



Mr. Shirley Cortez Gunnels Jr

June 15, 1943 - February 24, 2024

Shirley Cortez Gunnels Jr. died peacefully at home on February 24, 2024 at the age of 80 in Theodore, Alabama. While we already miss him terribly, we rejoice that he is healed and whole and in the presence of Jesus, and we know that we will see him again in glory.

Shirley was an electrical engineer by trade, but he was much better known for Mary's Place, the restaurant he and his wife Betty owned and operated for 23 years in Coden, AL.

He had a big personality and was larger than life. He never met a stranger, only friends he didn't know yet. He loved beekeeping, gardening, fishing and carpentry; Betty called him her "fix-it man". Shirley loved his family, and he loved the Lord. He was a member of Creekwood Church of Christ in Mobile, AL.

Shirley was a 32nd degree Mason KCCH and was a member at Charles Haynes Lodge and the Scottish Rite Valley of Mobile. He was a member and tribal advisor of the Santa Rosa Band of the Lower Muscogee.

Shirley is preceded in death by his mother, Christian Gidcumb, of Crestview, FL.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Betty Gunnels; his children, Doug Gunnels (Lisa) of Bothell, WA; John Gunnels of Mobile, AL; Connie Cervantes (Abdias) of Naples, FL; Roxanne Lake of Portland, OR; Olivia Lake of Mobile, AL and Gary Gunnels of Huntsville, AL; his sister Carolyn Fountain of Scottsdale, AZ; his brother Billy Settles of Crestview, FL; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A celebration of his life is scheduled for Friday, March 1, at noon at Creekwood Church of Christ, 1901 Schillinger Rd, Mobile, AL 36695. (Visitation: family, 10am; friends, 11am-noon.) Graveside service to follow at Oddfellows Cemetery in Bayou La Batre. In remembrance of Shirley's life and love, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

“Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” ~ Joshua 1:9

“I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have known the distress of my soul.” ~ Psalm 31:7

Cemetery Details

Odd Fellows

12510 Irvington BLB Hwy
Irvington, AL

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Creekwood Church of Christ
1901 Schillinger Rd S
Mobile, AL 36695

Service

MAR 1. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Creekwood Church of Christ
1901 Schillinger Rd S
Mobile, AL 36695

Tribute Wall



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Shirley Cortez Gunnels Jr.



February 29, 2024 at 12:06 PM



“ MAG Auctions - DAA Seattle planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Shirley Cortez Gunnels Jr.

MAG Auctions - DAA Seattle - February 29, 2024 at 12:06 PM