



# Gene Raymond Conaway

DEC 8, 1941 - DEC 11, 2015



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# Gene Raymond Conaway

DEC 8, 1941 - DEC 11, 2015

**G**ene Raymond Conaway, age 74 of Covington, LA died on Friday, December 11, 2015 at St. Tammany Parish Hospital in Covington, LA. He was born on December 8, 1941 in New Orleans, LA to Thurlow Conaway and Delores Theobold Conaway Bruno.

He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Judy Casamento Conaway. He is also survived by his daughter, Terry Conaway Meyer, and his five grandchildren, Ryan Meyer, Matthew Meyer, Tyler Meyer, Megan Meyer, and Madeline Meyer.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Thurlow Conaway.

Gene spent most of his life in New Orleans playing all kinds of sports, but excelling most of all in baseball. Gene and his brother, Thurlow, were a formidable pitcher-catcher battery at Nichols High School in New Orleans. Upon his high school graduation, Gene was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers organization where he played professionally and was catcher for many baseball greats, including Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale. Though injury cut his professional career short, he never left the game of baseball that he loved. While working at Boh Bros Construction in New Orleans as a Piping Estimator, he continued to stay involved with the game he loved by serving as a coach for all of his grandchildren and was their number one fan at all of their baseball and softball games through the years. It was through these efforts that he was able to have a positive impact on the lives of so many people. He coached and mentored thousands of players for over 60 years. In 1983, Gene was inducted into the Diamond Club of Greater New Orleans Hall of Fame. He was also a member of the Plumbers-Steamfitters Local Union 60 for over 50 years.

Anyone who spent time with Gene, walked away from it a better person. During the past 16 years, Gene was always attending sporting events at Fontainebleau High School in Mandeville, LA. He loved all sports and loved dancing to the sounds of the band or the music at the baseball and softball games. It's hard to imagine Fontainebleau High baseball games without Gene Conaway.



## Obituary

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He was an iconic & beloved baseball legend. Words can't describe what he meant to the game and the community. Gene will be forever remembered by all who knew him as a loving, caring and good-hearted person who never ceased to put a smile on everyone's face or make people laugh. He loved his beautiful bride and high school sweetheart, Judy, who he would have been married to 55 years next month. He adored his daughter Terry and was so proud of all her accomplishments and he just beamed with happiness when around her. But most of all, his love for his five grandchildren, Ryan, Matthew, Tyler, Megan, and Madeline was beyond measure. He was by their side throughout their lives, supporting them, mentoring them, teaching them, and cheering them on, whether at sporting events, theatre performances, dancing recitals, awards ceremonies, high school and college graduations, he never left them. His belief was that you never let one day go by in your life without doing something nice for someone else. He was never shy and always quick to strike up a conversation or share a story, usually about his favorite topics: baseball, fishing, horse racing, and most of all, his family.

As Gene's favorite baseball player Yogi Berra stated, "Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good, too."

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a memorial service to celebrate Gene's life at 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at E. J. Fielding Funeral Home, 2260 West 21st Avenue, Covington, LA 70433. Dr. Kenneth Schroeder will be officiating. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 19, 2015.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bulldog Diamond Club, P. O. Box 8962, Mandeville, LA 70471.

Share a memory on the tribute wall at [ejfieldingfh.com](http://ejfieldingfh.com).




## Events


**Gene Raymond Conaway**

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### Memorial Services

 **Saturday**, December 19, 2015


 11:00 AM CT


 **E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services**

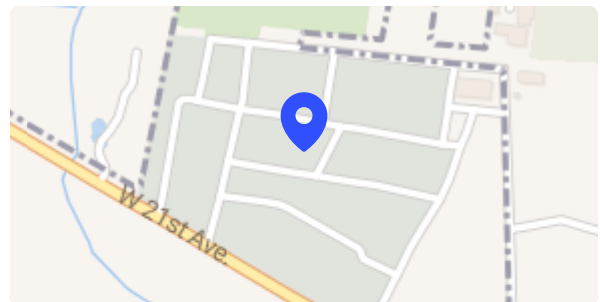
2260 W 21st Ave, Covington LA 70433



### Cemetery Details

 **Pinecrest Memorial Gardens & Crematory**  
2280 W 21st Ave, Covington LA 70433

 **(985) 892-5007**





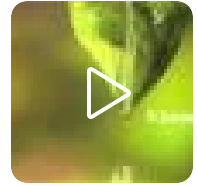
## Tribute Wall

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**E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services** shared a **Tribute Video**.



December 15 at 12:00 PM



**Robert S. Sessum, Jr** posted:

Though I lived around the corner from Gene and Thurlow I didn't know him well. It was not until I married Glenda L Buras that I got to know a little about Gene. My wife Glenda always spoke kindly of the entire Conaway family of she was relative . I'm sorry to hear of his death. I know that his family will miss him until they pass on. May God give you peace in the knowledge that he has moved onto the next and final phase of lifeBob Sessum

January 4 at 7:22 PM



**Mike Lavin** posted:

"I had the pleasure of being around many good inspiring coaches in my life, but meeting Mr. Gene brought my level of friendship, education for the game of baseball, passion to life and many more memorable experiences to a whole new great level that I will cherish forever. I recall a day when he and I met at a Fontainebleau basketball scrimmage in Franklinton, Louisiana and we left after the scrimmage for the parking lot where we stayed for almost two hours talking about many subjects particularly baseball and he saying that he was amazed how we both thought alike. I was fortunate to have this remarkable person around the program in my tenure as head baseball coach. In my lifetime, I have never seen a more supportive backer to all sports at any school. I cherish the picture he gave to me when he was a member of the Los Angeles Dodgers surrounded by Hall Of Famers such as , Sandy Kofax and Don Drysdale. The Bulldog Family and many of his friends have lost a great team member. In talking to his wife, Judy, earlier this week and I told her that we will all have to accept that Mr. Gene has now been traded to the Angeles. The score now is Bulldogs zero and God's Angeles one, however, I know he will be looking out for us! I hope to meet up with you and your new team again one day Mr. Gene! Thanks for the Great Memories! My thoughts and prayers are with the Conaway family! Coach Mike Lavin

December 19 at 6:01 AM



## Tribute Wall

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MW

**Michael Woods** posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Gene's family. Mr. Gene will truly be missed at Fontainebleau High School. It has always been a pleasure to sit and talk with him each and every time, because he would always find a way to brighten my day. His passion and love for the game of baseball was unsurpassed. Mr. Gene has been a blessing in my life and he will never be forgotten. My condolences to the Family.Coach Woods

December 18 at 6:35 PM

LR

**Lois Rost** posted:

So sorry for your loss. I have such fond memories of Terry's biggest fan. He was such a tremendous help coaching softball. Gene was a great role model for all athletes.

December 18 at 1:46 PM

WF

**With Love, The Lawrence Family** sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Conaway family.



December 18 at 7:07 AM

FS

**Fred Schwab** posted:

It was very strange that upon awakening this morning I thought about Gene! I hadn't spoken with him for several years, and I resolved to telephone him TODAY! Minutes later, I was shocked to see his smiling face greeting me as I turned the pages of the New Orleans Advocate. To Judy and Gene's entire family I offer my heart felt sympathy. Gene was one of my very best friends during our elementary and high school years. In addition to just hanging out together, we spent many days playing basketball on the Frantz School courts and at Nicholls H.S. We were even co-editors of the sports section of the Rebel Yell. Gene was so thoughtful that he took out a subscription to the local Odessa, Texas newspaper and had it mailed to me daily so that I could follow his progress when he played professional baseball there. Although we mostly lost contact in later years, Gene was very gracious in offering assistance to my son and myself when I coached a youth league baseball team. He was the nicest and most gentle person anyone could ever hope to have as a friend. It has been several years since I last had lunch with him, but that doesn't lessen the sadness that I feel at his passing. I am so sorry that I didn't think to telephone sooner. I know that all of his family and friends will miss him greatly, but they can be most grateful for having had him in their lives, and having had the good fortune to share in his love and kindness.

December 17 at 7:30 AM



## Tribute Wall

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EC

**Edie Casey** posted:

Dear Ms. Judy and Terry - my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. Mr. Gene was a very kind gentleman. Love and Regards, Edie Mierl Casey

December 17 at 6:35 AM

FJ

**Felix Turner Jr** posted:

I first met Mr. Gene in the spring of 2012, when my son started playing freshman baseball at Fontainebleau High. Over the next four years our friendship grew greatly and I called him my "running buddy" as we traveled to and from football and baseball games together. The stories he told while going back and forth to games made the trip most enjoyable. And believe me for those who didn't know him there were many great stories. Over those four years he also became friends with other members of my family. My family and I, along with Fontainebleau High, have lost a great friend and mentor. It was a honor to know him and call him my friend. I will see you again my friend and I'm sure you will have many stories to tell about your time in heaven. My thoughts and prayers are with you; Judy, Terry, Maddie, Megan, Matt, Ryan, and Tyler. Felix Turner, Jr.

December 16 at 10:26 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses to the Conaway family.



December 16 at 9:23 AM

NS

**Nancy Cardaro Searce** posted:

Great memories with Terry, Mom and Dad as St. Paul First English T lgers.. We played sports together and Mr. Gene coached and cheered us on.. Fondest memory Mr Gene screaming to me every time it was my turn to bat...Which one is the bat!" Lol..I was skinny than..Moving forward Terry and our Families are now cheering our children with Mr. Gene all as BULLDAWGS. ..love this family. .until we meet again Nancy Cardaro Searce

December 16 at 7:06 AM



## Tribute Wall

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DH

**Dede Hanby** posted:

May your memories bring you comfort at this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Meyer family. I remember the twinkle in his eyes when he spoke of the grandchildren and Terry. Once a Bulldog.. Always a bulldog.Dede Hanby

December 15 at 4:02 PM

KG

**Kelly Grunditz** posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the Meyer family. Mr. Gene was a special person who always had a kind word for everyone! He will be missed....but never forgotten! Kelly Grunditz

December 15 at 3:52 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Sweet Solace Spray to the Conaway family.



December 15 at 8:56 AM

WS

**Wendy Schroeder** posted:

May God bless you during this time of grief. May He hold you in His Mighty Love His arms!

December 15 at 4:05 AM

SI

**Simone** posted:

Me and my daughter met Mr Gene during her Freshman year of volleyball at FHS. He went to every game cheering on the girls and personally congratulating them on their effort whether they won or lost. We got to be friends and sat together talking about his wonderful family and baseball memories. My heart is heavy but God is smiling because a special man with a heart of gold was called home. I am so blessed to have known him and called him my friend.Simone Lewis

December 14 at 2:11 PM



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**Jill O. Venezia** posted:

So sorry for your loss! Mr. C. was a wonderful, special man who always had a smile on his face. May he rest in peace. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this time. With Deepest Sympathy, Jill Ondrejko Venezia

December 14 at 11:43 AM



**Edwin Fleischmann** posted:

Gene was a good guy...gifted athlete...member of FTN 59...he made the world a better place for having lived in it. Edwin Fleischmann FTN 59

December 14 at 10:52 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Conaway family.



December 14 at 10:41 AM



# Media

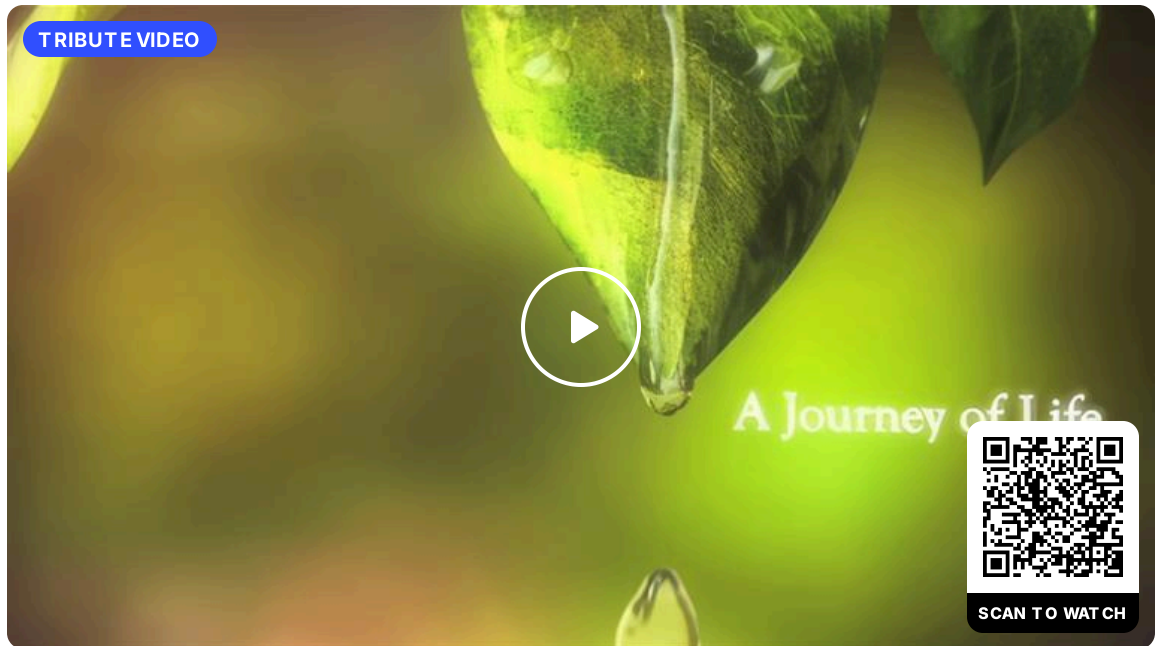
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**E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services** shared a Tribute Video.

December 15 at 12:00 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gene by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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