



Nathan "Coon" Cyril Menard

February 11, 1933 - September 16, 2020

Nathan "Coon" Cyril Menard

Rayne/Crowley, LA - Funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at a 11:00 am Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne for Nathan "Coon" Cyril Menard, 87, who died Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at his daughters home surrounded by his family in Maxie, LA.

Interment will be in the St. Joseph Cemetery #2 in Rayne, LA.

Rev. Brent Smith, Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rayne, LA will be the Celebrant of the Funeral Mass and will conduct the funeral services.

Nathan "Coon" Menard began playing house dances with his father at a very young age. In 1962, he formed his band, The Rayne Playboys. They had many recordings and were a popular band in the local dancehalls. An accordianist, vocalist, and songwriter, Nathan has performed with Adam Hebert, Lawrence Walker, The Balfa Brothers, Jay W. Pelsia, Bernard Thibodeaux, The Touchet Brothers, and Mitt Melancon, just to mention only a few of the many accomplished musicians. He was still entertaining in his later years with Gervis Matte and the Branch Playboys and performed many weekends at Prejean's Restaurant. One of Nathan's many proud moments was when his album, "The Cajun Swing", was inducted into the Smithsonian Institute of Cajun Music.

Nathan shared his love for Cajun music and its culture with many people throughout the United States by performing at many festivals and workshops where he helped many learn how to play the Cajun accordion. He also gave back to his early-day followers as he regularly performed in local guest homes.

During his lifetime, Nathan was honored with many awards and achievements. In 2000, he was inducted into the Rayne/Acadia Parish "Hall of Fame" and presented with a Signature Award for his outstanding contribution to our rich musical heritage. In 2016, he and his

band, The Rayne Playboys, were awarded by the CFMA with the “Tribute to Cajun Musicians” award. In 2017, Nathan was honored by the Cajun Culture Association for his many years of dedication to the preservation of his Cajun culture and music.

In addition to his career in music, Nathan was also very well-known through his many years of selling life insurance. He was employed by Security Industrial and Monumental Life Insurance companies for numerous years. Nathan visited and cared for his many clients on a daily basis which earned him many prestigious company awards.

Nathan was an avid gardener and provided his family and many friends with vegetables. People would travel from near and far to visit with him and get his famous freshly cut and cooked okra.

His humbleness, generous heart, warm smile, love for his family, and his love for preserving the heritage of Cajun music and culture, are some of the many things that will be greatly missed about Nathan.

Survivors include his three sons, Patrick Menard of Breaux Bridge, Bradley Menard and spouse Tina of Lafayette, Michael Abshire and spouse Carol of Tallahassee, FL, three daughters, Zona Menard Terro and spouse Vic of Indian Bayou, Carolyn Menard Adkins and spouse Tim of Maxie, Cindy Wiche and spouse Frank of Breaux Bridge, one step daughters, Debra G. Williams of Crowley, three brothers, Leray Menard of Carencro, Clayton Menard and spouse Dorothy of Sunset, James Menard of Cankton, seven children that look up to him as a father, JoAnn Simon, Susan and Randy Simon, Patricia Deville, Lynette Reed, Linda Robicheaux, Cynthia Johnson, twenty-one grandchildren, Benji Terro and spouse Kirsten, Dustin Terro and spouse Tiffany, Eric Terro and spouse Stephanie, Dylan Terro and spouse Jolie, Scott Adkins and spouse Laci, Hunter Adkins and spouse Victoria, Ty Adkins, Kenny Abshire and spouse Nikki, Marian Abshire, Jeremy Abshire and spouse Shantel, Barry Abshire, DJ Abshire and spouse Natalie, Jenny York and spouse Scott, Casey Abshire, Ann Johnson and spouse Katie, Blayne Abshire and spouse Angel, Katie Duke and spouse James, Grant Williams and spouse Leah, Cameron Williams and spouse Michaela, Kenny Abshire and spouse Megan, Mamie Abshire, thirty-one great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by the mother of his children, Anna Marie T. Menard, second wife, Betty Menard, three sons, Kenneth Abshire, David Abshire, Glenn Menard, father, Ursin Menard, mother, Dora Venable Menard, one brother, Leroy L. Menard, four sisters, Genevieve Menard, Vergie Martin, Verlance Menard, Rosanelle Menard, one grandson, Johathan Terro.

Pallbearers will be DJ Abshire, Barry Abshire, James Duke, Tim Adkins, Vic Terro, Bradley Menard, Ty Adkins, Hunter Adkins, Dustin Terro, Dylan Terro, Eric Terro, Kenny Abshire, Scott Adkins, Benji Terro, Jeremy Abshire, Blayne Abshire, Grant Williams, Cameron Williams.

A Rosary will be prayed Friday, September 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm in Gossen Funeral Home in Rayne LA.

The family requests that visitation be observed in Gossen Funeral Home in Rayne LA on Friday, September 18, 2020 from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm and on Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 8:00 am to 10:30 am.

The Menard family would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Robert Aertker, Lamb Hospice, nurse Courtney, Ashley, and Freda for their care and compassion they provide to our father during his illness.

Friends may view the obituary and guestbook online at www.gossenfuneralhome.net.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Gossen Funeral Home, Inc. of Rayne, LA, (337) 334-3141.

Gossen Funeral Home, Inc.

Events

SEP 18 **Visitation** 11:00AM - 09:00PM
Gossen Funeral Home Inc.
504 N. Polk Street, Rayne, LA, US, 70578

SEP 18 **Rosary** 06:30PM
Gossen Funeral Home Inc.
504 N. Polk Street, Rayne, LA, US, 70578

SEP 19 **Visitation** 08:00AM - 10:30AM
Gossen Funeral Home Inc.
504 N. Polk Street, Rayne, LA, US, 70578

SEP 19 **Mass** 11:00AM
St. Joseph Catholic Church
401 S. Adams Ave., Rayne, LA, US, 70578

SEP 19 **Cemetery**
St. Joseph Cemetery #2
400 East Betty Street, Rayne, LA, US

Comments



“ Sorry for your loss Pat. You and your family will be remembered in my prayers.
Mary Ann Morvant - Sept 21 at 10:24 P.M.

Mary Morvant - September 21, 2020 at 11:25 PM



“ Sorry for your loss. Mr. Nathan played in my Dad's band, Gurvais Matte and the Branch Playboys. I had the honor of playing music with him when I would sit in at Prejeans Restaurant with the band. We had many laughs together. What a great example he was to our Cajun Heritage, he will be missed.

Patrick Matte - September 18, 2020 at 11:17 AM



“ The staff and residents of Southwind Healthcare would like to give our deepest condolences on the loss of Mr. Nathan. We enjoyed our visits daily with him. Our dining room and staff will feel the loss of his presence. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends who morn with us.

Christie Ashby - September 18, 2020 at 10:32 AM



“ We thank you. We know he really enjoyed spending time with y'all. God bless you.

James - September 18, 2020 at 10:56 AM



“ Ron Myers lit a candle in memory of Nathan "Coon" Cyril Menard



Ron Myers - September 17, 2020 at 08:48 PM



“ Jody Guidry sent a virtual gift in memory of Nathan "Coon" Cyril Menard



Jody Guidry - September 17, 2020 at 05:43 PM



“ Jody Guidry lit a candle in memory of Nathan "Coon" Cyril Menard



Jody Guidry - September 17, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ Mr. Nathan was one a kind as you all can attest but as small girl living with her grandmother he always treated me like a grownup because he knew I was an adult in a child's body. Everywhere I saw him through the years we spoke French, insurance, family, and music. Recently I saw him at walmart and he remembered me and spoke of our visits with me as a child. He remembered me being friends with his kids. The one memory I remember is thinking what kind of man raises so many children - his, hers, and their has to be special . He exemplified the word "Father " a God send.. this he was..I for one offer you all prayers at this time. A great man will be missed.

Patricia Melancon Guidry - September 17, 2020 at 04:18 PM



“ RIP Nathan. I have this story I have to share with his family and friends. In '69 I replaced Nathan as a rep for Automotive Life Insurance. One day I was working the Mire area. I looked in the book for the address of the next client and Nathan had written down the address as such, "head east from Rayne on Mire hwy until you see brown cow". It was his note and reminder where he saw the brown cow. For me it was, do you realize how many brown cows there are on the Mire hwy? Any way because of him I have this story to tell. He was always a gentleman and a very talented person.

Ron Sonnier - September 17, 2020 at 03:22 PM



“ He played my mom and dads wedding dance many many years ago . My mom would tell us this over and over ! And then she heard him play at a nursing home and we had to hear it again . Js
Rip mr coon

vicky butler - September 17, 2020 at 02:36 PM



“ Rhonda Guidry lit a candle in memory of Nathan "Coon" Cyril Menard



Rhonda Guidry - September 17, 2020 at 02:02 PM



“ My condolences to the family of this wonderful man. He was always so kind to his clients when he sold insurance.

Anna Colligan - September 17, 2020 at 01:56 PM



“ may he rest in peace with god speed

baverly/sybil comeaux - September 20, 2020 at 11:04 AM