



Harry "Gene" Perry

September 1, 1944 - October 10, 2016

Harry Eugene "Gene" Perry, 72, of Muskogee, Oklahoma passed away Monday, October 10, 2016. He was born September 1, 1944 in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma to Harry Holman Perry and Clara Bell (Roberts) Perry. He grew up in the Coweta and Broken Arrow areas where attended public schools and graduated from Coweta High School. Right after high school, Gene he proudly became a member of the United States Air Force serving from 1962 to 1967. He later joined the United States Army National Guard from 1974 to 2004 from which he received an Honorable discharge.

While in the Air Force, Gene was transferred to California where he resided for approximately 40 years and then moved to Muskogee, Oklahoma to be close to some of his family. He decided to purchase a few cows, and anybody that knew Gene, would know right away how important his cows were to him. Even in his last days, he was asking "Did somebody feed the cows?"

Gene was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Clara Perry; and his sister, Lorraina Witcher.

Gene is survived by his son, Michael Perry and wife Heather of Lodi, CA; his daughter, Michelle Larsen and husband Scott of Muskogee, OK; grandchildren, Dominique Perry and Dalton Perry of Lodi, CA, Sidney Perry Welcher, Susan Welcher, and Stephanie Berens; and great granddaughter, Emily, all of CA; sisters, Clara Mae Mashburn, Tara Gillean and husband Dale, Brenda Fisher and Clifton, all of Muskogee, Deanna Cox of Fulton, OH,

Winnie Moffett and Joe of Marble City, OK; brothers, John Perry and wife Sharon of Muskogee, OK, Jimmie Perry and wife Gayla of Bartlesville, OK; along with several nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, special friends, George Able, Eva White, Dr. D I Wilkinson, and Edna Foster; along with other family member and friends.

The family requests memorials to be made to the Masonic Building Association, PO Box 1037, Muskogee, OK, 74402-1037 or the Bedouin Temple Transportation Fund, PO Box 1667, Muskogee, OK, 74402-1667. A memorial service honoring Gene's life will be at 10:00 a.m., Monday, October 17, 2016 at the Fort Gibson National Cemetery with Military Honors being presented. Honorary pallbearers will be Dale Gillean, Dalton Perry, Michael Perry, George Able, Scott Larsen, and D.I. Wilkinson.

Cemetery Details

Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 National Cemetery Rd.
Fort Gibson, OK

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

Fort Gibson National Cemetery
1423 National Cemetery Rd.
Fort Gibson, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Harry "Gene" Perry*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *CW4 Perry was one of the "Good" ones. I remember that if you ever had a question that you didn't have the answer to you went to "Mr. Perry". I worked with Mr. Perry on occasion and could always count on him for the correct answer to a troublesome question. He is now busy answering questions in Heaven. RIP my old friend.*

SFC Mike Douglas (CA ARNG) (Ret.)

Michael C. Douglas - October 21, 2016 at 05:54 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of Chief Perry's passing. He was my favorite boss. He always looked out for the civilians that worked for him as well as the military members. I remember that he would call Jo Galvez and I into his office, close the door and have talks with us about things that were going on or just things in general. He would always tell people that if they had already talked with either of us, that we knew what we were talking about. He will be deeply missed..... Linda and Gary Abner*

Linda and Gary Abner - October 19, 2016 at 07:54 PM



“ *RIP old and crusty. You were one of the good ones always concerned with Soldier care and commensurate personnel subject matter expert as well as having a contagious smile and laugh. Sincerest condolences to family and friends. Old Soldiers never die they just fade away.*



Thomas Graham - October 19, 2016 at 01:36 PM

BL

“ *Bobbi LeBallister lit a candle in memory of Harry "Gene" Perry*



Bobbi LeBallister - October 18, 2016 at 07:44 PM

SW

“ *My deepest condolences to the Harry E. Perry family. Chief touched the lives of so many in the California National Guard. He was highly sought out for his knowledge, mentorship, counsel, and leadership and he definitely gave it to you straight! I was very fortunate to have Mr. Perry take me under his wings shortly after I joined. He hired me for my first full time job in the early 90s and recommended that I become a warrant officer in 1999. He sure did teach me what hard work was! He was like a father to me in many ways and a very dear friend. I am forever thankful for the time and memories I had with him; I will miss him tremendously. Rest In Peace Chief. Till we meet again.*

Sheila Walker - October 18, 2016 at 03:54 PM

MW

“ Mendi Wall lit a candle in memory of Harry "Gene" Perry



Mendi Wall - October 17, 2016 at 08:02 PM

CG

“ My deepest condolences to the family. We were so motivated by a simple saying the Chief would state to us often, "work smarter not harder". What that meant to me is that he saw our potential and expected more of us. His calm and caring demeanor was what I remembered the most and how he cared for us as individuals. I thank you Chief for investing time and wisdom in me. Mission is complete time for some well deserved R&R.
Christopher Giasson (RET) ARMY

Christopher Giasson - October 17, 2016 at 03:34 PM



“ My sympathy to the family. I had the pleasure and honor of knowing Chief Perry at OTAG. A great leader & mentor that blazed quite a trail for all of us soldiers. He has departed from this earth, but he is still alive in our hearts and minds. God bless Mr. Perry and may he rest in peace.



Diane Peacock - October 17, 2016 at 01:07 PM

ER

“ Chief Harry E. Perry will always hold a special place within my heart, Mr. Perry was in my wedding he was like a father to me. I looked forward to some weekends going to his home helping him with cows/horses and cutting down trees for firewood learning how to care for a ranch believe me he certainly new how to be a cowboy. Chief Perry was my supervisor/mentor for more than 10 years, I thank god for his leadership, friendship he taught me how to: be, know and do. I was his NCOIC in the Officer Personnel Section he was a walking regulation for the entire Army he knew what it took to take care of all soldiers whether you were an Enlisted or Officer that's what I loved about him. CW5 Perry will be deeply missed by a lot of soldiers. Mr. Perry may you Rest In Peace now don't worry about the animals getting feed or taking care of a soldier just rest and I know that I will see you again in heaven. Thank You for a job well done. MSG Elizabeth Randles Retired

elizabeth randles - October 16, 2016 at 10:46 PM

DB

“ Harry was a great guy, a real leader with a great sense of humor and a ready smile. He was my 1st Sergeant at B Co, 149 Armor when I joined the Guard. Saw him again as a CWO4 at OTAG when I was retiring. My thoughts and best wishes are with you.

Very sincerely,
Dan Bronson

Dan Bronson - October 15, 2016 at 09:21 PM

SS

“ Chief Perry made things happen--the right way. Blessed to have observed his many good works, God knows how the greatness of his contributions. Rest in Peace Chief

Stan Zezotarski

Stan Zezotarski, Sr. - October 15, 2016 at 09:04 PM



“ I will be forever grateful that you saw something in me and mentored me. You were a great man. I will always cherish the time I was blessed to share with you.

Frannie Brennan - October 15, 2016 at 07:37 PM

KD

“ Can't remember the year but Harry and I go way back to the 70's when he came to me looking for a job at the Gilroy Armory where I worked as the senior AST. He was hired as the Supply AST at Troop E 170th Armd Cav in Gilroy, CA. with prior service in the Air Force, he became our unit supply sergeant in grade E5. Assigned to the 49th Inf Bde, Alameda, we were under the operational control of HQ 1-149th Armor, which took him in after the reorganization that retired the 170th Armd Cav, changing it to CSC 2-159th Infantry (Mech). He was a great friend to both my wife (Pam) and I, teaching us how to raise a steer and live like country bumpkins. As a result of the reorganization, Harry ended up with Co B 149th Armor, Freedom, CA. where over time achieved the rank of 1SG and later became the Command Sergeant Major of the 149th Armor Battalion. As fate would have it, we reunited in our technician roles at 3d Bde 40th Inf Div (M), in San Jose, CA., where Harry became the Brigade Command Sergeant Major, still working as an AST. But Harry wanted more and so he soon transferred to Sacramento to work at the Office of the Adjutant General. in officer personnel and at the same time converted his rank to Warrant Officer Two. After that we lost touch with one another, except an occasional crossing of administrative work at Camp Roberts during mobilization exercises. He was a great friend and I know many will miss him as I do. God Bless
you Harry.

Ken & Pam Davis

Kenneth Davis - October 15, 2016 at 02:37 PM



“ My deepest condolences to your loss. Gene was a great friend, a wonderful mentor and a trusted supporter. He approached every task with enthusiasm and professionalism, and while always being respectful, never lost sight of what was right and how to take care of those entrusted to him. I enjoyed his many memories of life on the farm growing up and the way his eyes would light up anytime PBR was on. He added much to every team he was a member of. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Fritz Krauss

W Fritz Krauss - October 15, 2016 at 01:39 PM



“ Chief Perry, was a great friend and Boss, he cared a great deal about all the soldiers in the California Army National Guard. He was always there if you needed help with anything, always willing to give a lending hand. All the years that we worked together, I still remember when we use to travel that he always called me lead foot and banty hen, because I would never back down from anything that I was right about. You will be missed Chief, by all your friends and family. God Bless and rest in peace chief.....



SFC Patty Carlon

Patty Carlon - October 15, 2016 at 11:38 AM

LI

“ Gene gave so much of himself, pushing himself mercilessly to take care of soldiers and keep the system working in spite of itself. Equally adept at cerebral work and hard manual labor, he was a country boy, through and through. We are both 1944 'war babies' and I have to say he earned every wrinkle of life mileage honorably. We would both often leave the building long after quitting time to the empty parking lot. When I was approaching 55 and had a job already secured to fly EMS, Gene offered me the option of taking a WO appointment and it was approved! Life changing and a much appreciated extra chapter in my military career. Gene was the 'Wizard' behind the curtain keeping up with all the regulations and with the knowledge and confidence of necessary approval authority to obtain the approval to exceptions to regulations with sufficient justification. No one held a higher standard for himself or pushed himself harder. Gene has preceded us by a bit to that other shore, but our collective memories of him burn brightly and we will join him again one day. Than you, Gene and family for all your time, love and personal sacrifices for all of us.

LTC (Ret) Stephen Isle - October 15, 2016 at 10:09 AM

BZ

“ Chief Perry was always someone I'd try to find as I was a kid, walking around OTAG in Sacramento. Funny man! He will be missed.

Brianne (Banowetz) Zanardelli - October 15, 2016 at 12:57 AM

GE

“ Gene was a great soldier, the ultimate professional personnelist, and a wonderful man. He forgot more about managing officers' careers than most of us ever learned. He made significant and lasting contributions to the California Army National Guard. Rest In Peace, Chief.

Grace Efinboro - October 14, 2016 at 11:54 PM

BF

“ I had the opportunity to be Chief Perry's boss running Officer Personnel at the State Hq's for the Army NG in CA...at least when I started work there, I thought I was the boss. It wasn't long before I learned differently because Chief would come in to have a cup of coffee and see how the day was going...and pretty soon he would be talking about something that was going on in the shop and he would pretty much have that same look, like he does in the picture above. Anyone who knew him, knew that look, it was a serious look but then you realized that he was smiling behind that look, he knew something that he was dying to share with you but was waiting for you to "stumble upon" that which he wanted to teach you. So many lessons I learned from a simple cup of coffee and time together with the Chief. He had the ability to look into the future and question you to see if you really wanted to do something the way you had planned...or did you want to think about it and maybe pick another route to accomplish what you wanted. He always made sure that his opinion was known...well sometimes I had to twist his arm to get him to tell me what he thought (at least, that is what he made me feel like I was doing). He always, always, always looked out for the troops; always made sure I knew the facts surrounding a situation; always caused me to question if we were doing the right thing...and he always did those things with that half smile half serious face...and the smile would get bigger as time went on and I learned more about what my job entailed. I consider it a blessing just to have known the man and I consider it an honor to have been able to learn from him by watching him in action every day, come rain or shine, Chief could always be counted on.

Rest in Peace, my brother, fellow soldier, friend and teacher. My best wishes and condolences to Chief's extended family spread across this country of ours. Wish I could be there to say goodbye, but somehow, I think he knows what I feel about his departure and that I hope he will have a cup of coffee ready for me when I finally join him someday. God Bless and thanks for everything, Chief!
COL Bill Fortier, US Army, Retired

Bill Fortier - October 14, 2016 at 11:45 PM



“ *Dominic DeNiro I had a conversation with the higher power this morning, just to let him know that he has one of the best (CW5 Perry) of the best now within his kingdom. I also let him know that Harry gave so many people his love, wisdom and selfless service, and he never wanted anything in return. His love for mankind, Country and family was his number one priority throughout his life. I salute you my friend!*

Dominic DeNiro - October 14, 2016 at 10:47 PM

JD

“ *A great man met him up at the CAARNG headquarters when ever I had to go up there. A great Soldier and friend. My condolences to his family.*

MSG (R) Juan Dejesus

Juan dejesus - October 14, 2016 at 10:41 PM

DD

“ *Dominic DeNiro I had a conversation with the higher power this morning, just to let him know that he has one of the best (CW5 Perry) of the best now within his kingdom. I also let him know that Harry gave so many people his love, wisdom and selfless service, and he never wanted anything in return. His love for mankind, Country and family was his number one priority throughout his life. I salute you my friend!*

Dominic DeNiro - October 14, 2016 at 10:37 PM

M(

“ I did not get to finish my thoughts. We always were on advanced parties, being soldiers first, friends second and partners always. my friend will be missed by not only me, but those who served with him, were friends. go with God Harry, but be sure to show him that riser-strike strike strike.

John "pinlpanther"

MSG John Garrett (USA/RET) - October 14, 2016 at 09:36 PM

CR

“ I had the pleasure of knowing and serving with Harry for over 40 years. He was a great friend and a great soldier. Pat and I send our sincerest condolences to his family.

We are pleased that he finally got to do and enjoy what he always wanted, work the land and raise cattle. May he rest in peace.

Carlos Ramirez Col. (Ret.)

Carlos Ramirez - October 14, 2016 at 08:37 PM

SM

“ Gene, Will be greatly Missed. I had the Pleasure working with him as an AGR assigned to 149th Armor, and when he was at Bridge and also at OTAG. His Leadership and Guidance will be greatly missed. RIP Gene

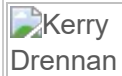


SFC Michael McIntosh, Retired

"MEN AND STEEL"

"REMEMBER THE ROAD TO BATAAN"

SFC (RET) Michael McIntosh - October 14, 2016 at 08:22 PM



“ Remember him well, My Mom's favorite person in the Guard..Harry will be missed.

SFC(ret) Kerry Drennan

Kerry Drennan - October 14, 2016 at 08:14 PM

A grey square profile picture with the letters 'DB' in white.

“ Harry was a great person. Rest In Peace. Dave Brock Major Armor retired

dave brock - October 14, 2016 at 07:23 PM



“ Mr. Perry, you were an amazing man to be around and very funny. Your smile and humor brightened any day! You are missed by many which reflects the lives you have touched! I am honored and proud to have served with him! Good speed and may you lead from the heavens!

Tyson Barth - October 14, 2016 at 07:02 PM

TH


“ I knew CSM Perry as one the absolute best during a time of greatness in the 3/40th. One can never forget his wry smile and his down home humor. My father, a brother CSM, thought so very highly of "Gene". Later at OTAG, he became the "go to guy" for everything regarding Officer Personnel. Many career officers owe much to this man.

Harry will be missed by all who knew and served with him.

My sympathies to the family.

Tim Hodgson

tim hodgson - October 14, 2016 at 06:21 PM

 Mary Lopez

“ Chief Perry was/is my all time favorite supervisor. His way with the General's is something to be admired. A man with a vast amount of knowledge and experience. A man who will be very much missed, not only by his family but his military family too. Rest in Peace Sir. My sincere condolences to your family.

*SFC Mary K. Lopez
CAARNG*

Mary Lopez - October 14, 2016 at 05:56 PM

JR

“ I will always remember Harry as the Command Sergeant Major of the 149 Armor. He cared for his troops and was respected by all.

Jeffrey A Mc Grath LTC retired - October 14, 2016 at 05:26 PM

BS

“ *Gene was a great friend and soldier, I will always treasure the memories that we shared in the California Army National Guard!*

1SG Bernie Salgado, Retired

Bernie Salgado - October 14, 2016 at 05:16 PM



“ *Never met a better man! Taught me so much over the years. He will be missed.*

"Sum Buck"

Scott Manocchio - October 14, 2016 at 05:15 PM

SB

“ *So sorry for your loss. We had a wonderful working relationship in the CA Guard. I have many wonderful memories. I smile just remembering. May he rest in peace.*

SFC (R) Michele Benson

SFC (R) Michele Benson - October 14, 2016 at 05:02 PM

JB

So sorry to hear about Chief Perry passing. It was a pleasure working with and for him. As a young Warrant Officer he taught me a lot. He will be truely missed.

CW4 (Ret) Jim Bonhote

jim Bonhote - October 15, 2016 at 09:24 PM

AW

“ Gene had to be one of the most honorable men I have ever known. I'll miss his smile, his laugh, the toothpick in the corner of his mouth (no matter what). He was a great boss and Warrant Officer.

I'll miss ya, Gene.

Micky Wartena

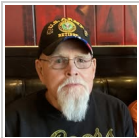
MSG, US Army Retired

Arnold Micky Wartena - October 14, 2016 at 03:38 PM

 Cheryl Costamagna

“ Mr. Perry was a Great example of a Soldier and a Leader. His care and concern for Soldiers was matched by few. While never working for him directly, I consider him a Mentor and teacher. Rest in Piece Chief.....God Bless. Cheryl Costamagna, National Guard Retired.

Cheryl Costamagna - October 14, 2016 at 03:37 PM



“ My long time friend of over 30 years, and boss is gone. He was a great man, and leader. We will all miss him so very much. God Bless His Soul.

Fred Neeleman, US Army Retired

Fred Neeleman - October 14, 2016 at 02:58 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Harry "Gene" Perry.



October 13, 2016 at 11:29 PM



“ *Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of Harry "Gene" Perry.*



October 13, 2016 at 06:23 PM



“ *Gene was a great neighbor and friend who touched so many. He was a hardworking man who would always go the extra mile for a friend and when he did a task, it wasn't over until he was 150% satisfied. We remember when we had to live in a hotel due to remediation taking place at our house. He watched over the house for us and ended up rebuilding our side yard fence in the heat of the summer after working a full day because it needed to be done. He was a special person who we will always remember and who will be sadly missed by all whose lives he touched.*
Sue and Joe Brown

Joe Brown - October 11, 2016 at 11:14 PM



“ *RIP Cowboy.*

Joe Brown - October 11, 2016 at 11:01 PM

CL

This was the AST SSG who enlisted me in Co B, 1 Bn. 149th AR in 1979 as a returning RVN SGT. I was recently graduated with a BA from UCSC and a newly appointed SCSO Deputy Sheriff. He got me a promotion to SSG then encouraged me to attend CMA. I got my commission. We spent several years having a ball in Bravo Co. He moved on to CSM of the 1st Bn/149th then 3rd Bde/40 ID. On to OTAG for his warrant but always accessible to all of us. One of the best mentors I ever was privileged to have. May God hold him in His care and comfort his family.

COL Richard Loesch, USA (Ret)

COL (Ret) Richard Loesch - October 14, 2016 at 11:46 PM

JG

My sincere condolences to Chief Perry's family. I was so very sorry to hear of his passing. He was such a wonderful boss. I always loved that he cared so much about the soldiers and us civilians, too. He always treated us with respect and kindness. I've missed that accent and smile of his. God bless him and his family always.

Jo Galvez - October 20, 2016 at 10:41 AM

SM

My Brother Mason, Mentor, friend & a true soldiers solder. We talked on your birthday you said you were fine, just weak. I should have known better than to think you'd complain. Thank you Chief for the wisdom, saving my ass & the friendship. I salute you, on behalf of the CA National Guard and a grateful Nation. SGM McAdams

SGM McAdams - November 14, 2016 at 09:01 AM