



Eric L. Heikes

June 24, 1964 - February 26, 2024

Eric L. Heikes, 59, of Petersburg, IL, passed away unexpectedly on February 26, 2024.

Eric was born June 24, 1964, to Leon and Carolyn (nee Fidler) Heikes at Graham Hospital in Canton, Illinois. He always described his childhood as “idealistic”, while growing up in Fairview, Illinois when a deep love of the outdoors was instilled in him during his time as a Boy Scout. He graduated from Spoon River Valley High School, Class of '83. He played for the football and wrestling teams while completing his Bachelor's degree at Illinois College. Eric married the love of his life, Sarah (nee Ridings) October 6, 1990, at Centenary United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Illinois. He and Sarah moved to Petersburg, Illinois where they raised their family and have stayed, long-term. He was a Retail Manager at Camping World where he truly enjoyed being. Some of Eric's favorite things included, but were not limited to hunting, beekeeping and passing that knowledge onto his son, fishing, doing anything outdoors while simultaneously being a part-time couch potato, “harassing” his wife, constantly joking, taking care and coddling the cats he claimed he didn't want in the first place, reading science fiction novels, but above all else, loving his family with a strong, but light-hearted love. He was always cracking jokes and making people laugh and this is one of the things that will stay with his family for the rest of their lives.

Eric is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Sarah Heikes; his children, Katherine Heikes and William Heikes; his cats, Sassy, Oreo, and Timon; his parents, Leon and Carolyn Heikes; siblings, Scott Heikes and Melinda Heikes-Seiler.

Eric was preceded in death by both sets of his grandparents.

A Memorial Visitation will be held Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until the time of Memorial Service at 11:30 a.m. at United Methodist Church of Petersburg located at 221 W. Jackson St, Petersburg, IL 62675. The Memorial Service will be held by Pastor John Vidakovich and Pastor Rick Pierce. Eric's final resting place will be at Fiatt Cemetery in Cuba, Illinois at a later date. Suggested Memorials could be made in Eric's name to the American Heart Association or to a charity of your choice. The woods where he loved to hunt on his family's property will always be a special place for his family to remember him and his memory.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, Illinois is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAR 2. 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Petersburg United Methodist Church
221 W. Jackson
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7689

Memorial Service

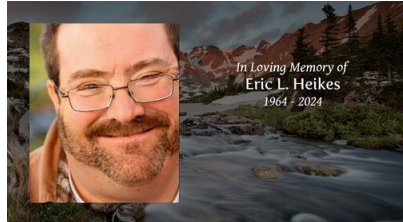
MAR 2. 11:30 AM (CT)

Petersburg United Methodist Church
221 W. Jackson
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7689

Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Eric L. Heikes



Hurley Funeral Home - March 02, 2024 at 10:22 AM

BW

“ I just found out that Eric has passed away. I am heart broken. He was a good man, a great boss, and covered for me many times when I got into trouble for speaking my mind back at rude customers when I worked for him at K's Merchandise Mart. He was easy going, a hard worker, and always looked out for his employees. IMO, the world is a poorer place without him. I will miss you Eric, my FRIEND.

Brice Wallace - May 04, 2024 at 11:42 AM

MS

“ I just don't have the words to express the anguish in my heart or the hole in my life that Eric's passing creates. I will think of you and miss you every day dear brother.

Melinda Seiler - March 18, 2024 at 05:05 PM

BF

“ I had the pleasure to take a class with Eric. My senior year I took Biology I (a freshman class) Eric set beside in Mrs Nelson’s class. He left a lasting impression on me, such that our 3 child was named after him. Brent Fisher

Brent Fisher - March 03, 2024 at 10:07 PM

D&

“ Debbie &. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric L. Heikes.

Debbie &. - March 01, 2024 at 10:25 AM

SH

“ From childhood memories to adulthood adventures, I am grateful for every moment spent with you. Miss you little brother.

Scott Heikes - February 29, 2024 at 07:40 PM

YI

“ Your co-workers at Ameren Illinois purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Eric L. Heikes.



Your co-workers at Ameren Illinois - February 29, 2024 at 03:30 PM

WB

“ Our sincere condolences to Eric's family.

Warren and Carol Baxter - February 29, 2024 at 02:37 PM

RH

“ Sarah and family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.
Chris and Rebecca Heisler

Rebecca Heisler - February 29, 2024 at 09:16 AM

LP

“ Lisa P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric L. Heikes.

Lisa P. - February 29, 2024 at 09:02 AM

LH

“ Larry Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory
of Eric Heikes



Larry and Mary Hundt - February 29, 2024 at 08:23 AM

LA

“ I really didn't know Eric, but I knew his grandfather Kenney and
grandmother Marguerite working with them at Graham Hospital.
Leon was always around and Eric comes from a fine family. my
thoughts and prayers are with him

Larry Avery - February 29, 2024 at 01:29 AM

LA

“ I really didn't know Eric but I knew his father and grandfather Kenny,
& Margaret Heikes, and my thoughts and prayers are with the
family.

Larry Avery - February 29, 2024 at 01:11 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eric L. Heikes.*



February 28, 2024 at 10:18 PM



“ *Carolyn, Leon and family: My sincerest sympathy is with you at the loss of your beloved son, husband and father. My prayers and Christian love are with you all. Jan Sams*

Jan Sams - February 28, 2024 at 09:45 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



greg gietl - February 28, 2024 at 09:09 PM

GG

“ I had the pleasure of managing with Eric at Gander Mtn. for several years. His gentle and caring approach to managing his employees were second to none. He always was asking how you were doing and your family. He always genuinely cared for others. One time I had the misfortune of rooming with him in Minnesota at a conference for Gander Mtn. He loved to eat and boy did we eat. So as the night approached for bed, the gas was flying in the room. We laughed all night. So, as I walked over to set the alarm for the night I bent over and left him a long parting shot. We cried in laughter. He said I didn't think I ever would have met my match, but, I did. He did beat me in snoring though. I will miss you my friend, our lunches, texts, and phone calls always brought me joy. The heavens gained a great man, it was just way to soon 😞

Greg Gietl - February 28, 2024 at 08:27 PM

BA

“ Will, I am so sorry to hear about your father. Prayers to you and your family.



Brian Abraham - February 28, 2024 at 03:37 PM

HT

“ Holly Thum sent a virtual gift in memory of Eric Heikes



Holly Thum - February 28, 2024 at 03:13 PM

CL

“ Charles L. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric L. Heikes.

Charles L. - February 28, 2024 at 02:18 PM

HT

“ Leon, Carolyn & Family's, So sorry for your loss. May God Bless your family during this difficult time. Sincerely, Joe & Holly Thum



Holly Thum - February 28, 2024 at 01:58 PM

WP

“ I got to know Eric from our time together at Gander Mountain. He was a great guy. He took the time to get to know the people he worked with on a personal level and really connected with those around him. I received a bear hug or two from him. I'm glad our paths crossed. I just wish I would have kept in touch better after I left G.M. To the family: You have my deepest condolences and sympathy. I can't imagine the pain.

Will Petersen - February 28, 2024 at 01:20 PM

RH

“ Fond memories of Legos, Monopoly, bike riding and so much more. Thinking of you all in this time of sorrow. Ronda (Newton) Hess...Fairview Neighbor "kid"

Ronda Hess - February 28, 2024 at 11:54 AM

DP

“ I had the privilege of working with and getting to know Eric at K’s Merchandise. He was loved by his employees because of his great demeanor with people. He was an outstanding leader and boss. He always had a positive attitude which allowed him to accompany things. It was my honor to have spent time with him. May he rest peacefully with his Lord and Savior. Don Porter

Donald Porter - February 28, 2024 at 10:23 AM

MM

“ Sarah, Katie and Will,
Paul and I are so very sorry to hear about Eric. He was such a very nice guy. Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers. 🙏❤️

Marilyn Montgomery - February 28, 2024 at 10:09 AM