



## IN MEMORY OF GENE DUNCAN

*AUGUST 18, 1956 - NOVEMBER 22, 2022*

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Cpt. Truman Eugene “Gene” Duncan passed on to his final adventure on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, mother, two sisters, son, two grandsons, and his dog. Gene was a kind and selfless man, whose contributions to the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida will not be forgotten.

Originally from Kentucky, Gene graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Geology from Morehead State University and a Master of Science in Geology from Eastern Kentucky University, before being commissioned in the U.S. Army and credentialed as a Counter-Intelligence and Human Intelligence Officer. He graduated Basic and Advanced Military Intelligence School and the Army’s Helicopter Flight School. Gene first entered the Tribe’s employ in August of 1988, after a career in the U.S. Army’s 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, Battalion S-2 and the 11<sup>th</sup> Aviation Group, VII Corps.

Gene first began working in the Tribe’s Real Estate Services (now the Land Resources Department) and was passionate about geology and hydrology, motorcycles, small arms, and the protection of the Everglades ecosystem. In 2008, while working for the Tribe, Gene also received a commission as a Merchant Marine Officer. Observing the poor water quality on the reservation, Gene advocated for the creation of the Tribe’s Water Resources Department and became the inaugural Director of the same.

As the Tribe’s first Water Resources Director, Gene successfully advocated for Tribal control of water quality regulation on Miccosukee lands and helped author the comprehensive Miccosukee Environmental Protection Code. He acted as the Tribe’s liaison to state and federal environmental agencies. In that capacity, Gene served on many advisory committees including the Florida Water Resources Advisory Committee and the federal Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and Working Group and testified in state and federal court as an expert witness for many environmental lawsuits.

Gene was known for never doing anything halfway, and always taking the time to mentor those around him and share his knowledge. Whether responding to the aftermath of a hurricane or wishing an employee a happy birthday, Gene would be sure to check in on his coworkers. In the office and out, he was always the Director. His life will be remembered by the Tribe and his coworkers as a monument to servant leadership, Tribal sovereignty, and the protection of the Everglades.