THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK
MARYLAND
1 West Potomac Street · Brunswick, Maryland 21716 · (301) 834-7500

Distinguished Citizen biography for:

Eugene Harrison "Gene" Green

1928-2022

Mary Lou Green

b. 1941

Honored as Distinguished Citizens in 2026



Gene Green was born April 19, 1928, in Lovettsville, VA. He had two brothers (one of whom died in infancy) and four sisters. They lived on a farm and his father worked on the railroad in the signal department. When Gene's father retired from farming, he and his family moved into the former tollhouse on the Virginia side of the bridge. Gene left high school after the 11th grade and went to work for the railroad. He was exempt from the draft because of a baseball injury, a broken leg requiring a metal plate. Gene continued living with his mother until he married Mary Lou in 1966.

Mary Lou Jenkins was born July 29, 1941, in Charles Town, WV. Her father raised Hereford beef cattle on their farm near Uvilla, WV, four miles from Shepherdstown). She has one sister. Mary Lou "never missed a single day of school," and was active in cheerleading, band (French horn and bells), and "just about everything." She graduated from Shepherdstown High School in 1959 and went right to work as a clerk for GAC Finance. The following year, she moved to Harper's Ferry, then three years later to Maugansville, MD, and then to Rosemont.

While working at the concession stand of the Shenandoah Downs Race Track, Mary Lou was introduced to Gene. After a year of courtship, Gene and Mary Lou got married. They would have two children, Jeanne and Bryan, in addition to Mary Lou's two daughters from a previous marriage, Mary Beth and Pam.

Gene continued working for the railroad in the car shop for a total of 45 years. For 21 of those years, he was Chairman of Local 125, Brotherhood of Railroad Carmen, and concurrently served for 22 years on the Executive Board of the regional union organization. He knew the rule book in and out, and he helped many railroaders and their families to obtain benefits that they weren't even aware of. His meticulous records are still in the possession of his daughter.

Gene also became deeply involved in baseball, sometimes coaching and/or managing Little League and Babe Ruth teams simultaneously. A ball player in his youth, he was manager, coach, and umpire as an adult. Just as he knew the rules of his railroad union, he knew the rules of baseball. Anyone who tried to argue with him came out as the loser.

He was loved by his teams, though. On one occasion, his peers dismissed him because he took a pitcher out of the game who refused to be disciplined after "flinging his batting hat on the ground." But the ballplayers supported their manager's decision and said they would refuse to continue playing unless Gene was reinstated. They prevailed.

Gene's teams did well, too. He was manager of the Little League Allstar team that took the District 2 championship in 1961. He was also manager of the Babe Ruth Marva All Stars when they took the state title in 1967 and 1968, and coach when they took the state title in 1975. In addition to coaching and managing Little League and Babe Ruth teams, Gene also coached the American Legion Post 96 baseball team and umpired for the Maryland State League.

Gene did not manage or coach after his son Bryan began playing in 1977, but that did not stop him from supporting local baseball. In 1983, he and Mary Lou stepped up to sponsor the 13-year-old MARVA team when the original sponsor backed out. They even ran the concession stand and all the proceeds made that year were donated to Wendy Conner, who was battling cancer at the time.

Gene also served one term on the Rosemont Board of Commissioners.

Mary Lou was as active in the community as her husband. When Gene was furloughed, as often happened with railroaders, she became a "Ding Dong" lady, selling Avon products to help the family income. From 1976-1979, she was employed by the Commission on Aging, providing daily meals to senior citizens at the elementary school under the Food and Friends program. From 1980 to 1987, she was the coordinator of Brunswick's Senior Citizen Center, organizing bus trips and a successful monthly dinner-dance event.

In 1987, Mary Lou went to work for the Circuit Court of Frederick County and was appointed Jury Clerk in 1999, serving in that position until she retired in 2010. From 2002 to 2023, she was on the County Board of Elections, for 12 of those years as president of the board (and vice president the other years).

In addition to supporting her husband in his baseball endeavors, Mary Lou was extremely involved with the Brunswick Midget Football League, serving as a member of the Board of Directors and working the concession stand at home games (her son Bryan played football in addition to baseball). She also coached the cheerleaders (daughter Jeanne was a cheerleader) and was a BHS Band Booster member.

Mary Lou was also an active Frederick Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Member for 25 years, volunteering in various areas at FMH.

Mary Lou and Gene spent many years at The Great Frederick Fair working in Guest Relations, which Mary Lou continues to do each September, helping visitors who needed direction or had questions. Both also helped in the Republican tent at the fair. The Greens were members of the Petersville Luther Chapel, where Mary Lou served on the Church Council and sang in the choir.

Gene suffered a massive stroke in 2016. While convalescing, he fell and broke his hip. He spent the next six years in Citizens Nursing Home where Mary Lou visited him every day. He died in 2022, and Mary Lou moved to Williamsport to be near her family there.

Gene will be remembered for his vegetable garden. Every summer, he had a large display of vegetables on a stand at the corner of the Greens' property at Rosemont Drive and Petersville Road. The stand was unattended because customers were trusted with the honor system. That is the kind of man that Gene Green was.

The Mayor and Council and the Brunswick History Commission are proud to honor Mary Lou and Gene Green as Distinguished Citizens of Brunswick, Maryland.