



Spc. Eric Forbis

February 17, 2006

Services for Spc. R. R. Eric "Bear" Forbis, 24, Whitehouse, are scheduled for 1:00 p.m., Friday, Feb. 17, 2006, at Central Baptist Church with Rev. Kim Beckham and Rev. Ron Byrd officiating. Burial will be in Tyler Memorial Park under direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mr. Forbis died in a car accident Friday, Feb. 13, 2006. Eric was born to Guy and Deborah Forbis on Dec. 30, 1981. He was a man of many names, depending on how you knew him. Given the nickname "Bear" as a baby, this is how all his oldest friends, family and church family knew him ? and still called him. In school, he was called "Eric", and friends met in his teen and young adult years knew him by that name as well. Medically he was called Raymond until corrected and militarily he was just "Forbis". Regardless of what name he was known by, the person inside was the same. He loved life! He had a wonderful sense of humor - sarcastic most of the time - but always funny. He liked nothing better than to make people laugh, either by a joke, a story or just outrageous behavior. It was nothing for him to get together with friends and go to Wal-Mart in the middle of the night and race shopping carts through the aisles, or dress up as ALF and go out and meet people and pose for photographs. He loved video games and college football and movies - lots of movies - he had a collection of over 400 and could recite lines from all of them and explain their plots to you as well. If you ever met Bear one thing was certain. You would be the recipient of a big "Bear" hug! He loved giving hugs, whether you were a friend, relative, or his Sergeant. At age 4, he was diagnosed with leukemia,

fighting many complications - even to the point where the doctors told his parents that he was going to die - but he refused to. He recovered completely, and never looked back. He talked about entering the Army during his senior year of high school, but found that with his medical history it would be very difficult so he decided that was not where God wanted him. However, after Sept. 11, he got angry and once again decided to pursue enlistment. It took months of work and much paperwork, including a medical waiver from the Surgeon General's office, but he got in. He went to Fort Sill, OK for basic training and then to Fort Bliss, TX for AIT to learn all about the Bradley Linebacker Fighting Vehicle he would drive. He was permanently stationed at Fort Hood, TX in 2003 and was deployed to Iraq in Operation Enduring Freedom II in March 2004. About six weeks after he arrived in Iraq he was part of a team of soldiers to undertake a rescue operation of some wounded soldiers under enemy fire. That earned him an Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for Valor. He would earn another one before his tour of duty there was up. In August of 2004 a land mine exploded right in front of him, sending him to Germany for treatment, but he couldn't wait to get back to his unit and get back to work. That injury earned him a Purple Heart. He returned home in March of 2005 to his permanent duty station, Fort Hood. He was always very active in church and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior at a young age. He loved his Lord and desired to serve Him throughout his life. After his term of enlistment in the Army was over, he planned to go to TCU where he wanted to attend Seminary and become a Youth Pastor as well as getting a degree in education so he could also teach high school math. He was preceded in death by his sister, Sarah Forbis, grandparents, Raymond and Annie Hood, and Eric J. Forbis. Eric is survived by his loving family including his parents, Guy and Deborah Forbis of Whitehouse; brother, Adam Forbis of Whitehouse; grandmother, Melba Forbis of Center; aunts, Myra Brown and husband, Jim of Tyler, and Nelda Spears of Plano; uncle, John Hood and wife Jan of Tyler; numerous cousins and many friends. Pallbearers will be the Fort Hood Honor Guard. Honorary Pallbearers will be Andrew

Bowers, Josh Byrd, Jordan Byrd, Aaron Lybrand, Eric Wilkerson, Nick Self, David Cox, and the soldiers of Alpha Battery 4th/5th ADA in Fort Hood. The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., south Tyler 75703. Memorials in honor of Mr. Forbis may be made to Central Baptist Church, 6253 New Copeland Road, Tyler 75703.

Tribute Wall

AS

“*"Bear" was a great guy. He always put others before him. It was an honor to be able to call him a friend. Guy, Debra & Adam, My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

God Bless,

Adam Schuchman

Adam Schuchman - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KM

“*Deb and Guy,*

We are so sorry. We are praying for you all. We love you.

Dan and Kathy

Kathy Miller - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CT

“*THANK YOU so much for sharing your son with us. Eric was always there go give my little one a big "bear" hug. Eric showed my oldest one how to pray and really mean it. Eric was a very special person.*

CHERYL TURNER - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Even though we didn't personally know Eric, we felt as though we knew him through the friendship of our niece, April! We have prayed for him since he left for Iraq and will continue to pray for you and your family through these difficult days ahead! We are very proud of Eric's service to our country and know that you are proud of that, as well! God Bless You and hold you tightly to give you strength! Our thoughts and prayers are with you!

Lois Ann and Gary Godfrey - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Guy and Debra, I don't know if you remember me or not. I used to go to Central with you years ago. Guy, me and my children used to ride the Church bus with you. I lost a son, Brandon, while I was going to Central. My other son, David, is now 33. I am So sorry to hear about Bear. I know you all have suffered a great loss. Take comfort in knowing that he is with the Lord now and one day soon you will be with him, just like I will be with Brandon. God Bless and comfort you and your family.

Vickie and Larry Rogers

DAVID AND DONNA BUCHANAN - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Mr. & Mrs. Forbis, I am sorry that I cannot be with you during this time. I am in San Antonio with one of my students for the ALL STATE BAND but I just wanted to let you know I am thinking about you. Eric was a good band student at WHS and I am so proud of him, I got to tell him so this past Dec. when he was at school one day. May God Bless! Denny Whitley

Denny Whitley - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Eric was in the band with my son Jeff and they were good friends. Eric always had his heart in the band performances and was a joy to watch. He will be missed.

David - Debbie - Jeff Beasley - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ We meet Forbis thru our soldiers -SPC Broyles and SPC Norris.. They all came to Terrell for the weekend. Forbis went to Tyler.. We was there when they left for Iraq and prayed for him when he went to Germany.. and was there when they came home.. We will kept you in our prayers.. Forbis will be missed..

James and Betty Valentine - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ I met Eric over at Sarah's home. They were very good friends. I found him to be very polite and friendly. He was anxious to go into the army. My deepest sympathy to the parents and family.

Betty Maclin

Betty Maclin(Sarah Sharaa's Grandmother) - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ You are in our prayers even here in Arkansas. Just another reminder to Denise the unsaved lady whose friend you corresponded with while both boys were in the Middle East....she needs to prepare for eternity.

Donna Braymer

Howard/Donna Braymer - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Guy, Deb and Adam,

Your loss has saddened us greatly! We remember Bear as a young boy, full of life, always laughing and all the kids playing together in Arlington on Ivy Hill Dr. You should be so proud of Bear and all of his accomplishments in life. He is now home with Sara. My Adam will not be able to attend the services, but he asked that I pass on his thoughts and prayers for you. May God keep you safe and strong during this time of loss. We will see you at the services.

Pam Hasson & Adam & Heidi Possin

Pam Hasson - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ Hey,

The ALF outfit, gosh, i remember. that was crazy. Once, we went to Sonic with it, and the people just looked at us like we were crazy. it has been really hard dealing with this. I am really sorry i wont be able to attend the funeral. My thoughts are with you guys. He talked about Sarah a lot. He loved her a lot. Now he is reunited with her. This has just been a really hard time. You guys are in my prayers. Eric has been through out the Army thing, and also through this. Eric could always make me laugh, and he always will.

Emily Tynes - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ We are greatly sorry for your loss of Eric. He was a highschool friend and a good character. To lose some one is a very hard thing we just lost a cousin in the Marines while he was in Iraq. Its a hard thing to go through but we can only imagine how it is being our own child of God. ~Leandra~ My husband is serving our country at this time and we have a little girl that I hope he can come home to soon. ~Travis~ Eric was a good friend in highschool and he will always be in my heart as a friend and a fighter for our country. ~Trey~ I didnt know Eric but i knew Adam and if they were anything a like i know that Eric was a very great guy thanks for serving our country. We greatly appreciate your son and brother for everything he has done and may he be happy now as he rest in the hands of God. God Bless You All!!

Leandra "Bernholtz" Bissell - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. We know our Lord will give you the "peace that passeth all understanding" now and the days to come. We remember "Bear" as a young boy and rejoice with you in the many accomplishments he attained in his short life, and most of all, that he is a child of God rejoicing in Heaven now and forever.

God bless you,
Glenda and Ed Walker

Ed and Glenda Walker - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ DEAR FORBIS FAMILY:

I AM VERY SORRY TO HEAR OF YOUR LOSS OF YOUR LOVED ONE. I TOO HAVE A SON IN IRAQ. IF THE GOOD LORD SAYS THE SAME, HE WILL BE COMING HOME IN DECEMBER OF 2006 THIS YEAR. PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU ARE IN MY PRAYERS. I PRAY EVERY NIGHT THAT ALL OF OUR TROOPS COME BACK HOME SAFELY.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY,

GAIL ANDERSON

GAIL ANDERSON - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ *Guy and Deborah, God bless you in your time of grief. Rosanne and I loved Bear and your whole family. We are devastated by your loss and our prayers are with you. As you know we understand your pain. However please remember that God is the great comforter and will get you through this along with your friends and family. We love you and will see you at the funeral.*

Don and Rosanne Provost - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *It seemed Eric lived a full life if not a long one. Thank you for your service to our country, and your life in Christ which will leave an even longer legacy.*

To the family, I admire your strength and dependence on Christ in the face of the tragedies this world has brought you. Our prayers at Harmony are with you.

Rob Wren - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ We are so sorry for your loss. I can not imagine losing one child much less two as you have. It must require a great faith in God to be able go thru something like this and be able to continue on the road of life. I wish that I had some words to say that would comfort you but there is not much to say that would ease your pain at this time. I saw you on TV the other night and was amazed at your composure and ability to speak openly. I admire you for that. We are thinking of you and praying for you and your family.
Mike and Barbara

Mike & Barbara Garrett - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ God must have needed another angel when he took Bear. May knowing that he is with him now give you peace. Saying Thank You! Does not seem like much, but please know that I will be forever grateful for what your son did for us his fellow Americans.
You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Carla

Carla Gamblin - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ I just wanted to express my deepest sympathies to your family for this loss. The thoughts and prayers of Harmony Baptist Church are with you all during this sad time. May the Lord wrap His loving arms around you and may you be covered in His love and comfort.

Tina Wren - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ I used to work with Debra Forbis at the Make A Wish Foundation and just wanted to express my deepest sympathy. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time.

Sharon Mayville - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ I remember working with Eric at the ballpark several years ago. Jeff and I were so proud to see what he had accomplished for himself and our country in such a short period of time.
Our prayers are with his family.

Ted Kamel - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dear Forbis Family,
We were so sorry to hear about your lose of Bear. Please know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers. We remember a lot of good times we had with Bear on different occasions. He was a very special young man and I know that you are proud of him. I know that you take great comfort in knowing that he is with the Lord. Our prayer is that you will experience the peace that only God can give. May God wrap His arms tightly around your family. In His Love.
Donny & Rochelle Christian

Donny & Rochelle Christian - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ "We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him...And so we will be with the Lord forever." (1 Thes 4:14, 17b)

I can't express how my heart goes out to you during this time. Bear was a wonderful man and served the Lord (as well as his country) well. No doubt that upon arriving in Heaven, he heard his Savior saying to him, "Well done good and faithful servant."

Know that you all are in our prayers. We love you guys.

Robert and Jennifer Nash

Robert & Jennifer Nash - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ I am so sorry for this loss. Bear was one of my best freinds and it still is a shock that this has happened. He will be truley missed. My heart breaks for him and his family. My wife Mary and I have been praying for the family and will contiune to lift them up to our Father. We know Bear is with Him now.

Brad Carmack - February 17, 2006 at 12:00 AM