



Mr. Eric Wallace Hedberg

September 26, 1953 - April 25, 2013

Eric Wallace Hedberg, 59, died April 25, 2013 after a short illness at his home in Asheville, NC. Eric was an extraordinary individual who impressed everyone he encountered with his brilliant insight, candor, and concern for the welfare of others. Through his music he expressed his sensitive soul, online he communicated his passion for his life's ideals, and he always enjoyed lively conversation. Not one to force his beliefs on others, he simply put forth well thought out arguments for often unpopular positions and never wavered in his call for social justice and meaningful political and economic change. His compassion for both animals and mankind made him an exceedingly humane individual. May his light forever shine upon all who were blessed by friendship.

Eric was born in Akron, Ohio, and spent his childhood and youth in Sweden, Akron, Jamaica, Italy, and Germany. He received his high school education at the Overseas School of Rome in Italy, graduating in 1972. He attended Florence College in Italy and the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. A resident of Asheville since 1984, he was employed by Earth Fare and Greenlife groceries managing their bulk food departments. Eric loved playing his saxophone and guitar and, with his keen ear for jazz, he could identify anyone playing an instrument just by hearing a few bars. He was also a lifelong Beatles fan.

Eric is predeceased by his parents, Bertil Helmer Hedberg of Stockholm,

Sweden, and Patricia Wallace Hedberg of Akron, Ohio. He is survived by his loving brother Cris (Anette) of Järna, Sweden and beloved sister Karin (Gerald Hyatt) of Weaverville, NC, as well extended family in Sweden and many, many devoted friends spanning the globe.

In celebration of Eric's life, a musical gathering will be held at The Altamont Brewing Co. at 1042 Haywood Road in Asheville on Saturday, May 4, 2013 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. All are invited and musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments.

In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested in Eric's name to any of the following organizations in the Asheville area: Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, ABCCM, Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, Animal Compassion Network, the Asheville Humane Society, or the Asheville Music School

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 4. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Altamont Brewing Company
1042 Haywood Road
Asheville, NC 28806

Tribute Wall

HA

“ You were a truly wonderful person, and your impact on my life is immeasurable. Your gentle soul, infectious smile, and profound appreciation for the simplest things in life touched me deeply. Your laughter, warmth, and unwavering kindness will never be forgotten. Rest in peace, brother man, You will be deeply missed, but your memory will always be cherished.

*With love and fond memories,
Hamed*

Hamed - January 22, 2024 at 02:22 PM



“ *Mr. Eric Wallace Hedberg*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM

RD

“ Eric,

I enjoyed the many times we talked because I we had a similar sense of humor. I also identified with the fact the we both had families who had lived all around the world. It just so happened that when you passed away I was wiring a new instrumental jazz ballad. When I learned of your passing, I understood immediately that the new song had to be named in your honor. I felt this to the absolute core of my being. So the song is titled EWH. All of your friends can hear it for free at Soundcloud by searching under my name. While I miss the possibility of a surprise visit or phone call from you, I feel that I've got a part of you with me at all times, and no one can take that from me!!! Thanks for your contribution to my life!!!

Rob Dame

Rob Dame - October 26, 2013 at 07:12 PM



“ *Darlene Stukas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Eric Wallace Hedberg*



Darlene Stukas - September 20, 2013 at 06:11 PM

DC

“ Dorothy Collins

My dear Eric

You were a light to so many and my Bear.

You always had a good hug for any soul needing one or a joke or a tale.

Thank you for so much.

I miss you.

Dorothy Collins - July 12, 2013 at 08:23 AM

AN

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. The Bible provides comfort during these difficult times. Revelation 21:3,4 states "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away". Very soon now, we will never experience losing our loved ones in death. Hope these words give you a new hope.*

Ana - June 01, 2013 at 05:59 PM



“ Eric,

You will be surely missed. If only we had been aware of how you were feeling your last days here, we would've made an attempt to sustain you a lil while longer. Be in Peace my friend. You were always a kind compassionate soul as I have known you. May the Creator be pleased in your presense.

Jonathan Daniels

Jonathan Daniels - May 04, 2013 at 11:39 AM

ST

“ Eric,
You were always so funny and engaging at Dinner for the Earth and Earth Fare. You were always part of the Derrough extended family. We last saw you at Greenlife just being yourself, talking (and working) and talking! Your amazing spirit will be missed!
Carol Derrough Neely and Steve Neely
Plum Natural Market
Forest City, NC

Steve - May 01, 2013 at 08:15 AM

SR

“ Eric used to call me all the time and leave long saxophone solos on my answering machine. I enjoyed listening to them because they were quite good! We used to have in-depth conversations about politics, women, etc. I always told him there was not much he could do about those sort of issues, and to stop worrying about the world and just enjoy life. We had a lot of laughs together and he was an excellent musician, although he didn't like to perform onstage very much. That's OK because we all knew he could play! I have known Eric a very long time and will definitely miss him. He was a great dude!

Stuart Reinhardt - May 01, 2013 at 07:11 AM

FZ

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Frank Zipperer - April 30, 2013 at 01:31 PM

JU

“ Eric was a friend to those who needed a friend -- including his animal friends. The world has lost a man whose kindness approached nobility. All of us who were his friends will miss him, and many will be better for his affection.

John Underwood

John Underwood - April 30, 2013 at 09:20 AM

LS

“ So sad that this wonderful, engaging, unique man, is gone so soon. Every conversation was memorable and informative. I will miss his spirit and friendship.

Leni Sitnick

leni sitnick - April 30, 2013 at 07:16 AM

AN

“ Bill and I had no idea Eric had died. We are devastated. We send all our love to Karin and Cris. We are so sorry to hear this news. It was always a pleasure to have Eric visit in DC and entertain us. No one who has ever heard Eric's "American Business Man" will ever forget it. He was sweet, funny, bright and lovely and always true to himself. We will truly miss just knowing he was on the planet.

Anne and Bill Shuyler

anne - April 30, 2013 at 05:22 AM

AP

“ Anyone who had the chance to know Eric must be deeply saddened. His passion for everything he put his mind to is instructive to all his friends he leaves behind.

His generous words and compassionate actions made our world friendlier, funnier, more serious, and more fulfilling. We had so many talks, at the grocery, on the sidewalk, sitting at Barleys (while he ate his trademark beefalo wrap)----always left me inspired with his far reaching realizations about the whole universe. He was a jewel in the bright crown of our city, Asheville. Prayers and condolences for his brother and sister.

Rest in peace, brother Eric. You will be missed dearly.

aaron

aaron price - April 29, 2013 at 10:38 PM

DE

“ I send my deepest Love to all of the family. Eric and you will be in my heart during this time!

Debbie Peluso

debbie - April 29, 2013 at 08:20 PM



“ Eric was kind, irreverent, funny and ready to take on the world, as I remember him from our time together at the Overseas School of Rome. He struck me as a man with no regrets, nor a need for such. Sincere thoughts of remembrance for those of you I have never known who were an ongoing part of his remarkable life.

Carl Wesch - April 29, 2013 at 08:14 PM

JA

“ Eric, you were truly one of a kind. And the most amazing thing, you never changed! From when we hung about Rome together in High School, to talking to you on the phone a few months ago, always Eric. Your voice still resonates in my ear, the portal to my mind. Your laughter, your words. And your sax. We never did find Bill Bucci (our sax teacher) did we? Wished we could have had some musical reunion. That will have to wait. Ciao amico, suona il sassofono per me una volta!

Jaime

Jaime - April 29, 2013 at 07:38 PM

TB

*I only seem to be able to leave my small comment on Jaime's page, which is probably also most fitting. Eric, you bring me back a very long way to special times, places, people, of which you were one. Your endearing smile, quiet sense of humour and resolute, caring human values. I remember nights driving you back to Casalpallocco after a fun evening of eating, drinking and talking at the Clays and chatting to you about all sorts of things as we went along the Cristoforo Colombo. So sad to hear you went so early. Good night, Sweet Prince, and may clouds of your special angels tide you along the way to your rest... My deepest sympathy to Cris and Karin and all your grieving friends...
Tony Brophy*

Tony Brophy - April 30, 2013 at 08:57 AM

JC

Tony, thank you for remembering Eric. I have vague memories of you driving Eric home. That is a long way to go for you to have gotten back to Trastevere after a meal at my house! So kind of you to do that, to a very kind and sweet individual in the form of Eric. He sure was awesome. Cheers! Jaime

Jaime Clay - May 02, 2013 at 10:24 PM

PA

“ He had so much love for Music and I am so proud to have known him and I went to Overseas School of Rome . My sincere condolences to all his family . May his music always be present . Rest in Peace Eric !!! Paulette Cardinaux Fraizer

paulettcardiauxfraizer - April 29, 2013 at 07:35 PM

KJ

“ Remembering Eric, his compassion for everyone, his lightness of spirit, his comic genius "An American Businessman in Italy" and most of all his music and his passion in playing and listening to it and especially our special Wayne Shorter concert together. Rest well, Eric. I miss you. Kathleen Jordan

Kathleen Jordan - April 29, 2013 at 07:22 PM

JO

“ Eric was an incredibly talented and wonderful man. He was always kind to everyone he met. He was always surrounded by music, laughter and love. His spirit will continue to inspire kindness through those that knew him. Rest in Peace, Eric. You will be dearly missed.

Josezette - April 29, 2013 at 07:02 PM