



Eric Clark Mittereder

September 15, 1985 - March 28, 2024

Eric Clark Mittereder, 38, “the Fridge”, community development and tax attorney with a soul, formerly of Chicago’s Logan Square, passed away peacefully on March 28, 2024 at home in Oakland, California. He fought bravely during his battle with glioblastoma, maintaining his characteristic sunny spirit and good humor until the very end.

Raised in Santa Monica, CA and Rochester, NY, Eric graduated from McQuaid Jesuit High School. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and his J.D. and L.L.M. from Georgetown University Law Center. Eric specialized in using tax credits as a tool for community development and he was deeply proud of his work to build affordable housing, schools, health centers, and homeless shelters across the country. He retired at the end of 2022 as partner at Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen following his cancer diagnosis.

Extroverted and warmhearted, Eric created community everywhere he went. Every stranger was just a friend he hadn’t met yet. He maintained deep and meaningful friendships with people from all stages of his life. He also loved his large extended family and cherished his annual family reunions in Pennsylvania.

Eric met his best friend and future wife Alison their first weekend at college,

and they were inseparable ever since. They spent lots of time goofing off and forming lifelong bonds with their fellow compatriots at The Georgetown Voice. Eric and Alison traveled extensively across the world, visiting a far-flung cadre of friends and forging new friendships along the way. Their shared love of good food and good company made them welcome guests and excellent hosts wherever they happened to be.

Eric loved live music and could never suppress the urge to dance with all his heart. If you were one of the lucky ones, you got to witness Eric's pure joy while wearing one of his delightfully outlandish concert outfits and boogying the night away. He combined his love of music and his type-A personality to become well known for his extensive and well-curated music playlists, including the annual "Eric Mittereder's Mid-Year Rater," for those who couldn't wait for the end of year best-in-music compilations.

A dedicated epicurean, Eric loved a culinary adventure and embodied the advice espoused by the late great Warren Zevon to "enjoy every sandwich." He was dedicated to researching restaurants everywhere he traveled, and always insisted on making the extra effort to go to the best places. He was nearly always right. Never one to stay still for long, Eric enjoyed traveling all over the world, but he held an extra special place in his heart for the gritty charm of Berlin and the tropical vibes of Palm Springs.

Devoted husband of nine years (and best friend and partner of nearly 20 years) to Alison Varley Gillis, cherished son of Richard Mittereder and Virginia Clark, loving brother of Philip Mittereder, and beloved son-in-law of Chester Gillis and Marie Varley Gillis. Adored nephew, cousin, friend, and colleague of many. Faithful companion of cats Digby and Winston.

Celebration of life Sunday, April 21, 12-4pm (service begins 1pm) at Stan

Mansion, 2408 N. Kedzie Blvd, Chicago, IL 60647. Parking available at Darwin School, 2322 N Albany (enter off Fullerton).

Memorial contributions may be made in Eric's name to: American Brain Tumor Association, https://give.abta.org/give/261975/?utm_source=Classy&utm_medium=webpage&utm_campaign=Main+ABTA+Classy+Donation+Page#!/donation/checkout or The American Brain Tumor Association, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. #550, Chicago, IL 60631

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

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 21. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Stan Mansion
2408 N. Kedzie Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60647
<https://www.stanmansion.com/>

12noon doors open 1pm service begins Parking available at Darwin School, 2322 N. Albany (enter off Fullerton).

Tribute Wall

PB

“ *What a pleasure to work with Eric at ATT from 2017 to 2020. We have lost such a kind, personable, and upbeat human being. He was a great attorney, but he had the good sense to know that life was generally to be lived outside of his work -- through interesting experiences, travel, relationships, good food, concerts, dancing, and above all, kindness to others (Eric was a proud and self-proclaimed Hufflepuff through and through).*

Some fires burn really bright and really fast, and that was Eric. You didn't have to be his closest friend to see how brightly this person burned and to be warmed by his presence. What a blessing that we all got to have such brightness with us for a little while, and what a loss that it was so brief.

Paul Balik - April 22, 2024 at 01:35 PM

FM

“ *Dear Mittereders,*

since we heard about Eric's illness our thoughts were with him and his beloved ones. We share your sadness about his departure and send our warm condolences across the Atlantic. Knowing him a little bit was a priviledge, we would have loved to see him again, in Berlin or Baden-Baden or elsewhere. May he rest in peace.

Love, Manuela Irene & Frank Martin

FMH - April 22, 2024 at 05:56 AM

YO

“ I had the pleasure of working with Eric at ATT 2015-2019. Eric taught me the rules of the Kitchen to ensure that I got to partake in the treats once they were announced by email to the Firm because I kept "missing out" as a newcomer (I found out you had to stop whatever you were doing and head to the kitchen or you'd come up empty handed like I was missing the donuts, homemade cakes, pies etc.) I also learned the latest Apps because Eric was also a Techie and music enthusiast. We worked together ensuring that our high school work study students got a true experience of the Law firm life. Eric was "hands on" whenever needed. Eric loved to dance, travel. And I have pictures of his trip to Germany that he shared. One thing we all knew or know about Eric is his love for Allison his wife and how devoted they were to each other. I considered Eric a stellar attorney and a beautiful soul and I'm blessed that our paths crossed in this lifetime. My favorite clip of Eric is from a Firm party 2019 of him inviting others to the dancefloor, I hope you enjoy. Blessings and Peace, Min. Yvonne Oby



YVONNE V OBY - April 21, 2024 at 03:41 PM

DM

“ Danie Mittereder lit a candle in memory of Eric Clark Mittereder



Danie Mittereder - April 21, 2024 at 03:40 PM

DM

“ I will always remember the joy and positivity that Eric shared with me and the unconditional acceptance that he gave me as his cousin. I will never forget you man.

-Danie Mittereder

Danie Mittereder - April 21, 2024 at 03:40 PM

DL

“ Dan L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Dan L. - April 21, 2024 at 12:11 PM

NB

“ Nelson B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Nelson B. - April 20, 2024 at 05:44 PM

AB

“ Andrea B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Andrea B. - April 20, 2024 at 03:27 PM

JU

“ Jess Weitzel, USBCDC purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.



Jess Weitzel, USBCDC - April 19, 2024 at 03:11 PM

JU

“ Jess Weitzel, USBCDC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Jess Weitzel, USBCDC - April 19, 2024 at 03:11 PM

MR

“ Matthew R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Matthew R. - April 19, 2024 at 02:01 PM

TF

“ The Soriano Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.



The Soriano Family - April 19, 2024 at 10:20 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.*



April 19, 2024 at 09:29 AM



“ *Once in a very great while you have the good fortune to work with and become friends with someone like Eric. There was never a day that I didn't enjoy seeing Eric. Eric's attitude toward life (and work) drew others to him, and made him a natural leader. He was unfailingly genuine, with empathy and humor and a zest for life that lifted the spirits of those around him. He made it clear to us that the world and all of its quirks was there to enjoy, and he seemed to enjoy every day more than the last. He was respected by all, personally and professionally. He will be missed by all of us at the firm.*

Warren Wenzloff - April 17, 2024 at 03:43 PM



“ *Michael J. planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.*

Michael J. - April 17, 2024 at 01:28 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.*



April 16, 2024 at 11:37 AM



“ *Margaret A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.*

Margaret A. - April 16, 2024 at 11:30 AM

“ Part 2 of 2:

Eric was an incredibly supportive friend. When I wanted to join a summer bowling league and needed a doubles partner, there was Eric inside a stuffy bowling alley with me instead of enjoying the sun and good weather. Once when Eric took me skiing with his family, he went through the lessons with me and stuck to the easy hills, never making me feel self-conscious about my severe lack of skill and confidence. When I put a bad Nintendo fan site on the internet, I turned to Eric for help. He cheerfully joined my endeavor and made it much, much better, providing huge amounts of thoughtfully written content. Eric was not one to half-ass being a friend.

When college came, we went our separate ways. We stayed in touch for a while, but eventually life did what life does and our paths no longer crossed.

Then, many years later, Eric was back in town briefly and invited me down to The Circle one last time before his parents moved out of that house at the top of street. For the second time in my life, I felt anxious to approach him. I felt incredibly guilty for letting our friendship fade away, for not making more of an effort to stay connected. I was worried that Eric would have resentment towards me, or that he would think our friendship hadn't mattered very much to me.

How silly of me.

I don't remember much of what we talked about that night. What stayed with me is that, just like before, Eric was immediately warm, welcoming, and kind. There was no judgment, no tension. Eric was the same joyful, bright light I had known all those years ago — only now he also shone with the brilliance of someone who had fully blossomed into the person they were meant to be. I wish I had been able to truly know this version of him, but I feel immensely blessed to have known him for as long as I did and when I did.

What a gift it was to see Eric again, and for him to absolve me of my guilt and restore magic to all those memories.

We reminisced, we laughed, we hugged, we said goodbye.

The day after I learned of Eric's passing, social media algorithms served me up a listicle of the best ending lines in movie history. I took the bait and clicked in. The very first line I saw, from Stand by Me (1986), nearly took my breath away:

"Although I hadn't seen him in more than ten years, I know I'll miss him forever. I never had any friends later on like the ones I had when I was twelve. Jesus, does anyone?"

Goodbye, Eric. I will miss you forever.

To Eric's family — I am so sorry for your loss. Eric was an absolute treasure. Thank you for sharing him with the world.

Bryan Stehler - April 15, 2024 at 05:09 PM

“ Part 1 of 2:

Twice in my life, I felt anxious while approaching Eric. Once when I was 11, and then once again 20 years later.

I moved to a new neighborhood right before 5th grade. Eric lived in a house centered at the top of a cul-de-sac at the very end of the street. It was the kind of cul-de-sac they don't make anymore; no grass island in the middle, just a wide, seemingly unspectacular, circular patch of gray pavement. It was, of course, much more than that.

We would call it “The Circle” and spend most of our summer days and nights rocketing across its asphalt in rollerblades, chasing both street hockey balls and the fleeting-yet-monumental glory that only childhood can provide. As far as we'd be able to tell, every family that lived around our makeshift hockey area would be more or less accepting of our constant presence and the chaos of our hours-long games, despite the action that would spill frequently into their driveways and yards. They would perhaps appreciate then what's crystal clear to me now: some friendships are magic.

Our group's magic would not be limited to street hockey in The Circle. It would be found in front of TVs in basements, Nintendo 64 controllers in hand. It would be there at McDonalds on Saturday mornings, as we feasted on sausage biscuits and hash browns in a booth by the window, keeping an eye on our bikes locked to the rack just outside.

The magic would be found at the enormous pile of excavated dirt just beyond where our street ended. We would claim this ever-evolving byproduct of a neighborhood still under construction as our very own mountain. We would christen it “The Dirt Hill” and carve ramps into it, then injure ourselves in pursuit of imagined medals in our version of the X Games. We would again flex our formidable naming skills and call these shenanigans the S Games, short for “Street Games,” and, yes, it would have that “cool S” logo every

Millennial doodled constantly (Google it).

In winter, plows would push an entire street's worth of snow into the middle of The Circle. As it was our tendency to claim these sorts of giant formations for ourselves, we would tunnel our way through it, play King of the Hill, and, perhaps through magic, we would somehow avoid the realization that a pile of street snow is actually super filthy and gross.

The magic would be with us as we set up tents and sleeping bags for backyard campouts, and when we would leave those faux campsites behind for the kind of all-night adventuring that would make all the sense in the world at the time, but be wholly inexplicable decades later.

Indeed, it would not be about what we were doing or why, but rather just that we were all together.

But before all of that would come to be, there was me, anxiously approaching a group of kids I didn't know, having been bribed by my mom to join their group.

Eric was among those kids. And if you are fortunate enough to have known Eric, then you also know how silly it was for me to be worried about introducing myself. Eric was immediately warm, welcoming, and kind. We were instantly close, and he soon became one of my very best friends. He went on family vacations with me; we went to concerts and moshed together at the Warped Tour; we chatted for hours at a time on AOL Instant Messenger and he awakened a political spirit within me, one oriented around helping others, particularly the vulnerable.

Bryan Stehler - April 15, 2024 at 05:08 PM

MW

“ Mark W. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Mark W. - April 13, 2024 at 10:30 AM

CP

“ I love you, cuz!! ❤️❤️ Thank you for many amazing memories and for being such a bright spot in our lives!!!



Coleen Phillips - April 10, 2024 at 07:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.



April 10, 2024 at 12:10 PM

PG

“ Dear Alison and all of Eric's family, I am so sorry for your loss. I met Eric when we were both studying abroad in Berlin in 2007. While we hadn't been in touch for quite a while, his smile and positive energy are indelibly imprinted on my time in Germany. I remember agreeing to speak German to each other despite both being American because we wanted to be fluent, exploring all that was weird and wonderful in Berlin when it was a student's paradise, visiting street festivals, drinking beer in the sunshine, hanging out around Eberswalderstrasse in Prenzlauerberg, and so many more great memories. My heart and condolences go out to you.

With love from Priya Gandhi

Priya Gandhi - April 05, 2024 at 07:21 PM

SF

“ Steve F. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Steve F. - April 05, 2024 at 07:17 PM

NH

“ Nora H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Nora H. - April 05, 2024 at 04:00 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.



April 05, 2024 at 04:00 PM



“ Seth H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Seth H. - April 03, 2024 at 03:14 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.



April 03, 2024 at 03:14 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.



April 03, 2024 at 11:26 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.



April 03, 2024 at 11:14 AM



“ Dear Alison, my deepest condolences to you and your family and all who loved Eric. I will be holding you in my prayers. ~Kristen Komara

Kristen Komara - April 02, 2024 at 05:32 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.



April 02, 2024 at 02:28 PM



“ Guacolda R. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Guacolda R. - April 02, 2024 at 11:12 AM



“ Juliana Brint and Will Sommer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Juliana Brint and Will Sommer - April 02, 2024 at 10:51 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.*



April 02, 2024 at 10:51 AM



“ *Dave Scheltz and Affirmative Investments planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.*

Dave Scheltz and Affirmative Investments - April 02, 2024 at 09:30 AM



“ *Dave Scheltz and Affirmative Investments purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.*



Dave Scheltz and Affirmative Investments - April 02, 2024 at 09:30 AM



“ *Eric was a kind, caring guy. He always had a smile. I worked with at the firm. He will be deeply missed by many who loved him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Dan & Denise Corcoran.*

Denise Corcoran - April 01, 2024 at 07:54 PM

DC

“ Dan & Denise Corcoran planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric Clark Mittereder.

Dan & Denise Corcoran - April 01, 2024 at 07:45 PM

DC

“ Dan & Denise Corcoran purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Eric Clark Mittereder.



Dan & Denise Corcoran - April 01, 2024 at 07:45 PM