



## Eric N. Forster

August 3, 1978 - February 23, 2008

Eric N. Forster, age 29 years, of Winfield Township, formerly of Merrillville, passed away as the result of an automobile accident on February 23, 2008.

Eric was a graduate of Merrillville High School, Class of 1996. He served with the Merrillville Volunteer Fire Department, Station No. 4, for 10 years and currently was a member of the L.O.F.S. Volunteer Fire Department. Eric began his police career in Kouts, and was currently serving as an officer with the Lake County Police Department for the past 7 years. While serving at the Sheriff's Department, he worked as a detective in the Crime Lab, with the ATF, patrol, and was a member of the Pipes & Drums. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chris Anton Lodge #125 and the Lake County Police Association, Local #72 serving as 2nd Vice-President. He was vice-president of the Untouchables Motorcycle Club. Throughout the years Eric coached Pop Warner, Little League and girls' Softball.

He is survived by his fiancée Robbin Helfrich of Crown Point; parents: Bob and Pat Forster of Merrillville; brothers Jay (Joanne) Kaurich of Portage, Tim (Sereta) Kaurich of Porter and sister, Kari (Fiance Craig Michalski) Forster of Merrillville; maternal grandmother: Helen Malich (George Mikulich); many loving nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and his canine children: "Trooper" and "Milly" and many friends.

Funeral Services will be held Thursday, February 28, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at the Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point.

Interment Calumet Park Cemetery, Merrillville, Indiana. Friends may visit with the family on Wednesday from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Please visit the family on line with your thoughts and memories. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kari and The Forster Family,  
I am so sorry to hear of your profound loss. I moved form Merrillville in 1994 so it has been years since I have seen you or Eric, but I always remember the two of you being so close. No one can understand the loss of a brother, unless you have walked in the shoes yourself. The road ahead is the hardest road you will travel, and there truly is no comfort, peace, or understanding. Many say it will get easier and that you will move on, but the truth is you won't. He was simply too young. My heart breaks for all of you. If you ever need to talk to someone who truly understands, please feel free to contact me.##imported-begin##Kyle (Bedore) Wilke##imported-end##*

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March 03, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *We would like to extend our condolences to the family of Eric. Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of remembering.##imported-begin##Carl & Michele Phillips##imported-end##*

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March 02, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kari , I am so very sorry to hear of the tragic death of your brother. I know from the stories you would tell what a special part of your life he was. My thoughts prayers are with you and your family. Lynne Falcigno (friend from work)##imported-begin##Lynne Falcigno##imported-end##*

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February 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Eric will never be far away, just remember all the times he made you laugh.##imported-begin##Amy Robinson##imported-end##*

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February 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *With deepest sympathy,*

*The Giordano family,  
Doug, Sue, Joe, & Jason##imported-begin##Sue  
Giordano##imported-end##*

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February 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Robbin,*

*My heart and prayers go out to you and to Eric's family. No words can ever replace the pain and emptiness that I am sure that you are feeling. Know that Eric is always with you. Treasure all of the memories that you have. I am sorry that I couldn't be there in person to give you a big hug, I am sure that they help alot. Take care of yourself and if you need anything just know that I am here.*

*Love ya  
Michelle*

*\*with Kylie always watching over\*##imported-begin##Michelle  
(Roberts) Laurain##imported-end##*

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February 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *##imported-begin##Mike Verbancic##imported-end##*

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February 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU. HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED. SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. STAY STRONG. HE WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU IN SPIRIT.##imported-begin##DAVID & IRMA SCHNEIDER & FAMILY##imported-end##

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February 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob, my heart goes out to you in the loss of your son. I am sorry I could not make it to give my condolences to you and Pat but my prayers are with both of you.##imported-begin##Kristine Martin##imported-end##

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February 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob,  
My condolences to you and your family in the loss of your son. It is always hard to see our younger ones go before us. But obviously we know that life does go on and we have the lovely memories that were shared by you, your family, and friends with Eric.  
Ray and Paula Klein##imported-begin##Ray Klein##imported-end##

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February 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bob, Pat, Robbin and Family*  
*We extend our deepest sympathy to you as friends, bikers and supporters of the Pipes and Drums. We shall drink a toast to Eric come this St. Pattys Day. God Bless All. ##imported-begin##Donna Demkowicz( frito)and Dan Traves##imported-end##*

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February 28, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *To Kari and the entire Forster Family - When I learned of your tragic loss, my heart literally sank. I can't seem to find the right words to express my deepest feelings except that I am so very sorry. Sincerely - Vida (friend from work)##imported-begin##Vida Raskevicius##imported-end##*

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Robbin and the Forster Family you are in our thoughts and prayers. Eric had a big heart. I had the chance to meet Eric through my husband Jose who was his FTO officer. While training Eric my husband had talked to Eric about my oldest son(AUSTIN)who wanted to be a firefighter but never had the chance to see a firehouse. So, Eric the big heart that he had told my husband that he was taking Austin to the fire house that week and he did. It is a memory that Austin will never forget. He let him squirt water from the hoses, climb the ladder, try on the fireman boots and even took him for a ride around the block. Austin 13 at this time said He will never forget Eric. He will always be in his memories forever. To Robbin and the Forster Family I hope all the Great memories of Eric will help carry you through the tough times.  
Our Deepest Sympathy  
Jose, ALma & Family###imported-begin###Jose Germain And Family###imported-end###

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ ###imported-begin###Evelyn Yobbka###imported-end###

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Bob, Patty, and Family,  
Please accept our heartfelt condolences in the loss of your son. We will be unable to express these in person, but please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.###imported-begin###Bill and Barb Hutson###imported-end###

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To Kari: Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family on the untimely passing of your brother Eric. Please know we are with you in spirit as words will never be enough but time and Gods help can ease the pain. Eric was a handsome and very active young man and will be very missed by all who touched his life and the lives he touched, wish we had known him. Miss you Kari. Love, Evelyn & Mildred##imported-begin##Evelyn Yobbka##imported-end##

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To Robbin and the entire Forster family:

*I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Susan Zirkel##imported-end##*

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Robbin, My thoughts and prayers are with you. Every time I would see you both at Jon and Lisa's Eric was never without a smile. May God ease your pain through this horrible time.##imported-begin##Karen Steininger##imported-end##

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kari and Family,  
I'm so sorry to hear about your brother. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Laura Schmidt  
(Kelley Jenkins's sister)##imported-begin##Laura Schmidt##imported-end##*

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *I have taught at Merrillville HS since 1981. I was a youth soccer coach when Eric played and had him as a guest player on my United Team. I was also the Head Soccer Coach at Crown Point and coached against Merrillville where I taught when Eric played for MHS. I remember a tournament back when Eric was quite small and we had him play keeper. Two minutes into the game and the other team had a Penalty Kick against Eric. We thought it was a certain goal but Eric actually dove the width of the goal and blocked the shot. The team went wild and I remember the Referee stopping by our bench and telling me he'd never seen a kid dive the far that fast and actually block a shot. It was as remarkable a feat as the young man who performed it. Eric was always a gentleman and to me a very fine athlete. My son played with and against him and I remember too well their meeting at Merrillville in a soccer match as long lost friends, not as opponents. That's what kind of a person Eric was. I talked to him not long ago while he was working security at a gun show in C.P. and we reminisced about those old soccer days. We really liked Eric and always had good things to say about him. He certainly will be missed. He has touched so very many and has certainly left his mark.##imported-begin##Rick Hurey##imported-end##*

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ KARI, CRAIG, AND THE FORSTER FAMILY  
OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS  
TIME.##imported-begin##DINO & LISA ELLERMAN##imported-  
end##

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Robbin, Kari, and the whole Forster family---I can only imagine what  
you are going through but again as people repeat and say~ there  
aren't any words... After seeing what I did tonight and how many  
people were there to visit with you all and pay respects I think that is  
really amazing how many peoples' lives were touched by Eric's  
soul along with you all. He is so loved as you all are as well.  
Everyone that knew him or of him was blessed to have that time. I  
pray that all of you will have comfort as I know you all have a HUGE  
support system that will go on forever. Robbin and Kari -I love you  
both and hope we can talk soon` Love always, Kelly##imported-  
begin##Kelly (Neff) Ellrich##imported-end##

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Forster Family,  
We were very blessed to have gotten to meet Eric and have him in our lives.*

*Mr. & Mrs. Forster,  
You have done a wonderful job of raising such a considerate son.*

*Our prayers go out to you and the rest of your family.*

*Sincerely, Jeffrey, Abbe and Cash Harpp*

*Robin,*

*We may have met several years ago, so you may not remember me. I just want you to know that my heart is breaking for you. I pray every night for you and for healing in your heart.*

*Sincerely,*

*Abbe Harpp##imported-begin##Jeffrey and Abbe Harpp##imported-end##*

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *##imported-begin##Kristi (##imported-end##*

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers will always be with you. Eric was a great guy, we had some good laughs. Keep strong Forster family!##imported-begin##Angie Camacho##imported-end##*

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February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I knew Eric when he was younger, he never was without a smile. His smile always lit up a room. He always was hanging around Fire Station #4 in Merrillville until he could become a firefighter and he did. He always said he wanted to become a police officer and he did that also.

When a tornado came thru my neighborhood in Green Acres - he was there, he, I believe he'd just become a Lake County officer, and there was an elderly woman who everyone thought was missing because she was walking her dog, he helped us gain entry into her house to make sure she was OK. We later found out family had come just before it hit to get her. I just wanted to share that with your family.

He was a great young man and will be sadly missed by all who knew him or ever came in contact with. My family's deepest heart felt sympathy to your family.##imported-begin##Kristi (Wright) Nieman##imported-end##

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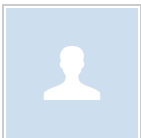
February 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Robbin,##imported-begin##Jason Peterson##imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Robbin, I am sorry to hear about your loss. My prayers are with you at the entire family. \"Chuby\"##imported-begin##Jason Peterson##imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Eric, Robbin and Family;  
We wish to express our sadness to our fellow officer. We will always cherish your smile, laugh, love of your harley, and your profession. Eric, as past President of Schererville Lodge #170 I will always be thankful for you and your Pipe and Drums for always coming to our Police memorial. God bless you in Harley Heaven my friend.##imported-begin##Mr. & Mrs. Buc Weaver##imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob & Patty  
I'm sorry I can't offer you my sympathy in person. I felt that I have "kept in touch" with you through Bob's restaurant reviews. My deepest sympathy goes out to you both on the untimely death of your son. My thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Dr. Bucur##imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Robbin I am so sorry for your loss. A old friend of mine told me about it and even though we have not seen each other in a long time I wanted you to know that you are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Crystal (Kreis) McConnell##imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Forster Family and Robbin  
I am so very sorry for your loss  
Eric touched many peoples lives  
and will be missed  
My thoughts and prayers are with  
you all###imported-begin##Linda Zestanakis###imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I don't know how to express how much you will be missed Eric. You  
were a great friend and a big part of many of the lives taht you  
touched. There are so many memories and good times that we  
shared. I could spend all day typing but you know I'm not all that  
good at expressing my feelings in words, hence my difficulty typing.  
Ilove you Brother!###imported-begin##Sgt. Brian `SKI`  
Czerwinski###imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the entire Forster family & Robbin. I am  
so sorry for your loss. Eric was a wonderful individual-who always  
had a smile on his face. My thoughts and prayers are with you all  
during this difficult and trying time. Kari, if you ever need anything  
you know we are always here for you.###imported-begin##Violet  
Djukic(Boromisa)###imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I had come to know Eric when I worked CSI for the Gary Police Department and knew him as concientious, a hard worker, and a great officer. He will be sadly missed, but always thought of.##imported-begin##Sgt. Kevin Prince##imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I have no possibly way of expressing how deeply I feel for Robbin, Mom & Dad, Kari, and all of Eric\'s friends. Many people use to refer to Eric as the little guy. But if you really knew him...he was bigger than all of us. I have never came across a person who truly had one bad thing to say about my brother. Eric I will always be there for you and your family - Miss You Always. \\'GBNF\'. WOP##imported-begin##Brian \\'WOP\'' Camadeca##imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ ##imported-begin##Bobby Davis##imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ to robin and family i am so sorry for your loss eric was a great friend, he will be missed by all. i hope and pray that god will ease your pain at this time .##imported-begin##DARRELL ROBERTSON##imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I never saw Eric without a smile nor did he ever ignore someone he knew without a handshake or hug. His personality was his trademark and reflective of his family. I’ve never met a kinder individual like Eric Forster ever in my life and can only hope his passing reminds us how precious life is. My deepest respect and sorrow goes out to Mr. & Mrs. Forster, their family, Kari and Robbin.##imported-begin##Jason R. Angel##imported-end##

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February 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My sympathies go out to Mr. Forster's family and friends. I used to work at the credit union that he belonged to, and my friends and loved it when Eric would come through. He was always in a good mood, and would always joke around with us. He put smiles on our faces and I know that he is now smiling down at all the love and tears being shed here for him.##imported-begin##Becky VanLear##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Jr,you will be missed my Brother. It is my honor to call you my friend and Brother. UFFU##imported-begin##BITEME NOMAD##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences to the Forster family. Eric was a guy who's presence immediately light up the room. He always seemed to have a quirky grin on his face every time I seen him and he will be greatly missed. Rest in peace my fellow brother in arms.##imported-begin##Sam Abegg##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *###imported-begin####imported-end##*

February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



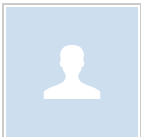
“ *To the Forster Family, my deepest sympathies for you lost, as Eric has touched hundreds of lives. Eric was a very good friend of mine and I will greatly miss him.###imported-begin##Joe Jamrok###imported-end##*

February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *###imported-begin##George & Marian Bazil & Family###imported-end##*

February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *We will always remember Eric and your family as very good neighbors when our children were growing up in Merrillville. Our prayers and thoughts shall always be with you all.###imported-begin##George & Marian Bazil & Family###imported-end##*

February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *The Forster Family, when you lose a loved one so senselessly and unexpectedly, many share your sorrow. May the many beautiful memories of Eric provide you strength through this difficult and trying time. My wife and I send our sincere sympathy for the sudden loss of your son and brother.###imported-begin##Nicholas & Jennifer Bravos###imported-end##*

February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To: The Forster Family & Robbin,

*Our thoughts & prayers are with your family during this painful time.  
Eric was an inspirng individual with a wonderful persona and will  
truly be missed by many.*

*No Person is Ever Truly Alone*

*No person is ever truly alone.  
Those who live no more,  
Whom we loved,  
Echo still within our thoughts,  
Our words, our hearts.  
And what they did  
And who they were  
Becomes a part of all that we are,  
Forever.*

*by Richard Fife##imported-begin##Friends from Maxims  
Restaurant##imported-end##*

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Bob, Patty, and Family,

*Words cannot express how sad we are to hear of your beloved Eric's passing. Please know that we are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers. May God help you through this difficult time.*

*Our sincerest condolences,  
Joe and Vickie DeRosa##imported-begin##Joe and Vickie  
DeRosa##imported-end##*

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



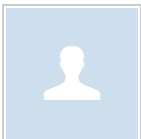
“ To the Family of Eric Forster,

*The Officers and members of the Lowell Volunteer Fire Department join in extending heartfelt sympathy to you and your family at this time of sorrow.*

*Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Lowell Volunteer Fire  
Department##imported-end##*

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the whole Forster family and friends also . Eric was always a well loved and very respectable person.##imported-begin##RaLphy Morales Jr.##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy to Robbin and the Forster Family. You will be kept in our Prayers and thoughts. Eric was a really sweet guy.##imported-begin##Larry & Shirley Elish##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To All the Forster Family: My thoughts and prayers go out to you in this time of need. I'm SO sorry to hear about this horrific accident. Eric was such a caring and loving person. Although I've been estranged for a while from the family, I still see Kari from time to time. May God help all of you through this difficult time and may all your memories you have of Eric help ease your pain. I'll be thinking of you and praying for peace of mind for the entire family. Love, Autumn, Mike, Kayla, Nicholas, & Adam Harney##imported-begin##Autumn Harney (Komisarcik)##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Robbin and the Forster Family, I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Jennifer Kocon (Golec)##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Jesse and I wish to express our deep condolences to Kari and the entire Forster family. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Jesse & Liz Koeppen##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To the family, my heart is broken over the loss of Eric. He was so special and will be missed so much. My prayers are with all of you. He was taken away too soon, but he did make a difference and will never be forgotten.

*Lisa Stemler (Brown)*##imported-begin##*lisa stemler (brown)*##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Bob and Pat,  
I am so sorry about Eric. I wish I could be there for you. I know what you are going through. You helped so much when Tracy died. Eric was a little boy when Tracy passed, but he loved Eric and now they are together watching over all of us. I love all of you and God bless.  
*Janice Brown*##imported-begin##*Janice Brown*##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ The Forster Family and Robbin, my thoughts and prayers are with you all. Please accept my sympathy for the terrible loss.##imported-begin##*Melissa Walker (Dennis)*##imported-end##

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Eric,  
*I just want to say thanks for the memories at the firehouse and for the friendship you had given me. you were truly a great man and myself, along with everyone at the fire station and beyond will miss you terribly. thanks for the smiles as we would joke around about your different county cars, and mabey next time we can take the engine out...*

*take care brother###imported-begin##Jason Morris###imported-end##*

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February 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM



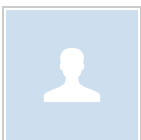
“ Junior,  
  
*Godspeed my Brother. Though you are gone you will not be forgotten. I take comfort know you are with Buckets, riding side by side, watching over the UMC Nation.*

*With much love and respect,*

*Red Beard  
President  
Untouchables MC  
Washington, DC###imported-begin##Red Beard###imported-end##*

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February 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ You may be gone on earth, but you will live on in our hearts forever. May god bless you and keep you, for he has gained a guardian and a carpenter. We will meet again.###imported-begin##Nick Theodoratos###imported-end##

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February 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Forster family,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve from such a  
tragic event. I'm so sorry.  
Love always,  
Sierra Bloom  
(Kari's friend from college)##imported-begin##Sierra  
Bloom##imported-end##*

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February 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *The Forster Family and Robbin,  
Our hearts are with you in this time of sorrow. May all of your  
precious memories help ease your pain.  
With love,  
Kelly and Ken##imported-begin##Kelly and Ken Prince##imported-  
end##*

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February 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM