



Ernest Edward Thurston

NOV 16, 2013



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Ernest Edward Thurston

NOV 16, 2013

Ernst Thurston Ernest "Ernie" Edward Thurston of Port Orange, FL was born February 5, 1952 in Watkins Glen, NY to the late Alton Keith Thurston and Celestia Thurston, nee Green. He suddenly passed November 14, 2013 in Port Orange, FL at the age of 61.

Ernie recently retired from the International Speedway Corporation (ISC). Ernie served honorably in the US Air Force having attained the rank of Airman First Class. Ernie also worked for the Schuyler County NY Sheriffs Department, and was a former Schuyler County Fire Coordinator in NY. He was a member of the Watkins Glen NY Fire Dept., Squires Drum and Bugle Corps, past Schuyler County Legislator and a member of the Little Weasels and the Hoselines.

Ernie is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Brenda Thurston, sons; Derek Thurston, and Mitchell Thurston. Siblings; Sheryl Thurston (Linwood). Wendy Scuteri (Victor), Deborah McDonald, Alan Thurston (Karen), Ken Thurston (Renee). Additionally, he leaves behind his mother and father in law, Owen and Julia Mathews, brothers in law; Herb Matthews, Ron Matthews, Alan Matthews (Amy), Greg Matthews (Diana), and Doug Matthews, many loved nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations to Watkins Glen Fire Department, 201 N. Perry St., Watkins Glen, NY 14891, or to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675, or www.woundedwarriorproject.org

A local celebrations of Ernie's life will be held 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm, Monday, November 18, 2013 at the Bill France Room, Daytona USA.

Additionally, a final celebration of life will be held at Ernie's hometown at 12:00 pm, Saturday, November 23, 2013 at the Watkins Glen Fire Department, 201 Perry St., Watkins Glen, NY 14891.



Obituary

Ernest Edward Thurston

All arrangements are under the care of Heritage Funeral & Cremation Service, Port Orange, FL.



Tribute Wall

Ernest Edward Thurston

MH

Mrs. Hinds posted:

According to the bible do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming in all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out. John 5:28,29

March 29 at 6:46 AM

KT

Ken Thurston posted:

Happy B-Day Ern Dog!! Miss ya buddy!!!

February 5 at 10:23 AM

KT

Ken Thurston posted:

Miss ya brother !!! Holidays are not go to be the same. Love ya.

December 19 at 7:02 AM

WN

Woody And Lynne Neese posted:

We were surprised and saddened to hear of Ernie's sudden passing. You all will be in our thoughts and prayers as you enter this holiday season. He was one of a kind and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

December 2 at 4:17 AM

DB

Donya & Tom Bailey posted:

Brenda, I am Donya Bailey in Tulsa, OK, daughter of Don & Bettye Jo Bookmyer. My parents told my husband Tom and I of Ernie's passing and we just wanted to express our sympathy for your loss. Tom and I met Ernie at many a race setting and he always had a smile on his face and a laugh to share. He was a good friend to my parents and I am eternally grateful for that. May God bless you and your family.

November 22 at 8:23 AM



Tribute Wall

Ernest Edward Thurston

MZ

Marie (Hess) Zettlemyer posted:

Brenda and Family: So sorry for your loss!! We never got to meet you and the rest of your family but wished I had. I grew up next door to Ernie. Remember all the kid things we did. He was always such a nice guy to all the neighborhood kids. Looked out for all of us. We live in Deltona and talked last year to Ernie about meeting up someday. Wish we would have. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May God be with you in this difficult time.

November 21 at 4:50 PM

KD

Kim Kelly Lock Denver, Co posted:

Kenny, Brenda, boys and the entire Thurston/Matthews clan- Ern was such a character! May fond memories of him help you through this difficult time. Keeping you in thoughts and prayers.

November 20 at 11:33 AM

RF

Roscoe Scarce & Family posted:

Ernie will be missed by the many people whose lives he touched. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Derek & family. May God bless you and comfort you through this difficult time

November 19 at 4:53 PM

RO

Rick & Donna Osborne posted:

Brenda and family.... So sorry for the loss of your husband and dad.....praying for each of you that God would sustain you with His peace and comfort in the days ahead,,,,,, loving you

November 18 at 5:32 PM

KC

Kristen Canfield Bacon (Janet Canfield & Joy Crane) posted:

We are so sorry for your unexpected loss. Many memories of Ernie at WGI, WGFD, and Schuyler Co. Sheriff's Dept. (with my dad, Pete Canfield). Think of his great sense of humor often!! Thoughts and prayers to you during this all too familiar and difficult time.

November 18 at 5:31 PM



Tribute Wall

Ernest Edward Thurston

BJ

Bill And Jan Jones posted:

dear Brenda, Mitch and Derek, Please accept our heartfelt sympathy for the loss of such a fine man. Ernie was a wonderful person and loving human being who loved his friends and family with all of his heart. he will be missed by us all. God bless such a dear man and his precious family... We will always have such fond memories of the FLHS grad cruise. his rendition of "Mac the Knife" we always be in our hearts and minds. We love you all... Bill and Jan

November 18 at 4:55 PM

LS

Lynda Schoonover posted:

Brenda and family, My condolences to all of you. Ernie was a great person with a kind heart for everyone. We worked together at the sheriff's office and he always had a good sense of humor.

November 18 at 4:25 PM

CH

Cindi Henby posted:

I am so sad for your loss. I only have sweet memories of Ernie. He was so kind and generous and fun! He will be remembered with love by so many people. I hope this will help you to get through the sadness. God bless Ernie and his family.

November 18 at 2:57 PM

DJ

Deborah Jones posted:

Derek, my thoughts & prayers are with you & your family at this difficult time.

November 18 at 1:15 PM

BB

Bob & Rox Brown posted:

Our deepest sympathies to the family. The years we worked with Ernie at WGI will always hold special memories of him for both of us... no one could match his vibrant personality, positive *can-do* attitude, and sense of humor.

November 18 at 1:00 PM



Tribute Wall

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LI

Larry "G" Irven posted:

We are all called to work daily at making this world a better place. Ernie was a person who did that & more. Y'all will be in our thoughts & prayers as each new day comes & goes. Be Blessed!!.

November 18 at 12:25 PM

RL

Richard Livernois posted:

Brenda and the Thurston family, sorry to hear of Ernie's sudden passing. I knew Ernie from his years at DIS. There was never a dull moment when Ernie was around. RIP old friend.

November 18 at 11:44 AM

CH

Carmella & Ron Hoffman posted:

Our thoughts and prayers go to all the family as you traverse this tragedy! The loss of Ernie will be felt by many! I remember as kids walking to Kindergarten together and watching Sunday night TV, eating popcorn or ice cream. As we grew, we grew apart, but once again came together through the fire service and hose team. As I said, our thoughts and prayers are with you all--know that he will live on in your memories and pictures!

November 18 at 11:10 AM

MP

Mjke And Bonnie Pierce posted:

Brenda and family Ernie was always such a positive influence on the county, the fire service the race track and everyone he came in contact with. It is sad he left so soon. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

November 18 at 10:59 AM

FP

Frank & Sharon Pastore posted:

To A.K. and all the Thurston and Mathew families. So sorry to hear of your loss. Our condolences and prayers are with you at this sad time.

November 18 at 10:09 AM



Tribute Wall

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MK

Mike Kelly posted:

Brenda, and boys, the Thurston family and the Mathews family, My thoughts and prayers go to all of you. May the peace of Christ bless you all during this most difficult time.

November 18 at 8:38 AM

LC

Lisa Centurelli posted:

Ernie would always light up a room with his crazy tales and big smile. Know that he will always be watching over you all. Prayers for healing of your broken hearts.

November 18 at 7:46 AM

SB

Simon & Tina Menio Birtley posted:

Brenda and family: The world is a better place because of Ernie. He touched so many lives and will be missed by so many. He is truly an angel in heaven. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time.

November 18 at 7:33 AM

MH

Mary Harrison posted:

What a great man who will be greatly missed. Very sad for the Thurston Family. I had the pleasure of working at WGI (maintenance dept. 1995-96) with Ernie very happy go lucky and full of energy. RIP ERNIE!

November 18 at 7:18 AM

MR

Marty & Peggy Roberts posted:

Brenda, Dereck, Mitch, and all. There aren't words to tell you how saddened we were to hear of Ernie's passing. He was what we refer to as a quality guy. We will never forget the good times we have spent with Ernie and your entire family. Bless you all. We'll give thanks for have known a real quality guy.

November 18 at 7:15 AM



Tribute Wall

Ernest Edward Thurston

DR

Dave Richards posted:

May he Rest in Peace. A True Legend has passed...

November 18 at 7:11 AM

LS

Larry Specchio posted:

Brenda, I am so sorry to hear about Ernie, have such great memories of past years centered around the fire department, afternoons having a beer, hose team, his days as fire coordinator, my thoughts are with you and the boys at this difficult time.

November 18 at 4:53 AM

GP

Glenn Padgett posted:

Brenda and all of the rest of Ernie's family, Ernie and I worked together at ISC for a number of years. I am still in a state of shock. It is hard for me to believe he is gone. He always had so much passion, energy and enthusiasm for whatever he was doing. You have my deepest condolences. RIP "55"

November 18 at 4:29 AM

MD

Mike, Betty And Haley Denardo posted:

I can't believe this is happening. We have so many happy, fun and some crazy memories that no one can ever take from us and we will cherish forever. From hose team days to Ernie being best man in our wedding. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the boy's.

November 18 at 3:43 AM

TL

Terry Yvonne Lush posted:

Brenda and family out condolences to you. Ernie was a great guy. He will be missed. His laugh will always be with us.

November 18 at 3:01 AM

BT

Brenda Tong posted:

Kenny, Renne & the Thurston family, I am so sorry to hear about the sudden loss of Ernie you are in mt thoughts.

November 18 at 3:00 AM



Tribute Wall

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RT

Roland And Laurie Todd posted:

I don't even have words to describe our heavy hearts. Ernie was a very special person and Roland and I always loved to see Ernie either at Richmond Race or when we visited at your home. So glad we were able to see Ernie this summer while you all were vacationing her in Virginia. When Ernie and I were talking, he said he was so happy and was enjoying life. He loved his family so dearly and will be with you all forever. We are so sorry for the loss of this wonderful man and we will miss him always!

November 17 at 11:40 PM

PT

Pam And Jan Turzanski posted:

So sorry for your loss. He was a staple at WGI, and he will be missed. Such a good man.

November 17 at 5:05 PM

RD

Ron And Denise Dawson posted:

Brenda and Family We are so sorry for your loss, are thoughts and prayers are with you. We will always remember the fun we had in Daytona and Ron's memories he had with Ernie at Bike Week though out the years , he will be sadly missed !

November 17 at 4:52 PM

CF

Chris Wickham And Family posted:

So sad for your loss....fond memoeries will last forever...be well

November 17 at 4:09 PM

DC

Don And Mary Crippen posted:

Brenda, Derek, and Mitch,We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Ernie was such a great man. When the boys were growing up, Craig always talked about Ernie and always had a great time at your house. You are in our prayers.

November 17 at 2:04 PM



Tribute Wall

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JF

Jim And Noreen Brown And Family posted:

We were shocked to hear of Ernie's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God Bless

November 17 at 11:18 AM

SH

Scott Hoch posted:

Brenda & Family What a great man. I first met Ernie 12 years ago and he was a great help in getting our Fire & Safety team established at Kansas Speedway. What I will remember most is his quick wit and sense of humor. After we became better acquainted he always made me laugh. My sincere condolences to you and family. Know that you are in thoughts and prayers. May the memories and stories you share with one another keep Ernie alive with you always. God Bless

November 17 at 9:26 AM

LD

Laurie And Patti Denardo posted:

Bren and family, there just are no words to express the sadness of the loss of Ern! SO so many fond memories over the years! They make me smile as we hold these close now! Our love to you all.

November 17 at 7:39 AM

PS

Patti Schimizzi posted:

Brenda - I am so very sorry. There isn't anything I can say that hasn't already been said, many people will miss Ernie, me included. You are and will be in my thoughts and prayers.

November 17 at 6:58 AM

JS

Jim Schoonover posted:

Brenda and family. Such shock to hear of the passing of such a fine man as Ernie. Many memories of times spent working with Ernie years ago in Schuyler county. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

November 17 at 6:55 AM



Tribute Wall

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JG

Jo Anne Beligotti Grow & Ed Grow posted:

Brenda and family so very sorry for your loss I will always remember Ernie and all the fun we had at WGCS He will be missed by many RIP my friend

November 17 at 5:08 AM

HD

Howard & Lisa Davis posted:

Brenda and Family, We were so sorry to hear of Ernie's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

November 17 at 3:56 AM

ES

Ernie Strong posted:

Brenda, it is with a heavy heart I wish you and yours all the best. In Ernie's and my role at WGI we came to know a lot about each other and became good friends. We solved a of problems over the years, and I will miss him. Godspeed ET....

November 17 at 3:18 AM

BL

Bob Lee posted:

BRENDA AND FAMILY I WAS SO SHOCKED TO HEAR OF ERNIES PASSING,MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU ALL. ERNIE WAS A MAN WITH SO MUCH ENERGY, ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING FOR OTHERS, ALWAYS THE PERSON YOU WANTED TO ARRIVE ON A SCENE WHERE PEOPLE WERE HURT OR NEEDED ASSISTANCE. HE HELD SO MANY VERY IMPORTANT TITLES IN HIS LIFE BUT NEVER FORGOT HOW HE GOT THERE AND ALL THE PEOPLE HE HELPED. A LIFE LONG FRIEND, WE HAD SO MANY GOOD TIMES OVER THE YEARS I WILL SURELY MISS HIM. MAY GOD BLESS HIM AND THE FAMILY

November 16 at 8:45 PM

BG

Brenda Wilhelm-Gill posted:

Brenda, A.K., Kenny, Sheryl, Debbie, Wendy, and family. I'm so sorry for your loss. Ernie was such a real, energetic, and good person. It's hard to believe your going through this and he was so young.

November 16 at 6:41 PM



Tribute Wall

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RC

Ruth & Greg Clark posted:

Brenda and family,so sorry for your loss.We worked with Ernie at WGI,he was always on hand to help wherever and whenever he was needed.We missed him when he went south but I know he did a great job at ISC.Prayers are offered for your comfort. May he Rest In Peace

November 16 at 6:32 PM

JH

Jim And Bonnie Howell posted:

Brenda and family, so sorry to hear about Ernie, He was a special guy and loved by so many. He will be missed, You are in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless.

November 16 at 5:03 PM

CW

Cathy Ford Wiseman posted:

Brenda and family. I am so sorry to hear of Ernie's sudden passing. May God's love and grace strengthen and keep you in the coming days.

November 16 at 3:53 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ernest by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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