



Robert E. Hedden

July 5, 2013

Robert E. Hedden, Jr., 58, of Cape Girardeau, MO died Friday, July 5, 2013 at his home in Cape Girardeau, MO. He was born Wednesday, January 12, 1955 in De Funiak Springs, FL to Robert E., Sr. and Ruth Cox Hedden. Mr. Hedden spent over 18 years as a learning disabilities and emotionally disabled secondary school instructor with the Hillsboro, Licking RV-II and Plato R-V school districts. He had been a Special Olympics volunteer and Student Council sponsor. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a BS in education and completed his master's degree with National Louis University of Chicago. He graduated from Cape Central High School in 1973. An avid bicyclist, Mr. Hedden completed major cycling tours with family and friends in the states of Washington, Montana, Georgia and Missouri. He had completed the Katy Trail ride several times in recent years. He was a member of Adventure Cycling, a long distance cycling organization. He also hiked and completed major portions of the Appalachian Trail. Mr. Hedden was a keen bird enthusiast, and could identify most any Missouri bird. He was always surrounded by books, and could converse with any available ear on current and historical events. He loved being an uncle, and was always available for a long talk. He is survived by his parents, Robert E. Hedden, Sr. and Ruth Hedden of Cape Girardeau, MO; two brothers, Cole (Carole) Hedden of Alexandria, VA, John (Cheryl) Hedden of Taos, NM; sister, Linda (Bruce) Enright of Kansas City, MO; five nieces, Kate Hedden Henry and Chloe Hedden, Whitney Enright, Rachel Enright, Shelby Enright, Olivia Enright;

nephew, Rob Enright. A memorial service will be at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau. Inurnment will be at a later date at Cape County Memorial Park and Mausoleum. Memorial contributions may be given to Special Olympics Missouri 1001 Diamond Ridge, Suite 800, Jefferson City, MO 65109.

Tribute Wall

JV

“ Mr. and Mrs. Hedden, I am so sorry to hear about Gene. I read about all of the things he did in the Missourian. He certainly lived life to the fullest. I will keep him and your family in my prayers. I remember him from Sunday school growing up and my husband, Jim, also graduated from Central in 1973 and remembers Gene. Nancy Bond VanPelt Daughter of Chris and Dorothy Bea Bond of Cent. Methodist Church in Cape

Jim and Nancy Bond VanPelt - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TZ

“ I am so sorry to hear about Gene. I worked for many years with Gene while at Hillsboro. We talked a great deal about our families and he loved you all so much and was so proud of everyone. We shared books and hiking and biking suggestions. He first introduced me to trail net. I was just thinking about him last week, but had lost touch. I regret not knowing about his passing. I would have most certainly been at the service. Gene was my friend and colleague.

Teresa Zielonko - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ I knew Gene when we both taught at Hillsboro. Both being "Cape guys" there was a lot of common ground that we would hash over when the opportunity presented itself. He will be missed. Don and Judy Fuhrmann

Don and Judy Fuhrmann - May 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Gene and I worked together for several years at Hillsboro High School. He would always bring in his pictures from a bike trip to share with me and a few stories of his trips. So sorry for your loss.
Beverly Agers Hillsboro Senior High School

Beverly Agers - December 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Mr. & Mrs. Hedden and Family, I was so sorry to hear about Gene's passing. We were both members of the CHS Class of '73. My prayers are with the family.

Rick Geringer - December 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ Gene and I were colleagues at Hillsboro HS for several years and shared a love for bicycling. We both were also connected with DeFuniak Springs, Florida. Rest in Peace.

Frank Schultz - December 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ I remember when Gene and family moved to Brookwood drive. Gene and I became friends soon thereafter and along with Steve Pirtle and Billy Bush we were a regular pack runnin through the local woods and creeks cutting grapevines so we could swing through the trees like Tarzan. Gene was my contact to the PA-Hat-Si dancers Explorer post 10 which is still a big influence in my life. Gene and I pooled our money together in 1969 and bought a 14 foot tipi from goodwin cole tipi company. All these years later I still have our tipi. Possibly the last time I saw Gene I was able to pay him for his share of the tipi plus interest. I truly regret not getting to see him again before he left us! so close yet so far. He will live on in my heart as long as I take breath! gene

tom holland - November 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Hedden family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Gene was a good buddy. I'll always have fond memories of him from our time in Pa Hat Si, camping in the Ozarks and road trips. May your sorrow fade and your memories stay strong.

Matt Wilkening - November 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ My memories of Gene go back to elementary school, exploring woods and a creek now long since engulfed by subdivisions. Reading of his many adventures in the years since I regret our paths failed to cross again....and regret we never hiked the Appalachian Trail at the same time, bicycled together, or shared a campfire overlooking a butte in the great American West....allowing me a glimpse into his insights from Dylan to Thoreau/Ed Abbey to globalization....as Gene was always learned and knowledgeable far beyond his years on any (diverse) topic, as far back as my memory goes. My deepest sympathies to the family, and the rest of us as well as the world simply needs more spirits like Gene's.

Dennis Raddle - October 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ The pain of losing someone you love is something that we will never get use to because God's Word refers to death as 'the last enemy.' May your family find comfort as I have in knowing that our loving heavenly Father promises us that very soon he will have our enemy 'brought to nothing.' (1Corinthians 15:26) What a wonderful day that will be!

K. Jackson - October 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Dear Mr. & Mrs. Hedden, We are friends of Linda and Bruce (my wife Katie is a college friend/sorority sister of Linda's), and were very sorry to hear about your loss. Please know you are in our prayers today and the days to come. Katie and Greg Finkle

Greg Finkle - September 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ To my old friend John and Hedden family: I'm so sorry for your loss. Please know my thoughts are with you. Chris Talbert New York, NY

Christopher Talbert - September 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ There is a road no simple highway between the dawn and the dark of night. And if you go no one may follow, that path is for your steps alone. Ripple in still water. When there is no people tossed nor wind to blow. These are the words and music of our youth. Gene always made music part of his life with his friends and family. Joe Wolnik Mission Ks.

Joe Wolnik - September 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ Gene and I became friends when I was 15, somewhere around 1972 or 1973. I don't recall who introduced us but we became buddies and saw each other regularly up until my departure from Cape in 1978. Gene loaned me a GMC Jimmy for taking my driver's license test; the examiner discovered it had no brake lights and I had to use hand signals the whole time. Somehow I passed. One day Gene and I drove to Camp Lewallen. Along the way we saw a fox that had been hit by a car. Gene immediately pulled over and skinned the fox; I'd never seen anything like that. After leaving Cape I saw Gene intermittently at the home of a mutual friend, but it has probably been 10 years since our last meeting. Gene was a good friend and will continue to be in my thoughts whenever I think back on my high school days. Four leaf clovers to all!

The Artist Formerly Known as Prune - September 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ To all of Gene's family and friends, I am so sorry for your loss. I became friends with Gene around 1974 while I was going to school at SEMO, just after high school. He was rock star handsome in a 70's sort of way. He was a protective friend and ally. We had many adventures and some near misses together. I always think of Gene when I see a tipi or hear Native American Indian stories. He loved tipis. He told me native stories and demonstrated dances around the campfire. I accused him of making it up but he had a dry way of joking with me and his performances seemed authentic so I could never really tell. Either way, they were good stories and lasting memories. So, to honor the Warrior Friend I knew, I send up words from Crowfoot, Blackfoot warrior and say farewell. What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

Renee Basinger Robinson - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Trip to Taos, picked peas in Wisconsin, buying beer while Nixon resigned, Beaver's, Little Feat in St. Louis, Willie Nelson in a snowstorm in Memphis. Low water bridges and high pastures. Rest

Jim Neal - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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The Artist Formerly Known as Prune - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Ruth - Katie and I are so sorry to hear of your son's passing. It must be so hard to bury one of your children! We are praying for strength and peace for you and your family.

Ann Cunningham and Katie Rose - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Dear Ruth, Please accept my deepest condolences to you and your family on the loss of your dear son. Thinking of you, Jennifer

jennifer lipps - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Sad to hear of Gene's passing. He was a lifelong friend. Although I hadn't seen him in a few years it was always great when I did and fun to hear tales of his adventures in live. He will be missed.

Jim Koen - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

Jl

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Jim - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

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Jim - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Linda, my heartfelt condolences go out to you and the entire Hedden family. I hope you find comfort in the memories that are yours to cherish forever and know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. My deepest sympathy...

Keith Balsmann - August 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Spent many a day walkin in Cape with Gene talkin about everything from Thoreau to Gram Parsons. We tried to play guitars together, but we were to individualistic for each other. Callin' me home, hickory wind luv ya gene

terry reynolds - July 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ Bob, Ruth and Family, I am so very sorry you lost Gene. I share your grief. My deepest sympathy to all the family. Your neighbor, Barb

Barb Johnson - July 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Mr. and Mrs. Hedden and family, I was saddened to read of Gene's passing in the newspaper. We graduated together from Cape Central in '73. Gene's unique and kind personality will be missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Sincerely, Joan Edmundson Howard

Joan Edmundson Howard - July 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ A significant part of my life back in the early 70's were Gene and Cole Hedden. I recall Gene inviting me over to listen to Cream and the Beatles. We were in scouts together. It was a blessing to be in troop 3. We shared many camping trips together. I have many good memories. God Bless Him and his family!

Stephen and Deshay Rust - July 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Linda and family, I am saddened by your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you. DD

Drew Dement - July 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hedden & family, I am so sorry for the loss of your son. We will be praying God's love and peace would surround you and comfort you. Much love always, Mary Gaye Flentge

Mary G Banas - July 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM