



Willie Eugene Elston

September 9, 1959 - December 24, 2024

Born on September 9, 1959, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Willie Eugene Elston was the cherished son of the late Willie Elston and Mary Turner Elston.

Willie's journey through life was marked by his firm spirit and zest for living. He was a member of Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church in his youth before uniting with St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church, where he found comfort and community. Educated in the Talladega County School System, he proudly graduated from Lincoln High School, embarking on a path that saw him excel in various trades, demonstrating a remarkable adaptability and work ethic.

Throughout his life, Willie embraced the simple yet profound pleasures that made him who he was. Whether casting his line by the riverbank in hopes of catching "the Big One" or enjoying the thrill of seasonal hunting, his heart was intertwined with nature's beauty. An avid fan of the Auburn Tigers, he filled many autumn Saturdays with spirited football games and cherished his evenings watching Westerns, indulging in the stories that echoed his own values of bravery and adventure. In his younger years, he epitomized athleticism as a dedicated softball player, showcasing his talent with the Mustangs Softball Team in Gainesville, Florida and the L A Cubs of Lincoln, Alabama.

Willie was affectionately known as "Rat" and "L.A." by his friends and

community, but by his family he was simply known as "Gene Elston". Willie's infectious energy and captivating personality made him the life of every gathering as he sported his Levi jeans and Chuck Taylor's. He had an extraordinary gift for making those around him laugh and smile, ensuring that they felt loved and valued. His loving nature was evident in the heartfelt words he always shared; he never ended a conversation without saying, "I Love You." He embodied joy, and his spirit will be profoundly missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

On December 24, 2024 Willie Lugene Elston departed this life surrounded by love, leaving behind a legacy of joy and kindness that will be forever cherished. He is now reunited with his beloved parents, Willie and Mary Elston, and brothers, Lafayette Elston, Sr., Troy Elston, Leland Elston.

In his absence, he leaves behind a loving and devoted daughter, Kenyatta Johnson; a supportive brother, Dwight (LoWanda) Elston; sisters Darlene Curry, Carrie Smith, Cartonia Jones, and Beverly (Tony) Burch; a special friend and caretaker, Wanda Kay Bonner; best friends Clyde Broyles and Melvin Fomby; along with a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends who will forever cherish their memories of him.

As we remember Willie Lugene Elston, let us carry forward his legacy of love, joy, and the celebration of life itself. May his soul find peace, and may we find comfort in the cherished memories we hold dear.

Cemetery Details

Pine Grove Baptist Church Cemetery

500 Drew Ave
Lincoln, AL 35096

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 3. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home Chapel
217 Coosa St. East
Talladega, AL 35160

Celebration of Life

JAN 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home Chapel
217 Coosa St. East
Talladega, AL 35160

Tribute Wall

NT

“ My deepest condolences to your family, Gene was a person of a great big smile and shared love to all his friends. Rest in peace always Brother n law. Love you Norma Terrell and family.

Norma Terrell - January 04, 2025 at 02:45 PM

NB

“ GENE I DON'T KNOW WERE TO START AT WE HAVE SHARED SO MUCH FUN & MANY MEMORIES. I'M GONNA MISS YOU. BUT NO MORE PAINS. WE WAS VIRGO ♍ & IN OUR YOUNGER DAYS WE US PARTY UP. I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS TOO SAY BECAUSE MY HEART ARE SO FULL AND IN DISBELIEF BUT GOD. REST ON BROTHER n LAW IS WHAT I CALLED YOU LOVE YOU UNTIL WE ME AGAIN. I LIT 🔥 CANDLE FOR YOUR MEMORIES. LOVE YOU NADINE C BETT & FAMILY 🌺🌺🌺🕊️🕊️🕊️🌺🌺🌺🕊️🕊️🕊️



Nadine C Bett - January 04, 2025 at 11:58 AM

TC

“ Bryan & Trina Chapman Our deepest condolences



Trina Chapman - January 01, 2025 at 11:40 AM

KF

“ Kansas City Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Willie Eugene Elston.



Kansas City Family - December 31, 2024 at 01:38 PM

KF

“ Kansas City Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Willie Eugene Elston.

Kansas City Family - December 31, 2024 at 01:38 PM



“ The days at Lincoln high school were so much fun because of your caring and loving spirit. To have known you was to love you. RIP Classmate 77

Maco Wilson - December 30, 2024 at 08:45 PM

SO

“ Gene Elston! Yup, that's what we called you. I think I can speak on behalf of the late Charles George family; thank you for the entertainment you gave us when we would frequent the Talladega Superspeedway. With you riding over with us, and hiding to get into the track, FREE, on numerous and deliberate erroneous occasions, you will be a part of our conversation every time we reference our fun during the race era. Oh, and we won't forget when my dad had to tell you to stop talking until, we got into the track, you became quiet as a mouse, but once we passed the entrance you let loose, and the fun began. Thank you for always being kind when I would see you. You'll be missed down here on earth, cousin.

Sonja - December 30, 2024 at 10:46 AM

SW

“ *Cousin Gene I was Like sister and brother we were like two peas in a pot. An I will never ever forget the good an bad time him and I had together as family love 💕💕 Shirley Glover*

shirley glover wills - December 29, 2024 at 11:07 AM

TF

“ *Tyrone Truss and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Willie Eugene Elston.*



Tyrone Truss and Family - December 29, 2024 at 10:02 AM

CS

“ *Gene was a kind and loving cousin! He always came to see his Aunt Ida. I will always remember his laugh and beautiful smile.*

Christopher & Cecelia Sims - December 29, 2024 at 08:50 AM

TM

“ *Tanya Montgomery lit a candle in memory of Willie Eugene Elston*



Tanya Montgomery - December 29, 2024 at 12:02 AM

AH

“ *Alonzo And Shernevelyne Hill lit a candle in memory of Willie Eugene Elston*



Alonzo and Shernevelyne Hill - December 28, 2024 at 05:37 PM

DW

“ *Daphne Williams lit a candle in memory of Willie Eugene Elston*



Daphne Williams - December 27, 2024 at 05:50 AM