



# Gene W. Lafitte Sr.

NOV 27, 1930 - AUG 7, 2020



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## **Gene W. Lafitte Sr.**

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**O**n Friday, August 7, 2020, Gene W. Lafitte, Sr., age 89, died peacefully at home with his loving wife by his side.

Gene was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on November 27, 1930, the second son of Antoinnette Hering and Leon Walpole Lafitte. Gene graduated from C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport at the young age of 16, where he achieved distinction scholastically and athletically on the basketball team.

Gene attended Louisiana State University and received a B.A. degree in 1950 and where he also served as the cadet colonel of the ROTC. He was a 1952 graduate of the Paul M. Herbert Law Center at Louisiana State University where he served as Associate Editor of the Louisiana Law Review and graduated as a member of Order of the Coif. Gene served in the United States Air Force Judge Advocate Corps from 1954 to 1956.

On April 9, 1955, Gene married Jacquelyn Moeller whom he met in 1952. Jackie's partnership during a 65-year marriage was instrumental in every personal and professional challenge and achievement throughout Gene's life. She was also his life-long best friend -- "Jackie and Gene." They had three children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild who were the source of great joy and pride throughout their married lives.

Gene met his second family, Liskow & Lewis, in 1956, where he founded the litigation department, and served for 20 years as the Firm's president and managing partner before being named chairman. He loved his law partners and the practice of law – a career which lasted 67 years. Gene was a passionate lawyer. During the course of his career, he received a long list of professional accomplishments. Gene's induction to the fellowship of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1972 brought him and Jackie many dear friends. He was deeply honored to serve as President of the College from 1984 to 1985. Gene was presented with the LSU Law Center's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award in recognition for his personal and professional achievements and loyalty to his alma mater, including serving as Chairman of the Board of the



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LSU Foundation. He was awarded The Lifetime Achievement Award in Energy Litigation from the Institute for Energy Law in 2007. Gene was a member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary from 1981 to 1987, including evaluating the appointments of both Justice Scalia and Chief Justice Rehnquist

Gene loved life and always lived fully in the moment. He had a thirst for knowledge and new experiences. In his later years, you would find him duck hunting, practicing his guitar or standing at his easel painting everything from portraits to landscapes. He believed that laughter is the mainspring of life, which was always reflected in his self-deprecating sense of humor. He will truly be remembered for his humility, integrity, and fidelity to the highest ethical standards. He was a gentlemen of all gentlemen.

Gene will be dearly missed by his sweetheart, Jackie; by his children Lyn Nicodemus (Luis) and David Lafitte (Dawn); by his grandchildren, Ashlan Coffin, Allie Lafitte, Caty Lafitte, Will Nicodemus, Emily Lafitte and Isabel Nicodemus. He was predeceased by his oldest son, Gene Jr. Gene will also be missed by his Liskow and Lewis family and many colleagues.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND FLOWERS or make contributions in his memory.

No memorial events are currently scheduled.



## Tribute Wall

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JP

**Jerry Pizzi** posted:

A brief encounter with Gene at the LSU Law School was my one contact with Gene. I remember how he welcomed our group and the excellent tour he conducted for us. A real gentlemen. Jackie, I don't know if you remember me, but know that you have my heart felt sympathy. (Philip) Jerry Pizzo

January 27 at 8:19 AM

JH

**John R. Hall** posted:

We were sorry to hear of Gene's passing. Will and I had not seen most of the old guard at Liskow and Lewis for some years. We always remembered Gene and Jackie. With deepest sympathy John R. Hall William M. Hall, III

December 21 at 8:22 AM

KA

**Ken Andrews** posted:

I am so sad to hear of Gene's passing. My God give you peace and comfort as you grieve the loss of your wonderful husband. I will cherish the time together and conversations we had when you guys spent time at Achasta. My God bless and keep you. With deepest sympathy, Ken Andrews

August 20 at 10:49 AM

MW

**Mary Wiggernhorn** posted:

I was privileged as a paralegal to work with Mr. Lafitte at Liskow for a couple of years after Katrina. He was truly a gentleman and a scholar - and a fine artist as well. He certainly personified a life well lived. Mary Wiggernhorn

August 16 at 4:29 AM



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DB

**David Bond** posted:

As a very young lawyer in the Texaco Legal Department, I remember attending a social event with my wife (Anita) hosted by Liskow & Lewis. The only memory I have of that event is of Gene & Jackie coming over to introduce themselves to us, talking with us and making us feel welcome. There were many dignitaries & more senior/important people there than Anita & me. That Gene and Jackie would take time to visit with us made us feel special. As wonderful an attorney as Gene was, he was an even more wonderful person. He will be greatly missed. Our condolences to Jackie and the family. David & Anita Bond

August 14 at 3:45 PM

RJ

**Rader Jackson** posted:

Sending condolences to Gene's family and friends. He was a polite, good lawyer and a pleasure to work with. Rader Jackson

August 12 at 10:59 AM

CB

**Cliff Bergeron** posted:

While Racquetball One was in One Shell Square Gene was one of our regular members always enjoy him participating in the club. He was always ready to get a workout in. Paul and I are sending prayers to the family.

August 12 at 3:38 AM

MD

**Mike And Brett O'donnell** posted:

Jackie and family, Brett and I extend our deepest condolences for the loss of Gene, a gentleman in every respect. He was a leader in every organization with which he was associated. He was humble and always faithful to the highest personal and professional ethical code. We hope you are able to find comfort in the fond memories of this very special man. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Mike and Brett O'Donnell

August 10 at 11:46 AM



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EM

**Ed Mullins** posted:

Jackie, One of the great benefits and being a member of the American College of trial lawyers is meeting wonderful folks like you and Gene.. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God bless, Ed Mullins..

August 10 at 7:42 AM

MH

**Mirais Holden** posted:

During my time at Liskow, Mr. Lafitte consistently went out of his way to make me feel welcome me and get to know me, even though he was largely retired at the time. He was the definition of a class act, and I'm so appreciative of his presence at the firm. Sending thoughts, prayers, and gratitude to the Lafitte family.

August 9 at 11:38 AM

KF

**Kirsti And Shirley Friend** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gene's family. Kirsti and Shirley Friend

August 9 at 10:05 AM

DA

**Don Abaunza** posted:

Beyond question, my life like that of many others has benefited greatly by having Gene as friend and colleague. He made us laugh, and he was our champion. He and Jackie gave us so many wonderful memories. Don Abaunza

August 9 at 7:25 AM

OG

**Oscar Gwin** posted:

A true help in time of need, Gene helped us through some very difficult times at Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church after hurricane Katrina. Love to Jackie and all the family. A fine family man, great attorney and friend to all. Lovingly remembered Oscar Gwin, III

August 9 at 5:35 AM



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DR

**Dev O'reilly** posted:

I met Gene through Sally and Linton Morgan's involvement with Liskow and Lewis. Gene was one of the kindest and intelligent people that I knew. I feel honored to have known him. His family is blessed to have such an incredible man as a husband, father, grandfather and more. His sense of humor was epic; he had a way to make you smile. What a man! Everyone wanted Gene on their team. He will be missed by all.

August 8 at 11:21 AM

MH

**Mary Howard** August 12 at 4:21 AM

Much love to Jackie and family as we loved Gene very much and will miss him. So grateful to have known Gene as we grew up and also grateful for Gene and Jackie's love and lifelong friendship with our parents.

DM

**Drew Meyers** August 10 at 1:09 PM

Whenever a Meyers needed a letter of recommendation (and there are a lot of Meyers who needed multiple letters of recommendation), Gene was the one we always called upon to write that letter. A letter from Gene Lafitte carried great weight because he was so highly thought of by so many. He was a wonderful and loyal friend to our entire family, especially my parents. We loved him dearly. Drew Meyers

DF

**Devin Fadaol** August 10 at 9:49 AM

Lyn, I am sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.

LM

**Larry Miller** August 10 at 5:56 AM

As a golf professional I knew Gene we'll during my time at MCC. He enjoyed golfing with his friends but didn't suffer the frustrations of "taking it too seriously"! He was the best of the best—a man to emulate in every way. My condolences to Jackie—another VERY class act!



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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