



Eric Michael Bates

January 24, 1962 - March 31, 2025

Eric Michael Bates was born January 24, 1962, to Cecil and Marna Beth (Johnson) Bates in Greenville, Texas. It was there that he began several lifelong friendships. During those years, Eric's imagination took hold, and he could often be seen wearing a towel as a cape as he pretended he was a superhero named E-Man. He once stopped a truck in traffic using his superpowers.

When Eric was in elementary school, his family moved to Stigler, Oklahoma. His friendships made there continued until his death, often speaking to those friends several times per week, Eric was a naturally talented athlete, excelling at every sport he played. Eric was the quarterback, safety and punter for his high school football team. He was as determined as he was talented, spending his spare time practicing. His love of sports remained with him throughout his life. He was an encyclopedia of sports teams, players and coaches.

Eric graduated from Stigler High School in 1981, and attended Connors State before beginning a

career in the natural gas industry that took him throughout the world to places such as Mexico,

Algeria and Kazakhstan. Years later he returned to Stigler and was self employed before his

health prevented him from working.

Eric became a full time stay at home parent to his daughter Cecily, often bringing cappuccinos to

her teachers and having pizzas delivered for her snack days, Before that, Eric coached his

stepson Michael in basketball, football and baseball. His son Adam described his father as being

ultra-competitive and unconditionally loving and supportive.

Eric survived multiple severe health problems that defied medical technology.

He did so with

incredible courage and never once complaining.

He is survived by his wife; Delaina Bates. His son Adam Bates and Brittany of California, his daughter Cecily Bates the home, and his stepson Michael

Dowdy of Checotah whom he raised as his son. He is also

survived by his stepson Luke and Lindsay Ely of Finksburg, Maryland and his stepdaughter

Rachel Ely of Hanover, Pennsylvania. His grandchildren; Amelia, AJ and Arya of California, and step grandchildren; Jensen, Oliver, Jayce and Ezra. His

Mother; Marna Bates of Stigler, 1 sister; Stephanie Peters and husband Bob of Stigler. 1 Brother; Brian "Buzzy" Bates of Stigler. Sister-in-laws; Connie

Bates of Van Buren, Jackie Bates of Stigler. Mother-in-law; Linda Dowdy of Checotah. He was preceded in death by his father; Cecil Bates; 2 brothers;

Mack and Jack Bates. Father-in-law; Doug Dowdy, and his dog Stretch.

Funeral services will be 1:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at the R.E.

Shearwood Memorial Chapel with Mr. Kenny Whitson reading the eulogy.

Pallbearers will be Jeff Beach, Randy Mayhall, Bobby Coyle, Kenny Whitson, Mike Fioretti, David Spears. Honorary pallbearers will be every kid he ever

coached. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery at Checotah.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Cemetery

East 1080 Road
CHECOTAH, OK 74426

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 8. 9:00 AM - 8:30 PM (CT)

KING AND SHEARWOOD FUNERAL HOME
808 EAST MAIN
STIGLER, OK 74462
(918) 967-0044
info@kingandshearwoodfh.com
<https://KINGANDSHEARWOODFUNERALHOME.COM>

Funeral Service

APR 9. 1:00 PM (CT)

R.E. SHEARWOOD MEMORIAL CHAPEL
808 EAST MAIN
STIGLER, OK
(918) 967-0044
kingwood4@sbcglobal.net
<http://KINGANDSHEARWOODFUNERALHOME.COM>

Pallbearers; Jeff Beach, Randy Mayhall, Bobby Coyle, Kenny Whitson, Mike Fioretti, David Spears. Honorary Pallbearers; Every kid he ever coached.

Tribute Wall

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“ Eric’s maternal grandmother, Cloteen Loper Johnson, always said she wanted a red headed baby and when Eric was born, he was a dream come true to her. She loved all her kids & grands, but Eric was always special to her. Everyone was ok with that because Eric was just so stinking cute and sweet. As soon as he learned to walk, he wanted to play ball. Any ball. He would even pickup a rock and want someone to throw it to him so he could hit it with a stick. Baseball, football, basketball - any available sport with a ball is what he wanted to play. When he was older, he loved playing the domino game, 42, but had to be closely watched for his teasingly habit of cheating - he made those games so much fun! I can still hear his cousin, Chad, laughing and yelling at him. Awesome times made possible by Eric. He will be so missed by all his family and friends. My deepest sympathy to his family; Delaina, Adam, Michael and Cecily. And to my sister, his mom, Beth and his sister, Stephanie and his brother Buzzy. You are in my thoughts and I love each of you. Fly high Eric!!

Grace Foster-Brewer - April 07, 2025 at 09:52 PM