



Mr. Erick Wayne Grissom

August 7, 1963 - May 29, 2021

Mr. Erick Wayne Grissom, age 57, departed his earthly walk on May 29, 2021, at the Durham VA Medical Center.

Erick Wayne Grissom was born on August 7, 1963, in Durham, North Carolina at Lincoln Hospital. Erick was the first of two children born to Barbara Sanchious Bayne and John Ed Grissom. He was a man of integrity and honor, a man of unshakable conviction, and a man with extraordinary gifts and talents.

When Erick was 4 years old, he and his family moved to East Orange, New Jersey. He attended Washington Elementary School (East Orange, NJ), Trinity Temple Academy (Hillside, NJ), and St. Benedict's Preparatory High School (Newark, NJ) where he graduated in 1981. Erick never had to find himself. His talents and life vision emerged very early in his childhood.

In grade school, Erick was obsessed with technology. He never encountered a TV, watch, radio, or household appliance that he did not try to dismantle. Early on, Erick developed a strong interest in aviation. He and his late Uncle Dan Brown spent countless hours watching and analyzing flights at Newark Airport. Finally, while in high school, Erick fell in love with House music. If there was a house party, neighborhood cookout or family function, Erick was the DJ. Erick's passion for music, technology, and aviation would ultimately

define how he lived his life.

Soon after high school, Erick enlisted in the United States Army where he pursued his love of aviation. Erick became an apache helicopter mechanic, a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified pilot and a flight instructor. He also flew commercially part-time for Alaska Air, all while maintaining his military duties. During his service, Erick enjoyed seeing the world during stints at Fort Stewart, GA; Fort Lewis, WA; Wheeler Army Airfield, HI; Fort Eustis, VA; and Seoul, South Korea. While enlisted, Erick served as: Aviation Armament Specialist and Platoon Sergeant. At retirement, he had achieved the rank of E8/First Sergeant and he earned citations for: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Non-commissioned Officer's Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral 3, Army and Overseas Service Ribbons.

After Erick's Army retirement, he moved to North Carolina and turned to his love of technology and music. He became an independent IT Professional and Web Design Instructor with stints at Cisco Systems, and the University of North Carolina. He supported many local attorney's offices and accounting firms as a 1-man Geek Squad. During retirement, Erick also discovered cycling and became a part-time Spin Instructor. As a Spin Instructor, he took this physical fitness platform to the next level. Erick combined this new passion for cycling with his Army leadership skills and his lifelong love of music to create a life-changing cycling and physical fitness experience. His spin classes were nothing short of transformative. He had a music library of almost 7,000 songs.

Above all else, Erick was a family man. He was the family's go-to person for almost anything and everything. He was literally a human Google search engine. The family lovingly called him "Mr. Fix It." And while Erick had many

callings in his lifetime, his greatest love and passion were his two children. As a single dad with physical custody, he was fanatical about fatherhood. Erick was a force of nature when it came to his children. Their day started at 5 am, when he required them to run 3 miles. After school, he required one hour of reading and one hour of typing. Moreover, every single second of each day was scripted with a several page checklist. Each child received a score at the end of the week and privileges were doled out accordingly. And although Erick was the type of dad to take bedroom doors off the hinges and remove them from the house if necessary, he spent thousands of hours supporting, nurturing and encouraging his children. Erick was committed to ensuring that Quentin and Camryn would have the foundation and discipline to realize their God given talents and to also be of service to others. Erick's legacy of excellence in all that he pursued will live on through his children.

Erick departed this life on May 29, 2021 at the Durham VA Medical Center with his family by his side as a result of a rare form of cancer. In 2003, he was predeceased by his father, John Ed Grissom of Atlanta, GA. He is survived by: His Children: Quentin Grissom (Fayetteville, NC) and Camryn Grissom (Durham, NC); His Mother: Dr. Barbara Sanchious Bayne, PhD (Trenton, NJ) and Stepmother Esther Grissom (Atlanta, GA); His Sisters: Beverlyn Grissom, Esq. (Trenton, NJ) and Sheila Jackson (Vauxhall, NJ); His Niece/Nephews: Tunisia Lipford (Piscataway, NJ), Eric Jackson (Vauxhall, NJ), and Trey Brown (Columbia, SC); His Cousin-Siblings: David Williamson (Atlanta, GA), Robinette Ward (Somerset, NJ), Anthony (Denise) Brown (Columbia, SC), Marice Grissom (Charles) Freeman (Morrisville, NC), and Leonard Satterwhite (Lexington, VA); His Aunts: Florine Grissom Brown (East Orange, NJ), Betty Grissom Ward (Somerset, NJ), Beverlyn Sanchious (William) Holloway (Inglewood, CA), and Eva Williamson (Dayton, OH); His Uncles: Willie (Mary) Grissom (Winston-Salem, NC) and Calvin Sanchious (Miami, FL); His Cousins: Earley Jerome (Erica) Terry, Jr. (Pasadena, CA), Kenneth Terry (Los

Angeles, CA), West Sanchious (Baltimore, MD), and Damon Sanchious (Las Vegas, NV); Michelle Grissom (mother of Quentin and Camryn) and countless other family members, colleagues, and friends.

Mr. Erick Wayne Grissom served our country in the United States Army. We honor him for his service and dedication.

A memorial service of celebration to honor the life of Erick has been scheduled for Sunday, June 6, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., at Rock Spring Baptist Church, 3180 Bruce Garner Road, Creedmoor, North Carolina 27522.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Rock Spring Baptist Church
3185 Bruce Garner Road
Creedmoor, NC 27522

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Erick Wayne Grissom*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Erick was one of the finest people I have ever known and worked with. We had numerous conversations about so many things--he inspired so many people and was loved by even more. It is difficult to imagine what this world will be like without him but I know he is teaching an amazing class as I write this in heaven. :) Sending prayers and love to all of his family. I believe our loved ones never leave us--they live on in our hearts even if they are no longer with us on earth. Peace.*

Alison - June 08, 2021 at 09:02 PM



Erick was a great spin instructor. He always had a positive attitude. He and his music Playlist where very motivating. He will be missed.

Kenya - June 10, 2021 at 09:51 PM

NH

“ I wrote the following on the day I found out about Erick's passing. It is profound that this signaled the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend and that his service took place on the anniversary of D-Day!

Gazing out my window yesterday afternoon after having found out about Erick's passing, my eyes fell upon a pot of roses. All of a sudden I sensed his presence in their magnificent blooms. The feeling was so palpable that my eyes filled with tears. Within seconds, messages from the FitCon spinners began to ping on my phone...

Erick surely created a space for all of us, not only to gain in strength and courage but most of all to deepen our love for one another.

The timing of his passing could not have been more hallowed on this Memorial Day weekend. We, whom he loved, will always remember him and pay forward his exemplary deeds.

These words came to me during the past day, and so I share them with all of you. There is so much between each line. Thank you for your tender words, as well. Blessings...

*At this time memorial and year profound
You journeyed on to Higher Ground.*

*From There to here and here to There
You've blessed us all with much to share.*

*Your cadence echoes within our ears
Our mutual shoulders dry each tear.*

An honor it's been to share the road

With one so blessed to share its code.💕

Nancy Hoskins - June 06, 2021 at 04:44 PM

RA

“ *Erick was my platoon sergeant in Hawaii and a great one he was. He was the best mentor a Soldier could ever ask for. When it came time to work we worked and when it was time to have fun we did. He especially made physical training memorable. I'll never forget the platoon bicycle PT he organized and how fast we were zooming down Kolekole pass! We all made it safe and sound. He was taken from us way too early. Our prayers and condolences to Erick's family! Rick and Elizabeth*

Rick Amenell - June 06, 2021 at 09:04 AM

JM

“ *Erick was one of the finest soldiers and friends I have ever served with during my 30 years in the Army. I depended on him daily during our time together serving in Hawaii, and he never let us down. I am truly saddened by his lose too his family and our nation. CSM(R) Jerry McConnell*

Jerry McConnell - June 04, 2021 at 09:07 PM

SC

“ *We will always remember you with a smile in our hearts. The best spin instructor and an even better person who could step in the room and brighten the day and changed the mood.*

Praying for your loved ones

Sharon & Calvin

Sharon & Calvin - June 04, 2021 at 08:05 PM

DP

“ *I'm so saddened to hear a powerful life force is no longer with us. He had incredible energy and charisma and I know it will be missed by so many. I knew him briefly but quickly recognized how deeply he loved his children who he was so very proud of. I sincerely enjoyed the brief times I was able to be in his class and in his presence. Sadly some people touch your life in ways you don't even realize until they are no longer with us...*

Danielle Pizzano - June 02, 2021 at 09:51 PM