



Ben Spencer

February 5, 1936 - January 12, 2011

Ben E. (Gene) Spencer, 74, of Waldron, Arkansas passed from this life Wednesday, January 12, 2011 in a Waldron, Arkansas hospital. Ben was born February 5, 1936 in Cloud Chief, Oklahoma to the late Bennie Wesley and Nellie Nettie (Thompson) Spencer. He was a professional musician played music with some of the country greats as Janie Frickie, Hank Williams, Jr., Louise Mandrell,, and best friend steel guitar player, Johnny Hogan at the Paramount Theater Country Music Hall in Abilene, Texas. He was a paratrooper in the U. S. Army 101st Airborne, and was retired from Tyson Foods. Ben is survived by his wife Sherry Lynn (Jones) Spencer whom he married September 16, 1962; three daughters, Teresa Ashlock and husband, Kendel of Waldron, Arkansas, Tammy Richmond of Waldron, Arkansas, Laura Lawson of Waldron, Arkansas; one son, Dennis Spencer of Waldron, Arkansas. He is also survived by one sister, Edna Boston of Waldron, Arkansas; five grandchildren, Brandi Wallace, Scott Lawson, Jorden Lawson, Krystin Scantling, Casey Richmond all of Waldron, Arkansas; two great-grandchildren, John and Hunter of Waldron, Arkansas. He was preceded in death in addition to his parents, by his brother, Marion Lee Spencer, sister, Joyce Kay Spencer, and grandson, Justin Ed Spencer. Ben's funeral service will be held 10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Charles Whedbee, officiating. Interment will follow in the Kirk Cemetery in Cauthron, Arkansas. Arrangements are being entrusted to the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory in Waldron,

Arkansas. Ben's pallbearers will be Scott Lawson, Don Brown, Earl Blanton, Bill Brown, Doyle Dickens, and Frankie Kelley. Honorary pallbearers will be Dale Kopf, Kendel Ashlock, Casey Richmond, Dennis Spencer. Visitation will be 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday, January 14, 2011 at the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

HN

“ He was a great man and friend and will always have a special place in my heart! I will never forget him!

helen nelson - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ my dearest daddy. . . . just wanted to drop in a minute to let you know that i finally got another memorial tattoo of you tonight. its pretty awesome, sums you right up. well even though i carry you in mind, spirit, and heart. ..now i can carry you in body also.:) lots of love to you, laura lea

laura lea - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ hi daddy! just thinking of you as usual. just wanted to chat a minute and tell you a few things. my first grandbaby was born dec. 23, 2011 and man. . . .is he beautiful! i never thought i could love like i have loved my own children but i was wrong. you would be so proud of scotty, he is a great daddy. you have inspired him so well. you were a wonderful father to me, as well as my children. and for that. . . i thank you. jorden misses you so. quiet as ever, a little rebellious, but she will make it. i miss you daddy. i dont sing hardly anymore. no song in my heart. but hoping and praying it will come back soon. well, i love you and will be talking to you soon. your litl you. . . .
.laura lea

laura lea - February 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Well, I told you I'd stop back to tell ya everything that's been goin on. I have a little boy now. His name is Pearson Gene Lawson, and he's a gift straight from heaven. I just cant wait to share everything you taught me with him. I miss you all the time. Granny is doin good, she's out at the dance with Dot right now hahaha. Things aren't goin great with my band, and im fixin to branch out and get myself known. That's a promise. Gotta make my biggest inspiration proud :). I love you Grandpa, and I'll be sharin your life story soon with my boy. Be back to write again as soon as I can.
Love,
Scotty

Scotty - February 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ I love you daddy!

Laura Lea - October 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ Hey Grandpa hows it going up there? Well alot has happened since my birthday!! Even after all these months thats still hard to deal with! But Im glad that your not suffering anymore and now you can play your gutair anytime you want!! And it doesnt bother me as bad as it did before because i know that you are everywhere i go wachting over me...
I love you and miss you Granpa... Your chowhound...had to throw a laugh in there somewhere

jorden - August 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LL

“Hi daddy! I just wanna let ya know i'm thinkin' of ya again tonight. I miss u so much. I want u to know how your little girl has held strong through all of this. I have always remembered you saying how you did not want alot of tears when you passed on, so i have never cried. i have finally figured out what it was that you wanted to tell me that last night when you looked at me, And don't worry daddy, I got you. i made you a promise and i am keeping it. I have my new tattoo picked out in honor of you. Hopefully i can get it soon, and i will wear it proudly! You were, are, and always will be a big part of my world. I see you in my children and in myself. you had a great impact on all of us. I am proud to call you my daddy and a father/grandpa to my children. Without your guidance things would have been so different. And yes, i know when you are around. still looking out for us all! i am strong because of you! I love you Daddy- your little girl,..... Laura lea

Laura Lea - August 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BR

“Grandpa, I havent written anything in here yet but i am not. I miss you so much and its still hard to believe that you are really gone. Jon and Hunter are missing out on growing up with you as a grandpa, they loved you dearly for the short time that they did know you though. You were and always will be known as a wonderful mad and not a day goes by that i dont miss you and think of you. I love you Grandpa and i cant wait til i see you again one day. Love, Brandi, Jon and Hunter

Brandi - August 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Just wanted to talk to ya for a bit Grandpa. Was gonna tell ya a bit of what's goin on. First, I'm gonna be a dad, and I hope I can be even half the man you were. I can't wait to tell my kid who their Grandpa is and share all the tales about you that you told me. I want them to know what a great man you were, the amazing guitarist, and the funniest person to ever live. I got me a good job and I'm workin on gettin a place real soon! We all miss you a whole lot. I've gotta go to work now, but I'll be stoppin in to write you again very soon. I love you.

Scotty - May 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Was it really 48 years ago that I first met you Gene? You weren't my favorite person right away. After all, you took my best friend away, marrying her at such a young age. Everyone said it wouldn't last, but then they didn't know that you held Sherry in your heart and you knew from that very first day that she was the "one" and the only one. Through the years I haven't seen you a great number of times, but every time that I did it was like yesterday, when we were young, and our conversations were always picked up just as we had left them so many years ago. That is how it will be again, when Sherry and I join you in the sky for another "jam" session. Rest in peace Gene. Friend of my youth. God be with you Sherry. You are always in my thoughts and prayers. You and Gene are so special in my memories of the past.

Shirley (Shewmake) Manning - January 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SC

“Grandpa, you always were my hero, and were more like a father than anything. I enjoyed the last few months we had together. Sittin and drinkin coffee at 4 in the morning, tellin each other jokes (some of which we still wont share with granny haha). Of course I'll miss all of that, but I don't have to worry about it too much because you may be gone physically, but you live on in my heart. When I was a little boy, i remember those trips to the mountains and the river all of the time, especially the fact that you'd buy me an RC cola and candy every trip. Ever since I can remember I've wanted follow in your foot steps, From my coffee and cigarette in the morning, to goin and playin music with my friends, and yes, watching the history channel. People are saying you WERE an amazing man. But they'd be wrong. You ARE an amazing person still. So, Grandpa, be with me and let me hold strong through everything. You were always my saving grace when I had no where else to go. I love you Grandpa. We will see each other again.

Scotty - January 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MA

“Teresa and family, so sorry to hear about your dad. You will all be in our prayers. May God give you peace and comfort in the days ahead.

Matt & Dyiana Kane, Nashville, AR - January 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TR

“my daddy,i am gonna miss u so much.i could not have ask for a better man to look up to.i love you always tammy

tamara richmond - January 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *Laura and family I am so sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Brandee Brown - January 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Grandpa you will always be in my heart i love you so much you will never be forgotten.*

*LOVE ALWAYS & FOREVER
YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER
KRYSTIN*

Mr.Spencer im glad i got to know you, you are apart of krystins life and mine you and we will miss you..i never got to meet my grandfather but i considered you as mine.. thank you for being apart of mine and you granddaughters life.

*Always
Seth Deaton*

Krystin Scantling (granddaughter) & Seth Deaton - January 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Dear ben & family
im so sorry for your loss if you need any thing let me know my prayers are with you all...ben, i miss you so much you are forever with me you are with justin now and the rest of us will be with yall again.. i will always remember you and love you, you were a great man.*

Johnny

Johnny Scantling - January 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FC

“ i will miss you grandpa gene i might not of been you granddaughter but you will always be my grandpa gene.. i miss and love you.
freda

Freda Crowell - January 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Sherry and family, sorry for your loss. Gene always had a smile and was a good friend. Your family is in my prayers.

Thurston Tinder - January 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ Our lives have been impacted so much by Gene. The gentleness of heart, the love for his family and all the wonderful stories he remembered and would tell. Our grandparents, our Mom's who were sisters, and my Dad who I lost as a child. All these folks I came to know with Gene's memories. His unending love and pride for Sherry and his family showed and was there for all to see. Especially when he would talk about that pretty little black eyed Jones girl. He fell in love with her the first time he ever saw her and wasn't bashful about telling it. The world has lost a great artist, musician, story teller and mind when Gene passed. My family and I have truly been blessed to have been close enough to Gene and Sherry to visit back and forth for the last four years, We grieve alongside Sherry and her family. We and the world have truly lost a treasure.

Ginna & Don Brown - January 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Edna, Teresa, Sherry and Dennis were sorry for your loss and will keep your family in our prayers

Leann King and family - January 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ We are so sorry for your loss, our thoughts are with you

Jana Cullefer - January 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your families. Ben has been a wonderful friend. I always enjoyed talking with him at post office and walmart.

Lori Shupert - January 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ Well, you made it Daddy, to Heaven. I know you're not suffering anymore. Your smile will live forever in my heart. You and Justin can finally go fishing together and you can now play guitar for him again. Justin got a wonderful gift for his Birthday, his grandpa to join him in Heaven. Some day I too, will be there to give you both a big hug. I love you, Daddy, and miss you bunches already, but I know you are standing right beside me to show me the way if I get lost. You are the Greatest Man I've ever known, and I truly believe, as the song says, "You are a legend in your time."

Your oldest..Teresa Lynne

Teresa - January 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ MY dear husband of 48 years. You often spoke of the time you first seen me. I was only 16,at that skating-ring. I didn't even see you. Butyou made sure you found me.You became my husband not long afterwards. I have loved you through-out our years together. Alot of good times we shared. Somehow we manage to get through the bad ones, which made us love each other that much more. Together we raised 4 great kids. You were always the greatest husband,daddy and grandpa. We all will miss you so very much. Rest in peace my loved one. We will be together again. MY love to you.

Sherry - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ with deepest sympathy

shirley watkins - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Uncle Gene loved his family and his Brother's family as well, (Marianne, Charles, Pam and Jeff- Peewee's Kids). Over the year Uncle Gene has kept in touch with all of us with calls. I always enjoyed talking with him. I have a lot of memories of Abilene, TX and Arkansas when we were younger. We would stay with Uncle Gene and Aunt Sherry. I think I still have the lunch bag somewhere that he drew a Roadrunner on. His drawing always amazed me with the fine details. Boxing was always a favorite thing to watch on TV on Sunday's. One of my favorite memories, is of the Christmas that I got a stuffed Monkey from Uncle Gene and Aunt Sherry. I named him Jocco has always been a special friend. I think because he has always reminded me of Uncle Gene. He is a little tattered and torn- but well loved. I won?t be able to attend the services- but I want Aunt Sherry and all of the family to know that our thoughts, prayers and love will be with them. Love, your Niece Marianne

Marianne (Spencer) Pierce - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ Sherry,so sorry to hear aboutBen.He will be missed.Our prayers and thoughts are with you .

Robert&Linda Jett - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Ben was a wonderful person and friend. He will be greatly missed.

Doyle & Angela Dickens - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ laura, debra informed of your Dad's passing. My prayers and thoughts with you and Scott and your family.

linda lawson - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

J(

“ hey grandpa its your chowhound!!!
I just wanted to let you know that i love you and will always miss and love you

R.I.P
GRANDPA
01/12/2011

joden (CHOW-HOUND) - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ Hey daddy! Spent the whole day together with you. I will always treasure the time i spent with you in this life. I also know i will be with you again. You will play that guitar and I will sing. I was always grateful for the music ability that I inherited from you. But the memory i will hold dear in my heart forever is your last moments in this world holding your hand when your angels took you into GOD'S kingdom. So, you play in that great angel band in the sky! Now you are with the greats where you belong. Peace be with you daddy! I LOVE YOU.....your little girl, LAURA LEA

Laura Lawson - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this very difficult time.

Avie Sherrill - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I did not know Gene very well, but sure thought a lot of his grandparents, Lee Spencer and Hattie (Burroughs)Spencer. Wish I had had the opportunity to know him better.

Clem and Pat Burroughs - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family through this difficult time. May you find peace through God knowing he is in a better place.

Cheryl Long - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Ben was a good man and he will be missed by all . May the LORD be with all of you . Remember he`s in Heaven looking down with a smile.

David Long - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ Uncle Gene - I love you very much and thought of you and the family often. I remember when we were little you draw cartoon charactors on our lunch bags, we would watch and listen to you play your guitar, always laughing an joking around. I miss your calls a few times a year and catching up we do, with what was going on with the families. I know Charles will miss those phone calls as well. But I know you are with my daddy now and Aunt Joyce and grandma and grandpa. I will love you forever and miss you forever!!!
Love Your Niece Pam

Pamela Kay - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Ben was a wonderful man that always had a smile on his face and was a pleasure to talk to and be around. He will truely be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you. God bless.

Tammy Forrest - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Teresa and family, My heart goes out to you in your time of sorrow. Although no words can really help to ease the loss you bear, just know that you are very close in every thought and prayer. May the comfort of God help you during this difficult time. Love you, Tammy

Tammy Heatherly - January 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Gene was a wonderful person. He was loved by all & will never be forgotten.
He is with his Jesus now & feeling wonderful.
Prayers & Love to all the family, Sharon Webb

Sharon Webb - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ My deepest condolences to the family. My prayers are with you at your time of need.

Suzanne Leach & Family - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ No one can know the ways of eternity or understand when those we love leave this earth too soon before we are ready to say good-bye. But i am sure Gene and L.B, haveing a good talk under a nice tree in heaven.

My Heartfelt Sympathy to Sherry and family

Bessie Thompson - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ My love and prayers are with yal.

Marsh Button - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We worked for many years with Ben, and always thought of him as a good friend. We talked about 3 months ago and had a really nice visit. We will miss him and his friendly and caring ways. God bless all the family.

Mickey and Sharon Pace - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Sorry to hear the news,Ben was a good man,never talked to him that he didnt have something nice to say.

Bill Luttrell - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Ben will truly be missed. He always had a smile on his face. Our sympathy goes out to you.

Tim and Kim Defoor - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Sorry to hear the news..Ben was a wonderful person and he will be missed greatly. Our thoughts and Prayers are with you all.. May God Bless..

Tammy Coffey Caldwell - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Teresa, Laura, and family--I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

Darla Dozier - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ LAURA SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS .. YOU AND YOUR FAMILY OR IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

THE LAWSON FAMILY - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ Daddy I will love and miss you forever. We will see each other again soon Daddy.
Teresa Lynne

Teresa Ashlock - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ *Laura, Teresa, & family. I was so sorry to hear of your loss. May God give you peace. We will be praying for you.* ”

Toni VanDeWiele - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Ben was always a friend to us and he will leave behind many good memories with us.* ”

Tommy & LaDonn Franklin - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *So sorry for your loss, but God gained an angel.* ”

Denece Hunt - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ *We are sorry to learn ob Ben,s passing. Ben was a great employee when we worked together years ago.
May God bless and keep each of you during yoour time of sorrow is our prayer.* ”

Roy & Carolyn Killion - January 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *were sorry for your loss you are in our prayers Ben was a really good friend we will miss you.Lord be with you the family God bless.* ”

doyle wayne and karen dickens - January 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ You're all in my thoughts and prayers. Uncle Gene was the best "picker" and storyteller of all. I will miss him.
Much Love,
Donna

Donna S. Hicks - January 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Thinking of your family during this time of sorrow. We will miss all of Ben's stories he use to tell us when he came into the store. He will greatly be missed by everyone that knew him.

All Your Friends From Rice Furniture - January 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM