing that he is in Heaven. I will think back on all the shrimp po-boys we enjoyed together and how hard we laughed at so many things. We LOVED him so much and will miss his smiling face here at The Hitchin' Post.*

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**JANA V SMITH** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Martha and all of Genes family. We are so very sorry to hear about Gene. What a dear and sweet man and neighbor he was. We know how very very much he will be missed. Much Love, Jane and Len*

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**Jane and Len Menefee** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *Our prayers are with you.*

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**king crawford** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you Martha and your family during these trying times. Gene was a fine outstanding man and will be missed dearly by everyone. He will surely be missed by us at the Credit Union he was always bubbly and could put a smile on your face. If there is anything at all I can do to help you in anyway please don't hesitate to call. You are in God's hands and he will carry you through this part in your life just look up.*

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**Mary Jo Wylie** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ *What a wonderful person Gene was. He was always smiling and brought sunshine to us here at the Credit Union. Martha, we are praying so for you and the children and g.children. You have lost your best friend and husband and only the Lord can get you thru this time in your life. Just remember prayers are going up from all over for you. If I can do anything, please let me know. Praying for you Charlene Overall*

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**Charkene Overall** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *May you find comfort in the memories that are yours to cherish always, and strength in the companionship of those who share your loss.... I have learned never to underestimate the healing power we all have. It is always there to be used for the highest good. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4) May it be a source of inner strength to know that there's a loving God watching over you, and that, throughout this time of need, He'll stay close by your side. I have fought the fine fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed the faith.-2Timothy 4:7. As for me, I will lie down that I may sleep; I shall certainly awake, for Jehovah himself keeps supporting me. -Psalms 3:5*

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**Magallon Family** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ *Martha,*

*You are in my thoughts and prayers. I pray that you rely on the Lord for the strength that you need during this time.*

*Glen*

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**Glen Elliott, Jr.** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ Gene was a friend and an encourager to me. He shared our Bible Study time each Sunday Morning. He was like a sponge, soaking up God's Word each week. He carried the Bible and his study book along on all business trips and would often share his study results or witnessing opportunities after he would come back. He loved God and His Word. I will miss Gene so very much but would not call him back for even a moment. He is in a better place and will be there to greet all those who love him when we arrive.

The members of our SS Class love you Martha and want God's very best for you in the days ahead. He is sufficient for this time in your life. Rest in His goodness and grace. Use the class as an instrument God has provided for you is my prayer.

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**Mike James** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Martha,

My heart is breaking for you. We will continue to keep you & your family in our prayers. If there is ANYTHING we can do for you, please call me. Nothing is too big or too small, if I can't do it I'll deligate! Love Cathey

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**Cathey McCoy** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Martha,

I am so very sorry for your loss.....Let me know if I can do anything to help you or if you need a friend to talk to.....

Love ya,  
Erin

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**Erin Henriksen** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

HM

“ Martha, I am so very sorry for your loss and I am so sad for you and your family. Everybody I know that knew Gene has gone on about what a genuinely kind, caring man he was. I'm praying that God will wrap His arms around you and give you comfort. Know that we are all thinking of you here at the RCSC.

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**Heather Murphy** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Dearest sweet Gene you were one of my closest friends and one of the kindest men I've ever known. Larry and I loved spending time with you and Martha riding our bikes and just visiting. Rest well - I will not say goodbye but I will see you later when we're all together with our Father.

*You are so loved. Because of His Love, Libby*

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**Libby Smith** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Martha,

*Steve and I used to be in the Sunday School class and I just wanted to let you know that we are thinking of you at this time. I pray that God will give you the comfort and strength that you will need during this time. It is such a great celebration that Gene has gone to be with the Lord, but at the same time I know that it is hard for you and your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Lynn Brooks*

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**Lynn Brooks** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ My prayers are with the family. He was a dear friend of mine. I always enjoyed his company while he attended our store. He spoke highly of his family and motorcycle!! He was always a pleasure to be around. He was the last of a "southern gentleman".

Sincerely,  
Tammie Hughes  
Apparel Manager at Scruggs Farm, Lawn,  
& Garden

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**Tammie Hughes/ Scruggs** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Martha-You and Gene have always been so kind to Paula and I. I will never forget the good times teaching ya'll's Sunday School class. Gene's input was always right on which showed his love for our Jesus. He was a great Friend and encourager and he will be missed. We will pray for you and the children. While we know and believe in God's plan for our lives, during these times, it can be so difficult to see. The Almighty Father we know will carry you through this. We Love you.

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**Mike Blumn** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MI

“ Martha,

*There are no words to express how sad I am today. Gene was a wonderful man. His goodness was obvious. His work ethic and honesty was an inspiration to me.*

*While I only knew him well for a few years he became a really good friend and I will miss him greatly. May God be with you and give you strength.*

*Mack*

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**Mack Irwin** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Hi Martha,

*I said most of everything in the email to you but it looks like Gene was loved and well thought of by many outside of McAlester. I'm sorry that all of these years have gone by and I never got to see or talk to you guys again. I'm happy for you and Gene that you two had a wonderful life together. He will be missed by all that knew him.*

*Take care,*

*David*

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**David Pullum** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FG

“ *Martha, Words can't express how I am feeling at the moment. I know what you are going through as it was just seven short years ago, I was in your place. Please take care and know that my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. Gene recruited me back in to the Navy in 1983. We always joke about the amount of paper he had to do, because of the number of towns I lived in. I know Gene is n a better place and waiting for all his Navy Buddies to join him.*

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**Frances Grochowski** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *Martha and Family:  
You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God give you strength during this time to get through each day.*

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**Mollie and Rodney Rogers** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Dear Martha,  
I couldn't believe what I read yesterday on Mike's email message. I have prayed for you and Gene since I heard about his heart attack and I thought he would survive from what I read in the updates. I am so sorry. It is unreal that this happened. That's the way I felt last month; guess I still do. From what Bo mentioned to me about Gene, he liked him. He enjoyed knowing Gene in the class because he apparently felt comfortable around him. They joked around--Bo gets on with people that have a sense of humor. Bo wasn't sociable by nature, but he really loved Adult 3 and enjoyed knowing you and Gene.

I hope you would call me if I can do anything for you. I'm a good listener. I will continue to pray for you. I've experienced a new facet of God's love this past month as His love was manifested beautifully by our Sunday School Class and Colonial Hills.

The first thing I thought of after they told me Bo was gone is he's not feeling what I was feeling at least. He's in heaven. They have probably found each other by now. Thank you for your prayers for me and my family. I know Gene prayed for us, too. Prayers must have been what held me together.

Love,  
Lauri Jones

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**Lauri Jones** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Mr. Baxendale lived a brave and generous life for others. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Love,  
Jessica

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**Jessica Huddleston** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Martha,

*I just want to say how sorry I am to hear about Gene. I knew Gene growing up in McAlester and through our years in school. He was one of the nicest kids around - everyone liked Gene.*

*And then it was so good seeing both of you at our class reunion a few years ago and getting a chance to visit and catch up with Gene. Even after all those years, Gene was still the same - never changed - he was such a good guy.*

*We will all miss him. Can't imagine how difficult this must be for you, but just know that we care and are thinking about you.*

*Kurt*

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**Kurt Bickle** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *Gene's friendly smile will be sorely missed by all who were lucky enough to know him. He was such a nice person and we looked forward to our visits with him. Gene and I on more than one occasion shared our faith in God and it is comforting to know that we will one day see him again.*

*Martha, you and your family will be in my prayers during this difficult time.*

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**Becky Calloway** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Gene was by far one of the finest men I have ever known. Always thoughtful, kind and strong. He was there for me when I lost my Dad and Mom with support to help me during those times. Without his guidance and support my Naval career could have never been a success. Even though we have been many miles apart he never forgot about me and was like a brother helping me to get through some very bad times in my life. I will miss him very much and wish I could be there for him now.  
God Bless you Bax!

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**Scott Robb** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ My deepest sympathy to you Martha, and your family.  
  
Sincerely, Karla

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**Karla Kinhead** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Gene will be sorely missed by those who knew him, worked with him and especially those family members who loved him so.  
  
I can only say what a pleasure it was to have known him in the capacity of the "Chief" during the years I was assigned to Naval Air Station Dallas Recruiting and Detachment III.  
  
May God richly bless all who suffer this great loss.

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**Steven Jones** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Cecil Baxendale

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**James H Kelley** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ Martha I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Love ya Claud

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**CLARISSA NOBLE** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Martha,  
Our hearts are saddened at your loss. May we all take comfort in knowing that Gene is in a better place with his Lord. May God give you strength and guidance in the upcoming days. You and your family will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Jack and Karen Smith** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Gene and I were great friends while in high school and as life changed especially in location for most of us after high school, I only got to visit with Gene at the high school reunions but I remember having good visits with Gene at the last 40 year reunion, with him telling me of his children and how proud he was of them and where they were living. I have the fondest memories of Gene and glad to know that I will again be able to visit with him in heaven again when God calls all of us back together for the final resting. Martha, you have my sincere prayers for your loss while you go through the grieving process of missing your life mate and awaiting the reunion with him again one day in heaven where all of God's children will join together as joint heirs to his kingdom.

*Don Dann (Dyon Drain)*

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**Don Dann** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Gene,

*You remain a military hero for your service and sacrifice to this country. I'm honored to call you a friend and shipmate. Rest in peace my friend.*

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**JACK BARNES** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ *I've had the pleasure to work with Martha and opportunity to meet Gene only a few times, but you could see their immediate respect and caring attitude for one another. He was a good person. Martha, our prayers are with you and your precious family members. May the Lord wrap his wonderful "peace that passeth all understanding" around each of you during this time.*

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**Cynthia Roach** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Missing Gene - a real gentleman.*

*Shelley Cliburn*

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**Shelley Collard Cliburn** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

S(

“ *Martha,*  
*I am so sorry to hear about your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Sandy Ford (Eudy)** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ *The Lord is our refuge and strength. I've asked the Lord to build you up so that no matter what happens you will be able to stand strong through it. I've asked him to help you to be always rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer. I've also asked the Lord to give you endurance to run the race and not give up, for HE said that a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again.*

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**CAROLYN NELSON** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ *Martha I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.  
sincerely,  
Wanda*

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**Wanda Sherrill Fairless** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *Martha, sorry for your loss.*

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**Melba Dann King** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *Martha,  
I was so sorry to hear about your husband. Just know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. If there is anything I can do, please let me know.*

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**Kaye Crowell** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ We are so sorry to hear the sad news of Gene's passing. He was always such a joy to work with. He loved to talk about riding his motorcycle with his wife and working on his landscaping in his yard. We will truly miss his wonderful smile and his infectious laugh. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family in this difficult time.  
Lee and Julie Burnett  
Crossroads Western Wear

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**Lee and Julie Burnett** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

R(

“ Chief, you served your country honorably and as a fellow Chief, Brother in Arms, I wish you a safe journey to your ultimate PCS. Fair Winds and Following Seas. God Bless you and your family.

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**Ray King NCC (Ret)** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

EY

“ You will be missed. May the Lord provide peace and comfort to your love ones you left behind.

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**Eddie Young** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ The Best of the Best. Leader without question. Led me through some stormy seas, and stayed by my side when others faltered. I will always remember Gene as a the best of a friend anyone can be, a brother in compassion and in arms. thanks for being part of my life. Tim

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**Tim M Brewster** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

IJ

“ To Martha and the Baxendale family, I send my sincere condolences. I pray that God will guide and keep you during this difficult time.

Respectfully,

Iris James

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**Iris James** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Family,  
Gene will be greatly missed at our Credit Union. It has been a great honor to be friends with Gene and Martha. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you all.

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**Joan Smith** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ Gene was one of our favorites... always so pleasant and happy..we will miss him

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**george waggoner** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ I knew Gene for several years and know he is the Chief in heaven as he was on earth. He will be missed and my heart goes out to his family for the loss.

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**Dennis Lyons** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Gene was a great friend, a Shipmate, and a Great American who served our Nation proudly... Thank you for your service. Our condolences to the Baxendale Family and all of his friends. We'll miss you Chief!!

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**Rene Cano** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Martha I am so very sorry. Gene was such a sweet person. I remember him in high school. He always had a smile. Take care of yourself.

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February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Dear Martha,

*In this time of sadness, may you take comfort in the beautiful times you shared with Gene over the years.*

*Even as a young boy. Gene had that same kind and tender heart he kept throughout life. Being the only boy in our immediate family, he was always patient and protective of his girl cousins. We were lucky to have him and he taught us all the true meaning of a good man.*

*My deepest condolences to you and the kids.*

*Love,  
Rita*

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**Rita Webb McMillan** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ Hello Martha & Family,  
I am truly saddened to learn of your great loss. May GOD keep and comfort you during this difficult time though he makes no mistakes. Trust in him always for his unfailing love and care. In uncertain times, GOD offers us certain hope. I pray for GOD's comfort for you.  
With deepest sympathy,

Vickie

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**Vickie Clement** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I will miss my very good friend Gene. He was a mentor to me while serving under him in AZ. He taught me what the real meaning of words like honesty, commitment, integrity are really about and how to live by them. Gene always had a smile and something good to say to someone, I never heard him say one bad thing about anyone. He helped me through some very tough times while I was stationed in Phoenix and was there for my Chief's initiation after he retired. Gene, I love ya man and will miss you terribly. Fair winds and following seas my brother.

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**John Middlebrooks** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Martha, I was truly sad to hear about Gene. I remember him in high school as being a quiet guy always with a smile. He never had a bad thought or word about anyone. I know you two had a very special and loving relationship. Put today in God's hands and He will be there for you. Martha

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**Martha Rohrer Carita** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Martha and family: We were in shock when we read about Gene. You were always the best neighbors when you lived next door. We still miss you being there. Please let us know if we can do anything for you...you know where to find us.*

*We are praying for you--that God will ease your pain and grief.*

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**Linda and Jerry Cole** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *This is a shock to us and saddens us deeply. Gene was the kindest person and most helpful while we worked with him and the Naval Sea Cadet program. He will always be in our memory as one of the greatest patriotic men.*

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February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

T#

“ *We responded with the ambulance to your house on the day that this happened. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

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**Tyler Fire Station #7** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Gene and I became acquainted when he was stationed in Hawaii and Tucson AZ. He was well liked and the ultimate professional. I am really shocked to hear of his death. Martha, I wish you and your family fair winds and following seas as you try to adjust to life without Gene.*

*Sincerely  
Dick Casselbury*

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**Richard Casselbury** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ I sit here today with so much sorrow for the lost of a Friend and a fellow shipmate. No matter the grief I have, I do have hope.

*Martha, you meant alot in Gene's life and I know God allowed the two of you to live a blessed life. Keep your faith in God. You are not alone in your grief. No words can comfort you at this time but do know, you have our prayers and love and if you need to talk, call on us.*

*JoAnn and Kevin Hampton*

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**Kevin S. Hampton** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Am so sorry to hear about Gene. Martha, may you and your family seek peace from God that only He can give at this difficult time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Jeannie & Deryl*

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**Jeannie Moore** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH ALL OF YOU. I ENJOYED MY YEARS WORKING WITH GENE AND RESPECTED HIM GREATLY.

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**walter mathias** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ I always admired Gene and he was a mentor to me. He was always very professional and gave of himself in so many ways. I will cherish his friendship forever. I am glad that I had the opportunity to serve with Gene and be his friend.

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**Craig Pankop** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ I will always remember the smile on his face every time I saw him, and the kind words he always had to say. The markets will not be the same without him, but I know he will be watching from heaven.

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**Greg Sones** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Martha, Gene was such a kind & loving man, with a very gentle spirit. It was very obvious how much he loved God, you, his family & friends. He greeted everyone with his wonderful smile, and always had kind words to say. He had a constant yearning for God's Word, which radiated from him, as he spoke of his Savior. He is now in His loving arms. It is so hard to understand God's will and reason, but it all has a purpose, and someday it will be revealed to us. Just know God has you by the hand, and He will lead you through this valley. You are loved dearly by the Sunday School class....please let us help in any way, just as Gene would have done.  
Love, Diana & Donnie

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**Diana Baker** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ Gene will be greatly missed by anyone who new him. He was a man's man. He loved God, his family, his country, and his job, and valued intergy and honesty above all else and it showed in everything he did. My heart is sad and all of the family is in my thoughts and prayers. I considered Gene a dear friend and feel fortunate to have gotten to know him and work with him. May God Bless you all.

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**Tommy Morrison** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ I take with me fond memories of numerous working lunches and in depth conversations about politics, religion and world problem solving. Gene and I got to know each other well. Business became 2nd. We put each other first. I am honored to call him freind. I will miss him greatly.

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**Paul Marsh** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ Martha,  
I am so sorry about Gene. I am thinking about you and you will be in my prayers.

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**Lindsey Taggart** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Martha, you and Gene have been such good Christain friends. We enjoyed seeing you both @ Sunday school and always looked for the top of your two heads during Church. Gene was a genuinely good person and his smiling face will be missed. We love you and are here for you whenever you want to talk about Gene or anything.

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**James & Betty Sledge** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Martha and Family: You honored Gene in a very special way with a beautiful memorial service. The message was very appropriate. I only knew Gene for a short while, but I thought he was such a nice man. Martha, ya'll were evidently soulmates, so remember the special love you had for each other and he will always be in your heart. You and your family are in my prayers. Love, Janice

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**Janice Wall** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Chief, today is March 29, 2011. I just found out that you had gone on to be at peace. I thank God for the opportunity to know you. You were always fair and kind to me. I pray that your family will continually be comforted by the thought of your love.

*Fair wind and following seas.*

*Peace,*

*Machelle\*\*\**

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**Machelle Sete'fano** - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM