



Earnest Tyrone Stout

October 31, 1939 - January 13, 2021

Earnest Tyrone Stout

Earnest Tyrone “Ernie” Stout, 81, passed away January 13, 2021 at Brookdale Senior Living in Colonial Heights following complications due to Alzheimer’s disease. He was a remarkable man and lived a full life. If Ernie ever touched your life, you know how wonderfully kind and generous he was.

He was the son of David and Hazel Miller Stout of Johnson City and the grandson of Dewey Stout of Johnson City, who was instrumental in starting Johnson City Parks and Recreation and was elected to Johnson City Park and Recreation Hall of Fame.

Ernie grew up in Johnson City, where through his grandfather Dewey’s influence, he learned to love sports. Even though he was stricken with polio as a young boy, Ernie went on to become one of Science Hill High School’s outstanding athletes in both football and track. He received the Good Sportsmanship award in track in 1957-58. He played football in Bristol in the Shrine Bowl in 1958. Later in life, Ernie was one of the original “Hilltoppers” to establish the Coach Tipton Football Scholarship for the school.

Upon his graduation from Science Hill, several universities offered Ernie football scholarships, including Louisiana State University and Memphis State University. It was during a university visit that Ernie was called home because his mother had perished in a house fire. Following that tragedy, he went to Memphis State University for one semester, leaving to rejoin his brothers in Jacksonville, FL. Subsequently, he was offered a full football scholarship to the University of Tampa. While a student there, he distinguished himself by earning several awards, including Most Improved Player (1961), Student Congress President (1962-63), and Outstanding Male Student (1962-63). He also received the Hillsborough Hill School Meritorious Service Award in 1963 for his service as an intern there. He graduated in 1963 with a degree in Education and Coaching.

Ernie relocated to Johnson City and began his career with Tennessee Eastman Company

in Kingsport. He held several managerial positions during the next decades and was the first person to become a retiree of Eastman Chemical Company, following the company's spin-off from Eastman Kodak.

His love for Mustangs began in the 1980s. During that time, he built the first of two Mustang station wagons. That car won awards at almost every show. Ernie even built a four-wheel drive Mustang to pull the trailer to haul the station wagon. He was very inventive and always found a way to do what he tried. His car won the Liberty Bell Best of Show in Pennsylvania (1982) and first place in the Sunsphere Grand Nationals (1983).

In the 1990s, after his children were out of the home, Ernie began to volunteer with several organizations. He served meals at the Salvation Army and volunteered at Kingsport Nursery School. A favorite pastime was helping at Girls Incorporated of Kingsport. You could find him there for hours a day doing whatever was needed. He also played Santa Claus at various schools, senior citizen centers and churches.

Following the retirement of his wife Gail, they took many bicycle trips and rode many Rails to Trails paths. They especially enjoyed Hilton Head Island, S.C., and spent a lot of time there riding and visiting thrift stores. When Ernie could no longer ride, his passion became repairing or building bicycles to give to children. His goal was to ensure every kid who wanted a bike had one, helmets included! It is estimated that Ernie gave away more than 1,000 bikes to children locally and as far away as Kentucky and Virginia.

With love for travel, Ernie had been to nine countries and every state in the U.S. except Alaska. But he would always tell you he was glad to come home.

A long list of service achievements and recognitions includes:

- President, Sullivan South Athletic Booster Club
- Betty Cox Memorial Award from the East Tennessee Mustang Club (1983)
- Leadership Award from First Tennessee Regional Group Mustang Club (1984)
- Award for Making Kingsport Sparkle from Keeping Kingsport Clean (1992)
- Certificate for Dr. W. Edward Deming's Method from Management from George Washington University
- Represented Eastman at the presentation of the Malcom Baldrige Award at the White House (1993), where he was introduced to President Bill Clinton
- Plaque from Tipper Gore in appreciation of a campaign event (1993)
- Silver Partner Award for supporting AAU Basketball National Championship from the Kingsport Convention & Visitor's Bureau (1999)

- Golden Rule Award for community service from J.C. Penney
- Distinguished Service Award from Girls Inc. (1995)
- Volunteer of the Year from Girls Inc. (1996)
- Outstanding Service Award from Girls Inc. (1997)
- Outstanding Volunteer from Girls Inc. (1999)
- Special Person to Adolescent Methodists from Crossroads United Methodist Church Youth Group

Ernie was loved by all who knew him, whether that was as “Mr. Haney,” “The Wheeler Dealer,” “The Bicycle Man,” “The Lake Man,” (he knew Boone Lake like the back of his hand), “The Johnson City Boy” (he loved his 1958 graduating class), or “Coach” (by his Eastman Print Shop buddies).

Ernie loved his adopted Bullock family and often talked about the chicken and dumplings made by his mother-in-law, Juanita Bullock Neely. He loved attending the annual Stout family reunion. He especially loved his friends, Jackie Smith and Gay Smalling, who were there for him until the end, and his special neighbor Helen.

He was a member of Ketrion Memorial United Methodist Church in Lynn Garden and was active in several ministries there, especially the food pantry.

In addition to his parents and grandparents, Ernie was predeceased by brothers, Charles and David; father-and-mother-in-law, Oscar and Juanita Bullock.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Gail Bullock Stout; son, Chadwick Spencer Stout (Meghan) of Shelby, N.C.; a stepson, Tracy Daniel Simmons of South Pittsburg, TN; three grandchildren, Brady and Meredith Stout and Augustine Daniel Simmons; half-brother, Randy (Phyllis) Stout of Rogersville, TN; brothers-in-law, Marcel Gibbons of Church Hill and Ronnie (Bobbie) Bullock of Maryville, TN; sisters-in-law, Debra (Clyde) Lucas of Church Hill and Bobette (Sherman) Manis of Rogersville; several uncles, aunts and cousins; great nieces and nephews.

To honor Ernie’s wishes, he will be cremated. No formal services will be held due to COVID-19. Memorial gifts may be made to Ketrion Memorial United Methodist Church Food Pantry, 301 Virgil Ave., Kingsport, TN, 37662 or by giving a kid a bike! A video of Ernie’s life is being prepared by Oak Hill Funeral Home and may be viewed on their website.

The family would like to thank Ernie’s family and friends for their support, Brookdale

Senior Living and Home Instead.

To leave an online condolence for the family please visit www.oakhillfh.com

The care of Earnest Tyrone “Ernie” Stout and his family has been entrusted to the staff of Oak Hill Funeral and Cremation Services.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Oak Hill Funeral and Cremation Services - January 15, 2021 at 11:35 AM



“ The Stout family had alot of cousins,we were all very close and we love each other so much.But Ernie he had a heart that you could feel the love every time we would see him.He cared so much for everybody.He is the true definition of gentleman,giving to people that didn't have anything.He was a true Christian .Him and our cousin Tom Baines worked on bikes and then traveled to give them to kids that didn't have.We are al blessed to have him in our life.Thank you Jesus for blessing us with him.Gail I love you.Thank you for taking care and loving him like both did.Forever in our hearts.Hazle Chatman-Foytik.

Hazle Chatman-Foytik - January 15, 2021 at 06:33 PM



“ If there was ever a fun and inspiring couple, it was Earnie and Gail. Gail, we send you and your family our deepest condolences. May your memories of Earnie bring you comfort, smiles, and joy as the days and years move forward.

Love,
Nina & Jim McGee

Nina McGee - February 16, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ A beautiful fraternity brother from UT . Such an amazing life serving others. Remarkable. Prayers and condolences to his family.
God Bless
Dave Ryan
1968

David Ryan - September 07, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“

My Friend, Earnie Stout,

It is with great sadness and sorrow that I say goodbye to a person that has brought so much

joy and laughter into my life. I would also extend my sincerest condolences to Gail and the rest

of the Stout family for such a grievous loss. I pray that the peace of God that passes understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I have been very blessed to have had a loyal friend like Earnie. He always treated me like I was

very special to hm, as he did with everyone. I don't know anyone that disliked Earnie or had an

unkind word to say about him. He was a real people person and worked hard to make friends

with everyone.

I had many good times and many wonderful friends durning my days at Eastman, and I'll have

to say that Earnie left me with many memorable experiences that I look back upon today with a

smile on my face. Along with calling me "coach", he taught me a lot of the quips that I still use

today...such as ...Hey, Coach...you fleshed out little bit since the last time I saw you, didn't

ya? And, Hey, Coach, where'd you get those fancy go-aheads? The best one that I used just

yesterday at a grocery store check out was "do you except cash with two photo ID's? I remember several times Earnie and I would go to the Credit Union on Friday

afternoon and he

would say to the teller..."Let me have \$1500 out of savings, please?" My turn would come up

and I'd say in a low voice..."Can I get \$500 out of my revolving loan account?" We both would

laugh all the way back to Bldg. 284.

The most epic of memories was our car trading. I think I owned every used car in Sullivan

County twice. I knew that when it was time to unload one of those clunker, Earnie was always

agreeable to buy it and drag it away. One time I sold him my son's Fiesta that didn't even have

an ignition key. He bought it anyway and had to break the steering wheel lock to tow the thing

away. I was a little embarrassed about that one, but only for a little while.

Earnie Stout...what a guy! The day he was transferred out of the print shop and sent to another

manager position was a very sad day for me. I wanted him to stay with his buddies and keep

the good times rolling.

Everything has to come to and end, so with that, I say so-long to a lifetime friend. A mentor. An

enthusiastic promoter and one of the best people I've ever had the privilege to know.
Goodbye, Coach! I'll see you on the other side!
Your loving friend...Jack Keller (Coach)
But as it is written, Eye has not seen, nor has ear heard, neither has it entered into
the heart of
man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him. 1 Cor 2:9

Jack Keller - February 16, 2021 at 03:25 PM



“ Jackie Smith lit a candle in memory of Earnest Tyrone Stout



Jackie Smith - January 22, 2021 at 12:48 PM



“ I would say Ernie was as fine as they come when he was needed and I will miss the sound advice he gave. He was very well liked and respected on and off the job. My condolences to all of the family. Wayne Gilliam

Wayne Gilliam - January 19, 2021 at 10:27 PM



“ Gail and family, so very sorry to hear of Ernie's passing. He was a very special friend and neighbor for several years. Ernie was a very talented guy that always had time for others.

He had that great glowing personality that grew on anyone who knew him. We can claim all those precious memories that w can relive in our mind. My condolence to you and the family.

Kenneth Conkin

Kenneth Conkin - January 18, 2021 at 02:23 PM



“ Penny purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Earnest Tyrone Stout.



Penny Sommer - January 17, 2021 at 03:26 PM



“ Rest In Peace Uncle Ernie.



Richard Miller - January 16, 2021 at 10:32 PM



“ N. Hilton lit a candle in memory of Earnest Tyrone Stout



N. Hilton - January 16, 2021 at 07:19 PM



“ Gail, we were so sorry to hear about Ernie. He was a very special person. He will be missed by many.

Martha and Coble Ramsey

Martha Ramsey - January 16, 2021 at 11:20 AM



“ Gail, I am sorry to hear of Ernie's passing. You and he has been such a blessing to me and our church. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. Always keep the faith and remain faithful to your commitment.

Ed Daugherty



Ed Daugherty - January 16, 2021 at 10:32 AM



“ Ernie was my uncle but was like a dad to me. He meant the world to me he was the greatest man I ever got to know. He and my aunt Gail took me to the beach for the first time, camping and to the lake on his boat we did just about everything together. I stayed with him and Gail just about every weekend. He was so good to me and I am so thankful that God put him in my life and for all the good times we had I will always be grateful for that. Love you always Ashley.

Ashley Stubblefield - January 15, 2021 at 05:53 PM



“ Ernie was one of the finest men that I have ever known. I grew up across the street from Ernie and I can still remember those station wagon Mustangs and the four wheel drive mustang. It seems like I would always try to sneak over to see Ernie if I noticed the garage door was open. He was always so kind to our family. My condolences go out to Gail, Chad, Tracy and family.

BRIAN K CONKIN - January 15, 2021 at 02:13 PM



“ 83 files added to the album LifeTributes



Oak Hill Funeral and Cremation Services - January 15, 2021 at 11:34 AM



“ Gail, we will never forget all our wonderful memories and fun times with Ernie and you. Our thoughts and prayers for you and your family. Ralph and Ann Smith

Ann Smith - January 15, 2021 at 11:27 AM



“ Ernie was my brother in law and I loved him so much. He was so good to our family and would do anything for us. He was a special person and we are going to miss him so much.

Debra Lucas - January 15, 2021 at 10:02 AM



“ It is more of a challenge each year that adds another numeral to our time on this earth. Life has its own way of preparing us for God's eternal home when we gather at the ultimate goal. What a great Home Coming awaits us "who are called according to His purposes." It is wonderful to know that Ernest will be there, also.

With fond memories,

Susan Given Makant

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Susan Given Makant - January 15, 2021 at 09:39 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Earnest as I know we all love that guy. He is one of a kind and when I think of him I think of Science Hill and the Hilltoppers, football games on Friday night, teen town on Saturdays, all the girls hoping he might ask them to dance because he loved to dance and he was a friend to us all. Earnest Stout was 1958 high school in the days of Happy Days, USA. Earnie was a friend to all, more than just the most popular, good dresser and always talked to all...never thought more of himself than he thought of others. Ernie was my friend, as I know others felt that way about him too. He was just one of the guys that stood out. He was given a full scholarship to play football in Tampa, FL. He made something of his life, came back to East Tn and worked for many years for the Eastman Company. My sympathies to his wife Gail. May God comfort you as you care for him during his time in hospice and I pray his final days will be peaceful as he knows he will soon be with our Lord and Savior Jesus. We love you dear friend." prissy (Onks Starnes)

Prissy Onks Starnes - January 15, 2021 at 09:38 AM



“ Judy Church lit a candle in memory of Earnest Tyrone Stout



Judy Church - January 15, 2021 at 09:37 AM



“ "Ernest Stout was such a wonderful gentleman and he will certainly be missed. I remember talking with him at one of our dinner meetings and he was so excited talking about collecting bicycles and restoring them so he could give them to children at Christmas who had none. You could tell how much he loved children and what he could do for them. Thankfully, we will meet him again in heaven."
- Patsy Sanders Bailey."

Patsy Sanders Bailey - January 15, 2021 at 09:37 AM



“ One memory I have of Ernest Stout is when we were all working on the 50th Reunion at Monty Wagner's place, I was standing looking out the window looking for Patsy and Ernie came walking in and spoke to me. I spoke back but wasn't really sure it was him. He must have realized this as he said, "Aw, Carolyn, it's "ole Ernie". Later on as we worked on the reunion and had our dinner meetings, I came to know what he really stood for. He was a good Christian man, a good husband and a good father and lots more. Then, I knew that whatever things Ernie accomplished or did with his life, he would still be "ole Ernie", a friend of everyone. The world lost a good man this morning, but we will see him again, probably soon, in heaven with our Lord and Saviour."

- Carolyn Orren Tipton

Carolyn - January 15, 2021 at 09:35 AM



“ If I could be one tenth of the person that Earnest was I would feel very proud, what a great person he really was , I've known earnest for over 20 and have enjoyed every minute being around him he had the best outlook on life and I know god has his heart and soul in his hands now.

paul roberts - January 15, 2021 at 09:25 AM



“ HE WAS A GOOD MAN

Deuce Kirkpatrick - January 15, 2021 at 06:06 AM



“ Prayers for Gail and family. I met Ernie my first day at Eastman in 1965 and he was my boss when he retired. He helped me in so many ways I can't name them all. Great memories.

larry sutherland - January 15, 2021 at 05:43 AM



“ Ginny Hilton Mullins lit a candle in memory of Earnest Tyrone Stout



Ginny Hilton Mullins - January 15, 2021 at 03:54 AM



“ Ernie was awesome!! He and his wife Gail lived next door to me. They were wonderful neighbors. He let me borrow his tools and would help if needed. It wasn't too long before I had a nickname for Ernie. I called him Earnhardt. He laughed and stated, he wasn't my favorite!
I continued with his nickname as we all laughed out loud. Ernie soon got use to being called EH.
During our conversations I learned we both loved bratwurst. So, when I grilled brats, EH would always get a bratwurst.
EH was very kind and generous neighbor along with his wife Gail. This lady was always there and never left his side!! EH will be missed and remembered by those who knew him.

Good bye my dear friend,

Helen



Helen Fuqua - January 15, 2021 at 12:27 AM



“ Gail my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Ernie was loved by many. Never failed to speak to you, tell a joke or a story. One of the finest men at Eastman.

Shelby Watts Humphrey - January 14, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ Gail, I am so sorry to learn of Ernie's passing. I still remember the fun we all three shared when we worked together. You are in my thoughts.

Ann Guy Norman - January 14, 2021 at 08:57 PM



“ Ernie was a fine man. We enjoyed his friendship for many years. Our thoughts and prayers for the family.

Larry & Glenda Wooten - January 14, 2021 at 08:02 PM



“ John Stout and Elizabeth Grant purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Earnest Tyrone Stout.



John Stout and Elizabeth Grant - January 14, 2021 at 07:10 PM



“ Ernie was a wonderful man and had a huge heart ready to help anyone! He left a wonderful legacy and will be remembered as a good man and an even better human being! The world needs more men like Ernie Stout! May he rest in peace knowing he is home at last and has won the victory. My deepest sympathies to Gail and the family!

Wilson Debbie - January 14, 2021 at 06:36 PM



“ Brenda Johnson lit a candle in memory of Earnest Tyrone Stout



Brenda Johnson - January 14, 2021 at 04:31 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Gail and all family members as you grieve your loss. Ernie was a super gentleman, a one of a kind man who never stopped giving back. May precious memories bring you smiles.

Carolyn Bsker - January 14, 2021 at 02:37 PM



“ I am truly sorry for the loss of Earnest. I am a granddaughter of his mother Hazel's sister Dorothy. It saddens my heart that all the boys are gone but brings me joy that they are reunited with a mother taken from them so tragically and so long ago. When I was little, my sisters and I visited Earnest at several of his lake homes with our mother Barbara, his first cousin. We loved those boat rides and playing with Chad. He was 3-4 years old at the time and may not remember Barbara's girls playing with him! My deepest sympathy to all of you.
Regina France

Regina Black France - January 14, 2021 at 09:09 PM



“ Gail you and all the family have my deepest sympathy in the loss of Ernie. His obituary was a beautiful tribute to a life well lived. The last time I saw you and Ernie was at Walmart and he was proudly talking about the bicycles he was repairing for needy children. I could see the joy in both of you in that ministry. I could see the joy and love you shared for each other. Prayers and love for you always. Earlene Sell

Earlene Sell - January 15, 2021 at 11:11 AM



“ Gail, so sorry to learn of Ernie's passing. He was a very special person who never met a stranger and always had a smile. Praying that your memories will sustain and bring you comfort in the days ahead. God bless you and his family.

Patty Dronfield

Patty Dronfield - January 15, 2021 at 04:15 PM



“ Gail, sorry to hear about Ernie's home going, you didn't lose him, we know where he is, he just graduated into the arms of Jesus and waiting for the rest of us to join him, you will see him again.

That thought may be comforting to you but I know it still hurts, you have my deepest sympathy. I'll never forget you and Ernie and our print shop days, he was great person to work for.

Danny Owens

Danny Owens - January 18, 2021 at 03:16 PM