

## Charles Eugene Hobby

October 17, 1937 - July 17, 2019

Charles Eugene Hobby, 81, died on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at Wake Medical Center, Cary. Mr. Hobby was born in Harnett County, North Carolina on October 17, 1937 to Robert Eugene Hobby and Maude Genera Dixon Hobby.

Known to many friends as “Gene” and as “Pops” to family, was a loving son, brother, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend. He joined the United States Marine Corps (USMC) in June of 1958 and was stationed at Parris Island, SC, Camp Lejeune, NC, in Hawaii, and served in Vietnam for 87 days. He was honorably discharged from the USMC in 1961 and began racing Grand National Cup stock cars, NASCAR and NASCAR Grand National races, LMS and Dash cars between 1964-1986 as Gene Hobby. Over the last five decades, Gene was actively engaged in the racing community as a driver, historian, philanthropist, and president of the Historic Speedway Group.

Charles is survived by his daughters, Gina Ennis (Jerry) of Apex and Christy Hobby of Clayton, grandchildren, Kevin Wilson of Phoenix, AZ, Jessica Hobby of Raleigh, Cheyenne Helminiak of Raleigh, and sisters, Marion Smith (George) of Apex, Patricia Bryant (Bob) of Clayton, Jane Ragan (Joe) of Apex, and Deborah Parker of Willow Springs. He is preceded in death by his sister, Betty Jean Humphries.

A graveside service with Military Honors will be held at 11:00 am Saturday, July 20, 2019 at Wake Memorial Park, 7002 Green Hope School Rd, Cary, NC 27519. Please note there are no restroom facilities at the cemetery and the service will be standing room only. Attire: Please feel free to wear casual racing/Marine attire in his honor

In lieu of flowers, Charles has requested donations to the non-profit organization, Stocks for Tots. Online donations accessible at: (<https://www.facebook.com/donate/355196898454273/>)

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUL **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Wake Memorial Park Cemetery

7002 Green Hope School Rd

Cary, NC 27519

(919) 465-0888

<https://www.wakememorialpark.com/>



RR

*Beautiful tribute for a wonderful friend; he will be greatly missed* 🇺🇸🏁

**Rita Roberts** - July 20, 2019 at 06:27 PM

SS

*AWESOME TRIBUTE TO A TRUE SOLDIER IN ALL RESPECTS.....DID NOT THINK MY EMOTIONS WOULD LET ME MAKE IT THROUGH THE ENTIRE VIDEO, BUT GLAD I DID. IT GIVES ME EVEN MORE TO TREASURE ABOUT A MAN WHO LOOKED OUT FOR AND INCLUDED ME. I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL AND SHALL KEEP HIS FAMILY AND ALL WHO LOVE HIM IN MY HUMBLE PRAYERS. GRATEFUL TO HAVE PRECIOUS MEMORIES.....*

**SYBIL SCOTT** - July 20, 2019 at 11:37 PM

JH

*Wonderful. The most beautiful I have ever seen. Jimmy Helms*

**Jimmy Helms** - November 10, 2019 at 09:39 AM

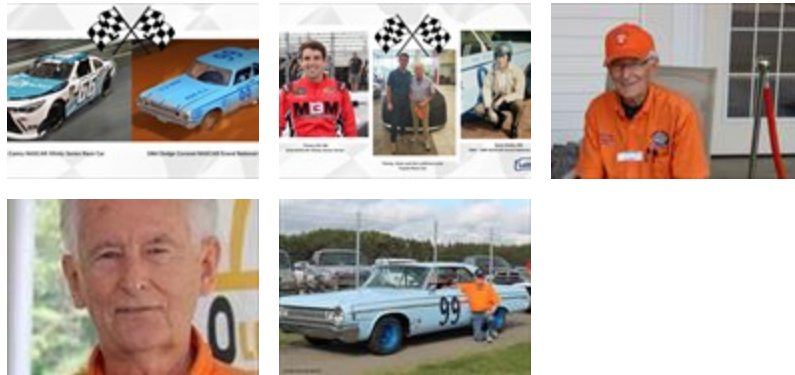
JH

*“ I am very sorry for the loss and heart broken. Gene was always a good friend from the first time we met back in the 60,s. I miss all of his phone calls to keep me up on what was going on and some times just to chat.  
May God bless you all and I will keep you in my prayers, Jimmy Helms*

**Jimmy Helms** - November 10, 2019 at 09:28 AM

GE

“ 10 files added to the album LifeTributes



Gina Ennis - September 08, 2019 at 06:54 PM

LJ

“ Deborah I am thinking you and your loss. Love LaVinnia Johnson

LaVinnia Johnson - July 21, 2019 at 02:23 PM

TL

“ There never was before, and will never again, be a man like Gene Hobby. Gene was a friend to all and just to be in the room with him made you feel good. When he would call me, or I call him, you could feel the light in both our hearts. Not much more I can say other than I will miss Gene so very much. Prayers to the family. We've lost a great human being.

Tim Leeming

Tim Leeming - July 20, 2019 at 09:26 AM

EH

“ Gina and Christy,  
I want you to know that I am thinking of both of you during this most difficult times of your life. I know you have " wonderful memories" that will help sustain you in the days to come.

Eva Hill - July 20, 2019 at 05:05 AM

CH

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Christy Hobby - July 19, 2019 at 10:36 PM

PJ

“ Patricia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Charles Eugene Hobby



Patricia Johnson - July 19, 2019 at 04:58 PM

PJ

*To all the Hobby family, in the next few days when the hurt is hard to bear may love become your shelter and may the beauty of Charles' precious memory be your comfort.*

Patricia Johnson - July 19, 2019 at 05:01 PM

JP

“ Charles, you brightened so many days for me. You are truly one of the best friends I have ever had. I have known you and your family since we were little children growing up in our hometown of Apex! Thank you for always being there for me! You will be so missed and forever remembered. Gina and Christy, I love you both dearly! What a wonderful Dad you had! You and all the Hobby family are in my prayers, and I love you all! Charles is in Heaven—a much better Place 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 He was a true American and he loved his country as he served her well 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 Judy Horton Phillips

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**Judy Horton Phillips** - July 19, 2019 at 04:51 PM

SW

“ Gene was a dear friend to many people and he touched their lives, including mine. I smile when I think of Gene and those wonderful stories. There was never a dull moment when you were in the company of Gene Hobby! I loved traveling to events with him. I would ask one question and he could talk for an hour! Everyone loved him. I will miss the stories, the smile and especially the "hey Suzie" when I called him or he called me. Rest in peace, my friend.

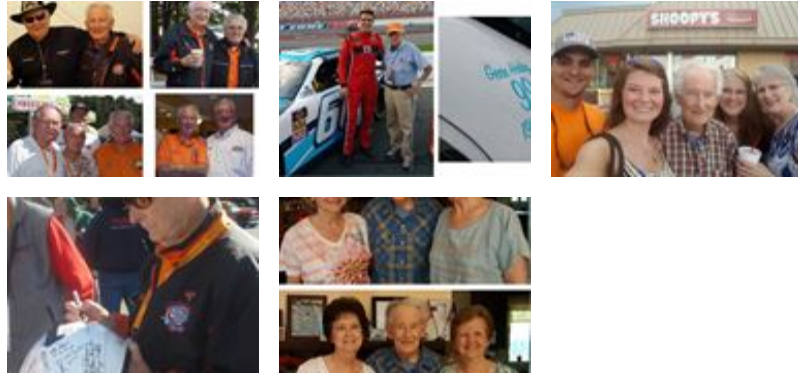
"Suzie" Weiss

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**Suzie Weiss** - July 19, 2019 at 03:31 PM



“ 54 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wake Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. - July 19, 2019 at 01:50 PM



“ Leith Automotive Group purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Charles Eugene Hobby.



Leith Automotive Group - July 19, 2019 at 09:40 AM



“ Hey Gene, We will miss you. Hope to see you again ! Save me a Sno- Cone in Heaven.

Frank Craig - July 19, 2019 at 08:04 AM

AH

“ I am so proud to have had Charles as my stepfather. He was dedicated, protective, funny and caring. He was a wonderful role model and "Poppy" to Trey. His big heart, fun stories and hugs will be greatly missed. Thank you for being the reason I moved to NC and being that important part of our lives. We will miss you very much. The stars shine a bit brighter now!

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**Amy (Whirlow) Haney** - July 19, 2019 at 08:03 AM

JJ

“ Gene was a great friend, will never forget him calling me weekly when I had my heart surgery, He will be missed so much in the racing community, Thoughts and prayers for the family. and may he Rest In Peace.

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**Jimmy Johnson** - July 18, 2019 at 05:30 PM

LZ

“ Gene was a racing Legend and a true friend to me. Heard so many racing stories on our many road trips and phone conversations . Was never a dull moment when he was around. I will miss him so much.. Thank you Gene for the influence you made in my life. May your star forever shine bright!

*LaVerne Zachary*

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**LaVerne Zachary** - July 18, 2019 at 04:37 PM

CH

“ *My life is full of memories of my dad that I will cherish forever. He’s always been my hero in many ways, my rock, my best friend, my everything. I will truly miss him for the rest of my life!*  
*I LOVE YOU DAD*  
*Christy Hobby*



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**Christy Hobby** - July 18, 2019 at 03:33 PM

RA

“ *Riccobene Associates purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Charles Eugene Hobby.*



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**Riccobene Associates** - July 18, 2019 at 03:09 PM

ES

“ *We are so sorry to hear about the loss of our friend Gene, our prayers are with the family. Eddie Spurling and Rex White*

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**Eddie Spurling** - July 18, 2019 at 03:01 PM

BB

“ *Gene was an American Hero and one of Our Racing Heroes. He was a great ambassador for the early pioneers of racing and was always helping out with any racing event. Gene touched a lot of people in the racing community and everyone thought a lot of him. Gene will be dearly missed, I was proud to call him a friend and always looked forward to talking to him. Bill & Sheila Blair*

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**Bill & Sheila Blair** - July 18, 2019 at 02:37 PM

KS

“ 5 files added to the album Gene Hobby - Racing Legend



Kenneth Smithey - July 18, 2019 at 12:34 PM

MA

“ As many who knew Gene, already know, he always had a great story to tell you. Whether it was something from his Marine Corps boot camp days, or his history with NASCAR, his stories always put a smile on your face, I will miss that the most. But I'm so thankful that I had a chance to spend some time with Gene one more time at a race track just a few days ago. It was so great to see his face "light up" when someone asked for his autograph or talked to him about racing days gone by. My favorite memory is when I asked Gene if he had any advice for current NASCAR driver Timmy Hill, prior to Timmy racing our LeithCars Toyota at the ROVAL in Charlotte last year. over the noise of the race car engines all around us, Gene leaned-in to Timmy so he could hear a bit of wisdom, Gene told Timmy, "you've gotta' find your line, and FOCUS!" I'm smiling right now as I write this. Thank you Gene.



MARK ARSEN - July 18, 2019 at 12:04 PM

MA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**MARK ARSEN** - July 18, 2019 at 11:46 AM

TG

“ The Historic Speedway Group purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Charles Eugene Hobby.



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**The Historic Speedway Group** - July 18, 2019 at 08:20 AM