



Eric George Brooks

June 21, 1965 - June 29, 2024

Eric George Brooks, 59, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, of Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood, passed away unexpectedly on June 29, 2024 in San Francisco, California.

Born in Alexandria, Virginia, Eric graduated from Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes, Delaware (near Rehoboth Beach) before earning his Bachelor's from the University of Illinois/Chicago and his Master's in Clinical Social Work from the Jane Addams School of Social Work. He has been a compassionate and trusted therapist at Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare for the past 15 years.

Beloved partner of 22 years to William R. Phillips and a faithful companion of their terrier Sarge.

Loving brother of Frances "Rainy" Oswald (nee Brown) and Larry (Daria Nelson) Brown; estranged brother of Gary Decker and Arthur "Leon" Brown (nee Garrett).

Eric was a dear uncle and friend to many of his nieces and nephews, including, Pamela Wright, Karen Heffner, Leslie "Ozz" Oswald, Kevin Oswald, Stephanie Marshall, Scott Brown, Candice Hruska, Summer Decker, Griffin Decker and Jonathan Clayborne.

He will also be deeply missed by his in-laws James Phillips and Michele (Jason) Winiarz and by their children Jamie and James Philips, Julia Atkinson, and William Winiarz.

In addition, Eric's many friends across the globe are grieving his passing.

He was preceded in death by parents Faye Allen Shimshick (nee Mitchell) and George Brooks.

A celebration of Eric's life is being held on Saturday, August 3. Doors open 1:30pm (service begins 2pm) at Rogers Park Presbyterian Church, 7059 N. Greenview Ave, Chicago, IL 60626. Following the service, friends and family will process on foot in a New Orleans-style funeral march from the church to the family residence. Please bring colorful umbrellas and joyful noisemaker (bongos, tambourine, etc). Check back to this website for parking information.

Please view the service here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AsZl6RvzuasH_TBX_GSt4Vsgug--cHi9/view?usp=drive_link

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to organizations such as Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare: <https://www.trilogyinc.org/> or International Relief Teams: <https://www.irteams.org/>.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care 773-370-2959 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 3. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Rogers Park Presbyterian Church

7059 N. Greenview

Chicago, IL 60626

<https://rpwrhs.org/the-faith-traditions-of-rogers-park-and-west-ridge/rogers-park-presbyterian-church/>

1:30pm doors open 2:00pm service begins 3:00pm funeral march from church to the family residence

Tribute Wall



“ *Inclusive Funeral Care created a Tribute Video in memory of Eric George Brooks* ”



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - October 02, 2024 at 06:40 PM

JT

“ Eric, you left us too soon, you had so much more living and giving to do. I'm still in disbelief that you have left us, I can hear your laughter and feel your presence. I wish we hadn't lost touch, and I'm sorry if I was less than the good friend you were to me. It seems like yesterday when you were dashing around San Francisco, always on the go, and active with your long flowing hair. You were busy then with activism in ACT-UP, and you never wavered in your compassion. After San Francisco, we ended living in South Beach, NYC and then your adopted city of Chicago, where you flourished. I have fond memories of time spent with you, memories that are fresh and vivid to this day. I remember camping in the Florida Keys, splashing in the aqua waters. I remember dancing in NYC to house music. I remember visiting you as a bartender at Passerby, and you poured a serious gimlet! I remember you in Chicago, where you met the best man in your life, Billy. The two of you got each other, and I was so happy that you made Chicago your town. When I was there, you and Billy were always helping people and hosting parties. I remember a New Year's Eve gathering where we all held hands, my silly idea but you insisted we do it. You were just like that, a person who cared about others and helped others. It was so great to rekindle our friendship, I just wish you hadn't left us. You were a star burning bright in the dark sky, giving yourself fully to others. Your star will keep burning in all of us Eric, the love won't fade away.

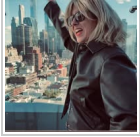
John Tripp - August 31, 2024 at 11:41 AM

SF

“ I met Eric in San Francisco in 1987. He's one of the most special people I've ever met and I feel blessed that he was my friend for so many years. My heart goes out to Bill and all his loved ones. He'll be so deeply missed.



Stephanie Finch - August 03, 2024 at 04:08 PM



“ Eric to me was an example of strength, bravery, sky high sensitivity and compassion that is rare to find, always helping other people both in his professional life as well as in his personal life. I find that admirable. I am deeply saddened about his own struggle and passing. We all love you, Eric Brooks.❤️ You were (and still are) like a brother and a son in the Dunér family. I will remember our last conversations in the garden. Your words of wisdom were priceless and your emotional intelligence was way up there. And not to forget, you had the craziest sense of humour.

Sophie Dunér - August 03, 2024 at 01:59 PM



“ Sophie Dunér lit a candle in memory of Eric George Brooks



Sophie Dunér - August 03, 2024 at 01:39 PM



“ Sherri G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric George Brooks.

Sherri G. - July 29, 2024 at 11:30 AM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Eric George Brooks.



July 27, 2024 at 03:50 PM

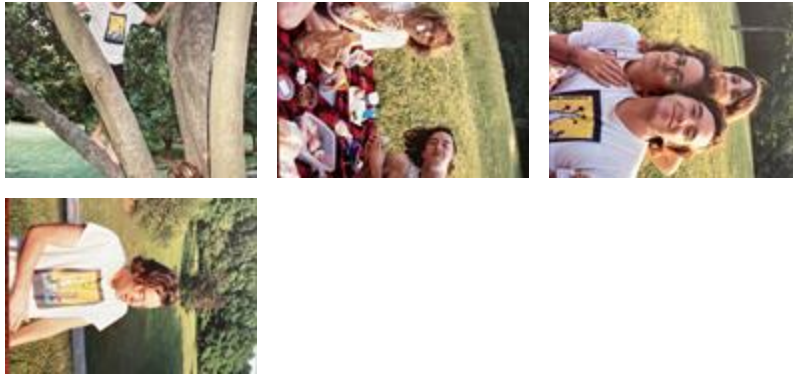
LW

“ Lovingly, Tucker Wildes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric George Brooks.

Lovingly, Tucker Wildes - July 27, 2024 at 03:50 PM

DG

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gausmann - July 16, 2024 at 01:05 PM

DG

these pics are from 1991..the summer Eric lived with us in Wilmington, DE before he moved on to another chapter in his adventurous breath-taking life.

Deborah Gausmann - July 16, 2024 at 01:09 PM



Thanks for sharing Deb. Much love.

Bill Phillips - July 17, 2024 at 07:15 PM

JW

“ My heart is broken. Eric was one of my closest friends for the past 18 years. I will miss our chats, our dinners and our text message marathons. I will miss the jokes that only we thought were funny. I will miss laughing until we cried and fell over. I have cherished every moment of our friendship and I am a better person for having known him.

Jeanna Walker - July 09, 2024 at 05:30 PM



Thank you Jeanna

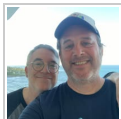
Bill Phillips - July 12, 2024 at 05:22 PM

DH

“ I will always remember that the big smile and hug Eric would greet me with whenever I'd walk into Billy and Eric's house. I'd usually get stopped in my tracks with a question or two from him, followed by his laugh. In that bright yellow kitchen on Touhy, Eric and I sat and had some inspiring conversations and some good laughs. He will truly be missed.



Don Hug - July 09, 2024 at 02:31 PM



Thank you Don

Bill Phillips - July 12, 2024 at 05:22 PM

CB

“ Eric and I have been very close since childhood. We have always stayed in touch over the years and I love him with all my heart and he will always be in my heart. I will miss my uncle more than anything but he lives in my heart and always will!



Cari Brooks - July 08, 2024 at 06:41 PM



Thank you Cari

Bill Phillips - July 12, 2024 at 05:21 PM

CB

“ Cari Brooks lit a candle in memory of Eric George Brooks



Cari Brooks - July 08, 2024 at 06:37 PM

CT

“ First met Eric when I lived in Chicago in early 2000s. Instantly connected with his kind, caring and beautiful soul and he always made me laugh.
I will always have very fond memories of staying with Billy and Eric when I visited Chicago in exchange for nothing more than music recommendations.
I love you Eric and I miss you ❤️



Cameron Taylor - July 08, 2024 at 07:04 AM



Thank you Cam

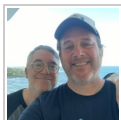
Bill Phillips - July 12, 2024 at 05:18 PM

JP

“ Eric Brooks was a very special uncle many nieces and nephews
And will be missed by all his family and friends



Jamie Phillips - July 04, 2024 at 09:22 PM



Thanks Jamie

Bill Phillips - July 12, 2024 at 05:21 PM

JP

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Jamie Phillips - July 04, 2024 at 09:17 PM

MM

“ I first met Eric in NYC. It was the early 90s and everything felt possible. I can't capture how much fun we had in those days. Eric was insightful and kind, he was smart, well read and hilarious. And that laugh.... I miss it and I will miss you Eric. Sending my heartfelt condolences to Billy and to all who loved Eric.

michelle mora - July 04, 2024 at 03:40 PM

MM

“ I first met Eric in NYC. It was the early 90s and everything felt possible. I can't capture how much fun we had in those days. Eric was insightful and kind, he was smart, well read and hilarious. And that laugh.... I miss it and I will miss you Eric. Sending my heartfelt condolences to Billy and to all who loved Eric.



michelle mora - July 04, 2024 at 03:39 PM



Thank you

Bill Phillips - July 12, 2024 at 05:21 PM

KO

“ Eric and I spent a lot of time together as kids and into our teens. Beach trips , fun filled weekends plus hanging out in The Ceder Knoll Inn (where Nanny Faye worked) and The old Brooks Motor Lodge and Restaurant. We acted like we owned the joints...kings of our castles.The kinds of memories you wish you could step back in to...After years passed , Eric came to my sister Karen's wedding, and it was as if no time had passed at all...we carried on with a mutual kid- like reckless abandon....as were like all the times I spent with Eric..a joy. Rest at peace uncle Eric I will miss you . My deepest sympathies and condolences to Billy , and all who knew and loved Eric....nephew Kevin.



Kevin Oswald - July 03, 2024 at 04:09 PM

OZ

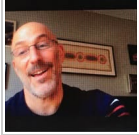
Thank you Bro. That's exactly the way I remember you two even as a younger child. A great one was Chincoteague.

oZZ - July 03, 2024 at 08:58 PM



Thank you

Bill Phillips - July 12, 2024 at 05:20 PM



“ *There was and never will be anyone as special as Eric. With his unrivaled wit, wisdom, and example he showed me the way when I had no idea there even was a way. Eric and I met over thirty years ago, and still, hardly a day goes by when I don't recall, laugh at, or am actually healed by some hilarious pearl he effortlessly dropped in response to this crisis or that absurdity.*

You were and are a giant, dear Eric. And while I have faith you've expanded to an essence unimaginably greater than the huge presence you shared with us, I'm heartbroken not to have you a phone call away.

In A Path with Heart, Jack Kornfield writes that, at the end of our lives, we're not to ask, "Did I live well?" but rather "Did I love well?" Eric, you nailed it, sweetie. You loved better than anyone I know.

I send my deepest condolences to Bill and all those close to you. May your brilliant light shine forever in their hearts. Rest, dear friend. Thank you for the love.

Jeffrey Fennelly - July 03, 2024 at 03:34 PM

OZ

Beautiful. Thank you

oZZ - July 03, 2024 at 08:52 PM



Thank you

Bill Phillips - July 12, 2024 at 05:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



OZZ “Eric” Oswald - July 03, 2024 at 12:55 AM



That's my man in San Juan, PR, February 2023. I love him so much.

Bill Phillips - July 14, 2024 at 11:41 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



OZZ “Eric” Oswald - July 03, 2024 at 12:09 AM



Such cuties - thank you Ozz. Much love.

Bill Phillips - July 14, 2024 at 11:40 AM

DC

“ Dearest Eric knew all my secrets and sins. He was my voice of reason in a crazy world. He’s been my therapist for 9 years, and we never met. I was having a session with him for two big moments of history. The George Floyd murder and Jan 6. We both lost our mothers. We spoke about dying as the ultimate knowledge no one on Earth will ever know . (Quantum physics stuff) I miss him already. I spoke to him just a few days ago. He can never be replaced. Condolences and many hugs for his family. He touched so many lives.. so he will always be here, in my heart

Darlene Cronin - July 02, 2024 at 09:29 PM



Thank you Darlene.

Bill Phillips - July 14, 2024 at 11:40 AM

AM

“ Dearest Eric, the passionate fire that you brought to life and shared with us will live in us as our eternal flame. You’ve slayed the dragon. Now rest, Ser.



Anthony Millspaugh - July 02, 2024 at 06:38 PM



Thank you Tony <3

Bill Phillips - July 11, 2024 at 11:10 AM

AW

“ Eric, thank you for your great help and for being such a wonderful ally! You are kind and compassionate and a beautiful influence on all who know you. You will be greatly missed.



AnnMarie Walsh - July 02, 2024 at 04:41 PM



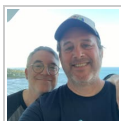
Thank you Ann Marie

Bill Phillips - July 11, 2024 at 11:10 AM

ON

“ I got to know Eric when he met Bill. I loved him as my beautiful chosen brother. Prayers for Eric's soul as it finds comfort out of this body and into the Light. I love you, Eric. Always 💔🙏🏻□□

Ora B Nance - July 02, 2024 at 12:23 PM



Thank you Ora, remember those days running around the 2 flat on Claremont... Its like a lifetime ago. Much love <3

Bill Phillips - July 11, 2024 at 11:11 AM

ST

“ Sara Le Turcq lit a candle in memory of Eric George Brooks



Sara Le Turcq - July 02, 2024 at 07:59 AM



Thank you Sara

Bill Phillips - July 11, 2024 at 11:11 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - July 01, 2024 at 07:05 PM

CW

OMG. I'm so sorry to hear this. Billy you have my deepest sympathy. He will be missed. 🥺💕

Carol Winiarz - July 01, 2024 at 10:51 PM

MR

I'm so very sorry to hear this. My sympathies to you and his family. What a tragedy.

Michel Rosenthal - July 02, 2024 at 01:20 AM

BK

We are heartbroken, Billy. His personality, intelligence, his eyes and his voice lit up every room. He was a loving son to Faye and partner to you. The world is now without Eric. Bryan and I are so sorry.

Bettina Kozlowski - July 02, 2024 at 02:56 AM

DG

speechless.. breathing in.. breathing out..Billy, the best thing that ever happened to Eric was you. xoxox

Deborah Gausmann - July 02, 2024 at 07:12 AM

ST

Eric, we knew you didn't like this life so much. We know you tried as hard as you could. You were very much loved.

Sara Le Turcq - July 02, 2024 at 07:57 AM

PT

I'm devastated by our loss. Eric, I will miss your generous spirit and your sarcastic wit.

Paul Teeling - July 02, 2024 at 11:34 AM