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Obituaries & Guest Book



Gene Kerns

Visitation:

N/A

Funeral:

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 11:00 am
Haven Lutheran Church

[Obituary](#)

[Guest Book](#)

Lyle Eugene “Gene” Kerns, 77, of Hagerstown, MD passed away on June 7 at his home, after a brief illness. Gene was born April 24, 1940 in Hancock, MD, the son of Augustus and Wreatha Kerns, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Phyllis Gordon Kerns; one daughter, Kelly Kerns Redenbo, her husband Kurt and children

Matthew and Alek of Hagerstown, MD; his oldest son Michael Eugene Kerns and his wife Renee and children Gordon and Erin of Lafayette, CA; and youngest son Joel Paul Kerns of Berkeley Springs, WV; as well as three sisters, Patsy Kerns of Hancock, MD; and Caroline Kerns Jackson and Nita Kerns Glaser of Hagerstown, MD; along with two brothers, Ronald Kerns of Hagerstown, MD; and Daniel Kerns and his wife Debbie in Hancock, MD. An older brother, Harlan Lynn Kerns, preceded Gene in death. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews that he loved dearly.

He graduated from Hancock High School and received his undergraduate degree from Elizabethtown College, PA and later earned a masters degree from Shippensburg University, PA. Gene worked as a guidance counselor at Boonsboro High School for many years.

He was an outstanding athlete and after high school played for the Philadelphia Phillies baseball organization in Miami, Florida; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Chattanooga, Tennessee, and won the Pioneer League batting title in 1963. His baseball career ended after a knee injury, but his joy for the game endured. He was head coach of the Hagerstown Junior College baseball team in parts of the 1970's and 80's and also worked as a baseball scout for nearly 50 years, most recently with the Atlanta Braves. Between February and September of each year, Gene-often accompanied by Phyllis-would travel thousands of miles up and down the East Coast with a clipboard, road atlas, and radar gun in hand to scout ballplayers at the high school and college levels. He signed several players to major league contracts and made countless life-long friends along the way. In 2008, Gene was inducted into the Mid-Atlantic Scouts Association Hall of Fame.

Gene's greatest love by far was his family. There was no task too difficult or time-consuming when it came to helping his family members, and with his boundless energy he always made the time to visit relatives and stay in touch with friends too numerous to mention throughout Washington County. "Pap" especially loved his grandkids and spent time with them at the beach, at the ballpark, playing in the yard, and helping them with homework, and for several years he and his grandsons were regular breakfast customers at the Dixie Diner in Smithsburg, MD.

Gene's energy, generosity, and good humor will be greatly missed by the family and friends he leaves behind. A memorial service will be held Wednesday June 14 at 11:00 a.m. at Haven Lutheran Church in Hagerstown, MD. Memorial contributions can be made to Haven Lutheran Church at 1035 Haven Road, Hagerstown, MD 21742.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home, 1331 Eastern Blvd. North, Hagerstown, MD.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.douglasfiery.com
(<http://www.douglasfiery.com>)

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