



Eric Lee Boyd

April 6, 1964 - July 2, 2017

Eric Lee Boyd, 53 of Flintstone, Georgia after a long and valiant battle against lymphoma was called home by his Lord and savior Jesus Christ on Sunday July 2, 2017. We rejoice in knowing that his pain and suffering has been replaced with joy and praise.

Eric was born on April 6, 1964 in Okinawa, Japan. Like most military children, Eric moved frequently. He lived in Memphis, TN, Norfolk, Va., and Brunswick, GA, before finally settling in Flintstone, Ga. He graduated from Chattanooga Valley High School in 1982. After a short time at Dalton Junior College, Eric decided to follow in his father's footsteps and went to work for Astec Industries as a service technician. His career at Astec allowed him to see every state and many countries around the world. He was still employed there until his death.

Eric professed his faith in Jesus Christ at the age of 14 and was a member of Chattanooga Valley Baptist Church for over 30 years. During the last year of his life he attended Middle Valley Church of God under Pastor Mitch McClure. Eric Boyd was a great man, father, husband, grandfather, uncle, brother, and cousin. He will forever be remembered for his infectious smile, his tremendous sense of humor, his kind heart, his willingness to help others, and a need for speed. Drag racing was more than a hobby to Eric, he loved it and excelled at it. He has been a track champion as well as an IHRA division champion.

Eric had a tremendous passion for his family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl Lee and Sharon Elizabeth Boyd. He is survived by his loving and

devoted wife Mary Ellen, his four children Amanda Boyd, Drew Boyd, Brandi(Doug) Gravitt, and Ashley Richardson, one brother Stacy(Christina), nephew Brennan Boyd(Kaitlyn), nieces Melanie Carter(Adam) and Meredith Boyd, as well as eight grandchildren, Caleb, Braxton, Austin, Maddox, Caden, Ariona, Allani, and Averie.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday July 7, 2017 in the Fort Oglethorpe Chapel and will be presided by Pastor Mitch McClure. Burial will follow in the Tennessee-Georgia Memorial Park. The family will receive friends after 5 p.m. on Wednesday, all day Thursday and prior to the service on Friday at the funeral home. Online guest book at www.wilsonfuneralhome.com. Arrangements by W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Homes, Fort Oglethorpe, GA.

Cemetery Details

Tennessee/Georgia Memorial Park

724 Hogan Rd.
Rossville, GA 30741
(706) 866-5533

Tribute Wall

MW

“ Prayers of strength for the family.. Love to you
Mary Ellen from the Class LFO Class of 84



Michelle Prater Walker - July 09, 2017 at 11:07 PM

MB

Thank you


Mary Ellen Boyd - July 18, 2017 at 09:25 AM

BI

“ Eric was a great guy. Have known him many
years through drag racing. Always had a
smile on his face! Our thoughts and prayers
are with his family.
Billy and Jan Italo



Billy Italo - July 06, 2017 at 09:34 PM


LibbyandPaul
McGaffic

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Eric will be missed. We always
enjoyed watching and hanging around when it was racing time.
We love you Eric and we will see you in glory. We have the promise
of being with you in eternity.
The McGaffic Family
Paul, Libby, Webb and Timmy.
R.I.P

LibbyandPaul McGaffic - July 06, 2017 at 04:22 PM

BW

“ So sorry for the loss of Eric. He was an inspiration and blessing. Your family will be in our prayers.
Anna Mae Lemons, Betty Walker, Arlie Delashmitt and family,
Middle Valley Church of God.

Betty L. Walker - July 06, 2017 at 08:27 AM

RW

“ My deepest condolences. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. -Renee Ware



Renee Ware - July 06, 2017 at 08:25 AM



“ May God hold you all in his arms and give you comfort. Eric was such an amazing man that made so many people happy Mary Ellen he is in Gods arms with the perfect body and no more pain praise Jesus for such a wonderful promise he gave to all that accepts him into their heart Eric's entire family were blessed to find such a great man that would do anything for you all. Love you all so much and as these days go by I pray for peace and comfort to help you get through this hard time.



Janiffer Steele - July 05, 2017 at 12:31 PM

MB

Thank you Jan, we love you too.

Mary Ellen Boyd - July 18, 2017 at 09:27 AM

LU

“ *Lucretia lit a candle in memory of Eric Lee Boyd*



Lucretia - July 05, 2017 at 11:12 AM

JW

“ *John Watson lit a candle in memory of Eric Lee Boyd*



John Watson - July 05, 2017 at 09:04 AM

MT

“ *Melodi York Aand Mike Tittle lit a candle in memory of Eric Lee Boyd*



Melodi york aand Mike Tittle - July 05, 2017 at 06:46 AM

MY

“ *Melodi York lit a candle in memory of Eric Lee Boyd*



Melodi york - July 05, 2017 at 06:10 AM

UG

“ *Uncle Gene lit a candle in memory of Eric Lee Boyd*



Uncle Gene - July 04, 2017 at 01:13 PM

DI

“ *Dianna lit a candle in memory of Eric Lee Boyd*



Dianna - July 04, 2017 at 01:12 PM

AJ

“ *Aunt Jenean lit a candle in memory of Eric Lee Boyd*



Aunt Jenean - July 04, 2017 at 01:11 PM

EG

“ You can learn a lot about someone by traveling to a race with them and observing the little things. In 2011 I had just gotten started in drag racing, and I hadn't known Eric for very long. However, I was comfortable enough in our friendship to ask him to travel down to a race in Montgomery, AL with me and help out for the weekend.

I learned along the drive that Eric loved his wife Mary Ellen very much (he told me the story of how they met), and his family. When we checked into the hotel and settled in for the night I learned that he was hard working...as he was "on-call" with his work to offer tech support to people in the field all night long. Being the considerate person he was, he would step out quietly, take care of business, and slip back in for a couple of hours of sleep. The next morning I learned that he loved breakfast just as much as I do, and that he was generous, as he paid for both of our meals....even though he was there to help me.

At the track I learned that Eric was very smart. In a short period of time, he taught me a lot about racing strategy, paying attention to your surroundings, and using your equipment to it's fullest potential. He was also an encourager...we were out gunned on this particular weekend trying to race in a class that was too fast for the car that I had, and I qualified dead last. In the first round I raced against the #1 qualifier where I promptly lost, and I remember him saying plain as day "keep your head up...that guy showed respect for what you're capable of doing...he was the #1 qualifier and still barely avoided red-lighting against you." Eric had a dry-wit and a wry sense of humor that I genuinely enjoyed being around...after our early exit from competition, we stuck around for a little bit to watch some pro-mods and after watching a "get-r-done" type team win their first round of racing (apparently in a very long time) they celebrated like they'd won the world championship...and he said "look at that bunch...they're still trying to figure out how they won, and they probably won't even figure it out...they're just happy to be here!" Classic.

I've since moved up North for work, and it had been a while since I'd seen Eric. But, he always kept up with the lows and highs of my racing and his comments and encouragement meant the world to me...because they came from somebody that I held in very high regard. I hope that this silly little racing story provides some insight into the kind of person Eric was, through the eyes of an everyday, ordinary friend who looked up to him.

Mary Ellen and family - I sincerely regret that I will not be able to attend Eric's viewing and funeral. I ask that you please accept my heart-felt sympathies during this difficult time, and that you take comfort in knowing that Eric has now finished the most important race of all with victory in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Rest in Peace Eric - until we race again

Respectfully,

EG (Eric Lee Gullett)

Eric Gullett - July 03, 2017 at 08:18 PM



Thank you for this beautiful post Eric. It really means a lot.

Mary Ellen Boyd - July 03, 2017 at 08:37 PM

JH

may GOD bless you and he will comfort you during this time prayers with family

joel hitchcox - July 04, 2017 at 09:54 AM

AJ

Mom (Aunt Jenean) sends her love and prayers to all of you. She wishes she could be there for the services and sadden because she isn't able to be. She will be thinking of everyone!

Aunt Jenean - July 04, 2017 at 01:22 PM

DI

So many wonderful memories with Eric and family. I got to see him race a few times and I loved the excitement and being so proud watching him. I am so glad we were able to visit with him and family last October. Eric give your Mom and Dad a big hug for me and let them know I love and miss them so very much! Have fun racing in the clouds with your Dad!!!

Dianna - July 04, 2017 at 01:28 PM

GB

“ *Our love, thoughts and prayers for Eric's family, for now and the days ahead...He was much like "family" to our family, as he was like another son to us, him being a long time neighbor and "best-of-pals" to my twin-sons, Nicky and Ricky Byrd...He and Nicky (particularly), were always up to some sort of speed and dare-devil tricks with their bicycles, motor-scooters, motorcycles and automobiles... "Evil-Knievel" ("wanna-be's"), for certain! :-) Prayed many, many prayers for their safety during their growing up! :-) Eric, will be missed, but we have the hope in our Lord, Jesus Christ, that one day we'll be reunited, see his beaming smiling face, and we'll forever be with our Lord throughout eternity! "Rest in peace", Eric"...We'll always love and miss you until that glorious day! Ok? :-) OK!!! The Byrd Family (George, Donna, Nicky and Ricky)*



George Byrd - July 03, 2017 at 07:02 PM

DM

“ *David and I would like to wish you and the Boyd family comfort and peace as you remember Eric. It has been a great joy working with Eric for the last 18 years. I will forever remember his wonderful sense of humor and his booming belly laugh. He will be greatly missed. We will continue to life you all up in prayer.*

David & Shelby Millard - July 03, 2017 at 03:39 PM

JG

“ Remember Eric as a young boy riding motor bikes with his brother Stacy and our son Jeff. He was always a sweet, fun loving boy! When his family lived in Brunswick, GA we would spend holidays together, either in Brunswick, GA or at our home in Orlando, FL. The Boyd boys have always held a special place in our hearts and our family will miss him.

Joan Garrett - July 03, 2017 at 02:57 PM