



## Dr. James Eugene (Gene) Fair, DDS

March 18, 1935 - August 27, 2019

Dr. James Eugene (Gene) Fair, DDS, a loving husband father, passed away at the age of 84 on Tuesday, August 27, 2019. He was born in Knoxville on March 18, 1935, attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and graduated from the University of Tennessee's school of dentistry in Memphis in 1963. Dr. Fair was married to the late Shirley Chism Fair of Memphis, and practiced dentistry in Knoxville for 50 years.

He had a passion for people exemplified by his love for his wife, Shirley Fair, his extended family, and the multitude of patients he treated over the decades. Often referred to as the "Painless Dentist," Dr. Fair gently and professionally cared for thousands of patients throughout his long and successful career.

Dr. Fair was an avid sports enthusiast and a tri-sport athlete at the University of Tennessee and frequented University of Tennessee sporting events, sitting in the same seats at Neyland Stadium that the family enjoyed since the 1940's.

He is preceded in death by his wife Shirley Savilla Fair, father James E. Fair Jr, mother Mildred Gutting Fair, and his nephew, Rusty Johnston. Dr. Fair is survived by his children, James Eugene Fair IV and wife, Jennifer, Douglas Chism Fair and wife, Jody, Shirley Savilla Cribbs. He leaves behind grandchildren Douglas Fair, Jr., Connor Fair, Mary Cribbs, McKenzie Fair, Emily Cribbs and Landon Fair, sister Florence Johnston and husband, Dr. Russell Johnston. Dr. Fair also leaves behind his dear friend and long-time colleague, Ms. Vicki Bryant.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 to 11:00 am on Saturday, August 31 at Rose Mortuary, Mann Heritage Chapel, followed immediately by a celebration of life services by the reverend Pat Wingo of Church of the Ascension. Following the service, the family and friends will meet at Greenwood Cemetery, 3500 Tazewell Pike, Knoxville, TN 37918 at 12:30 p.m. Saturday for an interment service.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 9041 Executive Park Dr, Knoxville, TN 37923.

# Cemetery

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## Greenwood Cemetery

3500 Tazewell Pike  
Knoxville, TN,

# Events

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**AUG 31 Receiving of Friends 10:00AM - 11:00AM**

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**31**

Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel  
6200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, US, 37919

**AUG 31 Interment to follow 12:30PM**

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**31**

Greenwood Cemetery  
3500 Tazewell Pike, Knoxville, TN, US

**AUG 31 Celebration of Life**

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**31**

Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel  
6200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, US, 37919

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



Rose Mortuary - August 30, 2019 at 10:37 AM

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“ I met Gene in Jr. High School, and we were good friends the rest of his life. He came all the way to Alaska to visit. I always considered him to be my close friend. I grieve for his family.

~ John d'Armand

John d'Armand - September 07, 2019 at 02:00 PM

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“ To Dr. Fair's family--- So sorry that I could not make the service. However, I did not forget your days of sorrow during Dr. Fair's illness and death. He was a wonderful person with integrity, and a great boss. We all had fun at work and going to lunch together, and he took us. He will not soon be forgotten. I miss him just knowing he isn't here any more. Love to all of you. LaRue Thompson

LaRue Thompson - September 02, 2019 at 05:20 PM

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“ My "Buddy" Gene is gone but will never be forgotten having known him for 70 years. Starting in high school we became good friends. At UT Gene and I were Fraternity Brothers. While in school in 1956 our traveling started. With several Fraternity Brothers we drove to Alaska to work in the gold fields north of Fairbanks to get rich. Another summer we made a camping trip to Eastern Canada while in school.

Years later after families responsibilities and Shirley's untimely and unfortunate death our traveling picked up again. We traveled the highway and byways crossing Eastern America for about 20 years. All told once we counted 28 states we had been in. Once we made a trip to Keokuk Iowa where Gene's grandparents once lived. We searched the corn fields and found the old farm and home place still there.

The many trips trips to many places will be fondly remembered. Gene and I both decided not long ago that after our travels came to a end that our experiences outweighed the many places we visited.

I will forever miss my "traveling buddy" and good friend. God's speed Gene.

**George Dominick** - September 01, 2019 at 05:16 PM

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“ Dr Fair was a kind and gentle man with a delightfully outrageous sense of humor. God speed friend. Dot Knight

**Dot Knight** - August 31, 2019 at 02:28 PM

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“ 89 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Rose Mortuary** - August 30, 2019 at 10:29 AM

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“ Florence,Savilla, Jim and Doug and Vickie,too  
My heart is so full and the lovely memories so intense that words escape me. One of the finest blessings of my life has been my long friendship with Gene. He was the Southern gentleman, perfected and the dearest, most forgiving and faithful of all. May flights of angels wing him to his rest. Ruth Fulton Tiedemann

**Ruth Tiedemann** - August 29, 2019 at 11:03 PM

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“ With Distinction was purchased for the family of Dr. James Eugene (Gene) Fair, DDS.



August 29, 2019 at 10:52 PM

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“ My father was a kind and gentle man who loved his wonderful wife and family. He cared greatly for his patients and worked diligently to maximize their care and comfort while minimizing the possibility of pain.

People new to his practice were amazed to find that an enormous man like him - standing at 6' 8" tall - could so deftly and gently help with their various dental issues. As a result, he was often referred to as the "Painless Dentist," a moniker he earned, and for which he is remembered fondly by his patients. You will be missed, dad, not just by your family, but by the many, many people you cared for.

**Douglas Fair** - August 29, 2019 at 09:39 PM



“ What a thoughtful tribute about your Dad. It sounds like you will carry his legacy forward.

**Susan Waldrop Ward** - August 31, 2019 at 01:10 PM



“ Doug, I just found out about this. So sorry for your loss.

**Rob** - September 03, 2019 at 10:27 PM



“ To the family of Dr. Gene Fair:

I would like to extend my sympathy, although quite tardy, to the family of Gene. He was a wonderful man-----an excellent dentist, such a personable fellow and very good friend. I am from Knoxville originally, but moved away in the 50s. But, all those years since, I continued to have my dental work done by Gene until he retired!

My brother, George, niece, Susan, and I well remember the great little auto trips we took together whenever I came in to town. Gene was ready to go anywhere we wanted and always agreeable. He had a good attitude and lots of laughs! And I'm happy to say, we took many excellent pictures during our traveling days in order to "keep remembering!"

I will miss my dear friend. George and I used to go to Oak Ridge to visit Gene and he always welcomed us. We never heard him complain of his health issues and each time had more smiles for us. I greatly admired your dad and I want you to know that I feel extremely lucky to have known him during most of my lifetime!

God bless all of you.

Fran Dominick Shackelford

**Fran Dominick Shackelford** - September 13, 2019 at 03:57 PM