



Marvin Gene Mearns

FEB 21, 1938 - DEC 21, 2024



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Marvin Gene Mearns, age 86, of Mandeville, Louisiana, passed away on Saturday, December 21, 2024. He was born on February 21, 1938, in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Bridgid Hirt Mearns; children, Dr. Micah and Jesse Hatchett, grandchildren, Brice Hatchett, and Luke Hatchett. He is also survived by his siblings, Mary Lee & Angelo Russo (sister and brother-in-law), and Rebecca Dickerson (sister-in-law) and many extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Foster Clark Mearns and Geneva Mancuso Mearns; father-in-law Al Hirt; and siblings, Richard Mearns, and Donald Mearns.

M. Gene Mearns was a loving husband, father, grandfather, sibling, and son. He was also a brilliant and caring mentor to the hundreds of people he worked with over his 50-year career in journalism. A proud graduate of LSU, he started his epic career as a Baton Rouge Capital correspondent for United Press International before being drafted and serving in the US Army. His career included positions such as bureau chief for The Times Picayune/The States-Item St. Bernard/Plaquemines beat, executive editor of the Houma Daily Courier, and metro editor for The Baton Rouge Advocate. Delighted by his heritage and chosen home of New Orleans, Gene loved cooking Italian and Creole food. He also enjoyed shooting, conversing, tracing his ancestry, and molding future writers and reporters. He loved the culture of Louisiana and loved being a member of the press. Even after being personally displaced by Hurricane Katrina, he still made it into the newsroom each day to report on it and all the other newsworthy occurrences in Louisiana. Gene will be immeasurably missed by the family he loved very much and may his contributions to this world continue to be realized in the lives of those he touched.

Services will be held privately at a later date.



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E. J. Fielding Funeral Home of Covington, Louisiana, is honored to be entrusted with the funeral arrangements. The Mearns family invites you to share thoughts, memories, and condolences by signing an online guestbook at www.ejfieldingfh.com.



Tribute Wall

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MF

Milford Fryer posted:

I first knew Gene as a bureau chief for UPI and I was a state reporter for The Advocate. I was covering the Jambalaya Festival, and Gene was a judge. He made a great photo, as he sat with bowls of jambalaya in front of him, and a fork in each hand. Years later, after UPI had folded and I was Suburban editor, a mutual friend suggested Gene for an editing opening I had. Gene lived in New Orleans and drove to work at our office in Baton Rouge for years before Katrina forced him to Baton Rouge. Gene still had the "fork in each hand" photo. Gene was much more than a great editor, he was a great friend, a confidant, as well as a mentor and teacher for reporters. He was a strong, tough editor with an exceptionally soft touch. Cool and steady under pressure, he was a consummate journalist. He had a wry sense of humor and was absolutely comfortable in the kitchen. He did like potato salad with gumbo, but I guess that's a New Orleans thing. I truly missed Gene after I retired and moved away, and I was saddened that he felt brushed aside by the new management after the newspaper sold. Otherwise my memories of Gene are all great.

January 4 at 12:47 PM

JM

John D Mcmillan January 5 at 10:55 AM

Gene and I shared a journalism class at McNeese, later we were friends in New Orleans and then at The Advocate in Baton Rouge. Our sense of humor was similar and we joked about being taken in UFOs, wearing colanders to prevent our brains being attacked. Despite this, Gene was very bright and an excellent editor. I really liked and admired Gene. John McMillan

SI

Sam Irwin January 4 at 2:35 PM

Gene was so thoughtful in the way he edited my Ascension & Assumption parishes reporting. When he had questions about them he never talked down to me. (I was a rookie reporter in my 50s so I was very self conscious). He approved many a weekend feature I pitched. He told me some great anecdotes when I was writing my book on crawfish dealing with events at Jefferson Downs. Every time we signed off he always said, "Keep 'em coming."



Memories only last if you share them

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



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