



Eugene Talmadge Neese

March 19, 1934 - August 1, 2025

In the gentle embrace of his home in Newnan, Georgia, Eugene "Gene" Talmadge Neese passed away peacefully on August 1, 2025, at the age of 91. His departure leaves a quiet void, but his spirit endures in the hearts of those who knew his steadfast kindness, sharp wit, and quiet strength.

Born on March 19, 1934, in Coweta County, Gene spent most of his life in and around Newnan, Georgia—a community he deeply loved. He served honorably in the United States Army and dedicated his career to American Can, Federal Paper Board, and later International Paper, where his mechanical skill and strong work ethic made him a valued colleague.

He was tough as nails—but afraid of spiders. A creature of habit, he was rarely without a peppermint in his pocket and had an unexpected love for romance novels and old westerns. He found satisfaction in simple routines, especially caring for his yard, which he mowed well into his 90s. Quick to laugh, quietly loyal, and deeply grounded, Gene lived a life marked by dependability, humility, and heart.

Though often serious, Gene had a playful side that came alive around his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He loved to make them laugh, and his quiet grin often gave way to moments of silliness and joy. He spent countless hours fishing at West Point Lake and beyond—any water

where the fish might bite was fair game. And in one of the more unexpected chapters of his youth, Gene revealed impressive roller-skating skills-not just gliding, but dancing on skates with rhythm and ease. For those who knew him only as a grandfather, it's a surprising image: graceful, confident, and light on his feet.

Gene is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Frances McCollum Neese, originally from Moreland, Georgia, and a resident of Newnan. Together, they raised six children, Mark Neese (daughter Diedre), Toni Neese Johnson (sons Joseph [Bonnie] and the late Matthew), Terri Neese (son Josh [Kim]), Scott Neese (daughters Candace [Clayton] and Heather [Hank]), and his wife Brenda, John Neese (daughters Meghan [Will], Rose [Stephen], and son Chris), and his partner Monica Rodriguez, and Jodi [Kevin] Groover (daughters Grace, Emily, and Charlotte). Gene and Frances were also blessed with 19 great-grandchildren, who filled their days with laughter and joy.

Gene was preceded in death by his grandson, Matthew Neese; his parents, Gertie and Russell Neese; his siblings, J.R. Neese, Charlie Neese, Donald Neese, James Neese, Shirley Neese Jones; and son-in-law, Jamie Johnson. He is survived by his brother Fred Neese and sister Gail Neese Rai, along with many nieces, nephews, and extended family who loved and admired him.

He is also survived by his ancient cat, Slim-a quiet companion who kept watch by his side and shared in the rhythms of Gene's days.

A longtime member of First Christian Church of Newnan, Gene lived a life rooted in faith, family, and quiet devotion. He faced life's challenges with humor and grit, loved without needing to say it out loud, and built a legacy of grace through action more than words.

In honoring him, we remember a life well-lived-steady, generous, and true. His

legacy rises like a crescendo of honor, echoing through the lives he touched with quiet strength and boundless love.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, August 3, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Jimmy Lee officiating. The family will receive friends from 5 - 6 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First Christian Church of Newnan, Georgia.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory, 770-253-4580

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 3. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Memorial Service

AUG 3. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Eugene Talmadge Neese*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - August 04, 2025 at 04:20 PM



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Eugene Talmadge Neese*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - August 03, 2025 at 11:07 AM

HW

Terri-My condolences to you and your family. Thinking of you all during this difficult time.

Holly Williams

Holly Williams - August 03, 2025 at 04:20 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Eugene Talmadge Neese.*



August 03, 2025 at 07:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Eugene Talmadge Neese.

August 03, 2025 at 07:58 PM



“ *Terri - My heartfelt condolences to you and your family during this difficult time. Wishing you peace, comfort, and strength as you honor your father's memory.*



*With deepest sympathy,
LaTia Brown-Thompson*

LaTia Brown-Thompson - August 03, 2025 at 12:44 PM



“ *Kitty Dopp lit a candle in memory of Eugene Talmadge Neese*



Kitty Dopp - August 03, 2025 at 03:09 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eugene Talmadge Neese.*



August 02, 2025 at 02:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Eugene Talmadge Neese.

August 02, 2025 at 02:14 PM



“ *Mr Gene was such a good man. He will be missed by so many. Prayers and love for his family during this time. My deepest condolences.*



Tonya and Joe Gray - August 02, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ *Sandra Lewis lit a candle in memory of Eugene Talmadge Neese*



Sandra Lewis - August 02, 2025 at 12:52 PM

CS

“ *Candace Neese & Heather Sikes purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Eugene Talmadge Neese.*



Candace Neese & Heather Sikes - August 02, 2025 at 09:07 AM