



# Eugene M. Daniels

FEB 5, 1950 - APR 12, 2022



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## Eugene M. Daniels

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**E**ugene “Gene” M. Daniels, 72, of Tarpon Springs, FL passed away Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at Mease Countryside Hospital in Safety Harbor, FL. Gene was born in New Bern, NC to Tate and Peggy (Shoals) Daniels who preceded him in death. Gene is survived by his husband of 27 years, Joey Christopher Robinson. He was a remarkable designer, mentor, entrepreneur, and friend.

Gene was probably one of Tennessee’s most recognized contract interior designers – having practiced mainly in Knoxville and Nashville. He studied at the University of Tennessee and was active in the Clarence Brown Theatre. Gene created his own studio business, Counterpoint, in Knoxville and then became a principal in Design Collective Incorporated in Nashville. Later, Gene began a second career by creating Space Strategies, Inc and representing SMED office systems products and DIRTT Environmental Systems in primarily the Southeast and Caribbean. His clients represented a diverse portfolio including media, music, financial, manufacturing, legal, retail, healthcare and corporate.

He was always willing to give his time to mentor younger designers in their careers and worked collaboratively as a team member with architects and designers all over the US. Gene also made time to assist in promoting the profession of contract interior design on both state and national levels and by serving as National President of the Institute of Business Designers (IBD) from 1983-1986. He served on the IBD National Board for many years, was named a Fellow of IIDA and was a spokesman at national conferences across the country.

Gene had a passion for cooking, food, travel and mini-schnauzers. He and Chris spent wonderful vacations in the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Mexico. His flair for entertaining – as shown by his orchestration of the IBD “Midnight Affair” for several years in Chicago – was creative and a delight. His sense of humor was loved by all. A site has been set up to share any personal memories you may have at:



## Obituary

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<https://www.mossfeaster.com/obituaries/Eugene-Daniels-2/#!/Obituary>

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to :

<https://donate.rescueme.org/schnauzer> .

We have lost a magical, sincere, loving friend.



## Tribute Wall

**Eugene M. Daniels**

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**Lisa Norman** posted:

I am just discovering that dear Gene has left the planet. I knew him both in the theater world and in the design world. The first time I saw him perform onstage I thought, "Wow, this guy is a star!" Through these many years, I still mourn the theater world's loss that his calling was not, ultimately, performance. With a malleable face and impeccable timing, Gene could hold an audience in his graceful palm. He hired me (an unemployed recent theater grad) to work at Counterpoint in Knoxville in the office. I was able to observe his design talent at close range and it made a life-long impression. What a brilliant, creative mind! All his projects had the Gene Daniels aesthetic--you just knew it was his. Gorgeous, playful, welcoming. Just like him. I'm so sorry our paths did not cross again in these many years. I've thought of him (and spoken of him) often.

May 17 at 9:25 PM



**Clara M. Smith** lit a candle in honor of Eugene.

Clara Smith lit a candle in memory of Eugene Daniels

December 21 at 6:44 AM



**Clara M. Smith** posted:

Gene will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues in the Interior Design Profession which includes myself knowing him for over 40 years. Gene and I had the privilege of working together as IBD National officers, business partners of Counterpoint and Compendium in Nashville, TN., and continued as friends taking care of his schnauzers when he traveled out of town. Although he and Chris moved to Florida, we still kept in touch. Gene was talented Designer, innovator and a great host as most can attest. Your legacy will be forever remembered. God speed my friend!

December 21 at 6:43 AM



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TV

**Tom Voigt** posted:

Gene! You left the party too early. That's not like you! It won't be the same without you. When I first met you, I assumed you were very focused on business tasks. You were always working on your iPad, propped up in front of you on the bar. In time I learned the work tasks were just a part of your browsing for the latest gadgets, newest fashions or hottest models. You had a keen eye for all of it. We spent a lot of time together over the years; mostly eating, drinking and teasing bartenders. You had a talent for making young men stammer. Attractive servers would often blush with your effusive appreciation of their unseen attributes. Joining you on a cruise proved that you could outshine even a boatload of gems. You left your mark on this planet and many of us. That sometimes-tough exterior was just a shield for your warmth, caring and generosity. You will be missed. Wherever you are I'm sure there's a glass of Chardonnay nearby and some witty banter. If the afterlife is a party, you'll be the belle of the ball and everyone will be laughing.

June 2 at 9:26 AM

SW

**Sandy Wooten** posted:

Sharing a trip with Gene and Chris to NAPA is one of my favorite memories. They are the best kind of folks to spend time with and it is a memory I will treasure forever.

May 1 at 1:13 PM

SD

**Steven Davidson** posted:

Gene was my friend and neighbor in Nashville many years ago. I will always remember his generosity, hospitality, and his wonderful sense of humor. I am so sad to learn of his passing. Steven Davidson Pompano Beach, FL

April 26 at 9:17 AM

JH

**John Hankins** posted:

I haven't seen Gene in many years but I'm very sure that if we had met again he wouldn't have changed a bit. He was a fun loving, kind, talented, lovable person. I know he will be missed.

April 21 at 7:12 AM



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**Jo Heinz** posted:

I was one of the many who CHERISHED Gene Daniels. From the first days of working with him on our Executive Committee of the Institute of Business Designers ( IBD ) I knew he was a talented and gifted individual. He brought energy, wisdom and valuable insight to our team. I am proud and grateful that I can say that I worked closely with him, that Gene was my friend, and I know that the world will miss Gene. Jo Heinz, Dallas Tx

April 20 at 12:35 PM



**Kathleen Blackman** posted:

Sharing the stage with Gene was thrilling, fun & reassuring. Sharing his friendship was even better!

April 19 at 9:49 PM



**Archie Worthan** posted:

I remember his many role at UT, among the most memorable was "Canterbury Tales," a true genius! Another great voice in heaven's choir! Such a kind and Gen soul!

April 19 at 11:07 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Eugene by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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