



Eddie Albert Owens

April 8, 1940 - April 29, 2022

Eddie Albert Owens was born in his Grandparents home on Flagpole Road by the waterfall, in Clayton, Oklahoma, April 8, 1940, to Albert Jesse "Cotton" Owens and Melba Doris Dennis Owens. Eddie and his mother lived in Clayton, OK until the end of WWII when his father was discharged from the Army. His father, an experienced sawyer, relocated the family to a sawmill camp near Reserve, New Mexico, moving from there to several other sawmill camps, until settling in McNary, Arizona, graduating from high school in McNary, where his family stayed until his fathers death in 1959. While still alive, Eddie's father introduced him to airplanes and began his lifelong love of flying airplanes. Eddie was a veteran of the USAF from 1957 to 1966 in active and reserve status. While stationed in Florida, in his spare time, he participated in motorcycle racing with his Triumph, and worked as crew on a shrimp boat. At various times, he worked at as a warehouseman at a sawmill supply in McNary, AZ, and as a plumber in Prescott, AZ. Eddie moved to Las Vegas, Nevada to work at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) in 1962. He worked for various government contractors beginning as a clerk and retiring as an Administrator with 150 employees. He worked at NTS for 35 years. In between contracts, he worked as a corporate pilot for a pipeline company in Michigan. As a private pilot he owned BC12 Taylorcraft, and was rebuilding an L-2 he had to sell when he was transferred to a job in Mississippi. He also had to sell his Starduster II biplane he was building when he was again transferred to a job in New Mexico, both times when he was working for government

contractors. Eddie and Harold Bowen, his flight instructor (who trained the pilots at Ryan Field, that flew in WWII) started EAA Chapter 163 of Las Vegas, Nevada. After moving back to Clayton in 2003 to assist his mother, Phil Boatner asked him to write an article for the Clayton Today, Phil left to work on another project, which led to Eddie working as the local reporter for the paper for several years. Eddie loved the outdoors, fishing, hunting, camping, (he bought a truck, got a shell and turned the back of the truck into a two level bed, the top for us, the bottom for the Doberman), traveling, flying airplanes, riding motorcycles, and tools to work on his "projects" around the house and yard, fixing, building and inventing. He'd sketch a plan out and then build it. Woodworking to welding, he was always working on or thinking about his next project. He spent more time working on his AJS motorcycle than riding it. Later on, he finally got a Harley. He loved bowling and was on several bowling leagues that went to tournaments all over the state in Nevada. He was a ♦'Black Powder' enthusiast, belonging to the ♦'Elk Clan' in Las Vegas. He made his own ♦'leathers', powder horns, ♦'possible bags', and a chest to put all the black powder supplies in to take to a "shoot" or rendezvous. He built several black powder guns. Eddie loved to build or make whatever he needed for whatever interests he pursued, including a brief time building rockets to take out and shoot off to see how high and far they would go. He made bows and arrows, hand tooled leather, and was into cameras and photography. He loved to read and write, and wrote several stories and articles that were published in aviation and outdoor magazines. Eddie loved and appreciated his family, and loved to tell stories about his family in Oklahoma, how great they were and how he enjoyed his time with them. He was fun-loving, had a great (sometimes unique) sense of humor. He was creative, talented, witty, wise, likeable, and a really special person.

He was preceded in death by his father, Albert Jesse "Cotton" Owens, mother Melba Doris Dennis Owens Patrick, stepfather Frank Patrick, sisters June Fry and Jeanne Prock, and many beloved Aunts, Uncles and family.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Owens, sister Patricia Chamberlain, her husband Richard Chamberlain III, stepbrother Frank "Buck" Patrick Jr., Nieces Colleen Pitre, Angela Gormley, Sandra Darling, Nephew Rick Chamberlain and their children, Aunt Mary, his cousins and their families.

Eddie was supposed to write this, as usual he put it off, told me a few details and said, "you'll do fine" ♦♦.. as usual, I didn't't like it, didn't't want to, wasn't't going to, but here it is, I hope he approves.

Eddie believed that ♦♦to be absent from the flesh is to be present with the Lord', although he would have liked to stay a little longer, his heart was at peace with the knowledge of his return to his Heavenly Father.

He requested cremation and chose not to have a funeral.

An informal Celebration of Life/Memorial will be held Thursday, May 19, 2022 from 2 to 5 pm at the Rodeo Concession building. A basic meal will be provided, if anyone would like to bring a dish or dessert it would be appreciated. Cremation services provided by McCarn Funeral Service of Talihina, Oklahoma.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 19. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

Rodeo Concession building

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Thank you Lord for the legacy you’ve written across my family’s life. You are a faithful Father. It’s one past midnight in Las Vegas, Uncle Eddie. I love you — shayla bear



Shayla - May 04 at 03:06 AM

DT

“ With a pot of beans or soup on the stove, cornbread hot from the oven Eddie and my dad Robert (both working NTS Las Vegas NV) would play cards and talk for hours. Karen would be with my mom knitting or crocheting laughing and talking until late in the evening when my dad would say "Opal lets go to bed so Eddie and Karen can go home." Everyone would laugh. Then an Oklahoma good bye that last for about 20 minutes.

We met Eddie and Karen in New Mexico working on "Project Gasbuggy". Fishing and picnics great fun and the "George John hamburgers" in Farmington. Moving back to Las Vegas becoming just part of our oklahoma family. Eddie sense of humor and being just a nice guy. Eddie gave me away at the Little Chapel of the West (parents in Peru) Never heard Eddie say a bad word about anyone but with my divorce 22 years later Eddie and Karen both happy to see me happier! Love you Eddie your are missed.

Debra Thompson-Nelson - October 01, 2023 at 07:53 PM

“Eddie was the nicest of the nice guys. Way back (about a hundred years ago), when he was dating my big sister, I remember him dropping by to visit my mom and me during his work days. I would run into his arms for one of his big bear hugs. He and my mom would sit around the table drinking coffee. One time when Yeddie, as I called him, was visiting, I went outside to ride my trike. I saw something scary and ran into the house. According to the story Eddie told again and again, my face was as white as a sheet. I yelled, "A snake! A snake! There's a snake outside!" Eddie ran outside, followed hesitantly by my mother, to save me from the snake. "There! There it is!" I pointed to the ground. According to Eddie, he and my mom had to bend way down to even see the little thing. It was an earthworm. Thanks to me, he had another funny story to add to his arsenal. Along with Jay, my oldest sister's husband, Eddie was the best story teller.

After Karen and Eddie were married, my dad would insist on just dropping by their house if we were out shopping or doing errands. Eddie was always so kind as my parents, my younger sister, and I barged in while they were trying to relax and watch tv. Poor Eddie had to put up with a couple of noisy, bratty little girls for many years. He was always there, at every birthday party, holidays, and all the school and extra curricular events we had. He suffered through so many boring plays and performances because he knew how much it meant to us.

When my sister and I got married and had kids, there he was again, at many of our kids' events until he and Karen moved away from Las Vegas.

Eddie was so funny. From the day I got married until my divorce, his nickname for my first husband was "Donelle's first husband." My second husband's name is Jim. Eddie immediately dubbed him "Gym Shorts." After moving to Oklahoma, I sent Karen and Eddie a gift card to Walmart for their April birthdays. He sent me a thank you letter listing all the items they would purchase at Walmart. It included 27 cans of Spam and maybe a Styrofoam cooler. He brought smiles and chuckles to everyone around him, especially to Karen. He was her biggest supporter and her best friend. As my

younger sister and I went through breakup after breakup in our younger years, my mom would say we needed to find us a nice guy like our Yeddie. He was the best.

Donelle Naven - May 16, 2022 at 10:20 PM

LD

“ *Love, Darrel, Lisa, Blake and Devin purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Eddie Albert Owens.*



Love, Darrel, Lisa, Blake and Devin - May 16, 2022 at 08:58 PM