



Eric and Karen Nuzie

June 19, 2022

Eric Samuel Nuzie, 72, and Karen Elaine Nuzie, 66 of Tallahassee, FL were tragically taken from this earthly place to be amongst the stars on June 19, 2022. Traveling with family, Karen and Eric were killed in a motor vehicle accident near Atlanta, GA. Our family is deeply saddened to lose these two souls, but we find hope knowing they are together during the most extraordinary journey there is. If you knew Karen and Eric, you would know they were inseparable from day one.

Karen Elaine Nuzie was born on May 2, 1956, to parents James “Jimmy” Joseph Amodio and Gladys Pearl Amodio in Daytona Beach, FL; and Eric Samuel Nuzie was born on June 3, 1950, to parents S. Lee and Mary Nuzie in Mattoon, IL. Karen was thoughtful and humble. She was the first born of five daughters, a caretaker, and nurturer by nature, and took great care of her people, tremendously enjoying and excelling at her role as mother and grandmother. Karen was enjoying her first year of retirement. She made it her mission to improve the lives of others.

Eric was kind, honest, and friendly, his quiet strength and gentle demeanor will be missed the most. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed playing tennis, watching, and discussing sports of all kinds. Together, Karen and Eric were FSU season ticket holders for the FSU Men’s Baseball and FSU Men’s Basketball teams, and they both enjoyed cycling, hiking, exploring the

outdoors, and traveling all over the world together. Their love, devotion, and respect for one another were admired, and their loyalty and commitment will set the example for generations of marriages, impacting everyone who knew them.

When they met in 1988, they were both working in Tallahassee, FL, for the State of Florida at the Department of Environmental Protection. Eric graduated from Pfeiffer University on a tennis scholarship and was working as a civil engineer when he met Karen, who was working as an administrative assistant. Eric proposed, asking Karen to be his forever adventure partner and spouse, and in the spring of 1992, they were married. Eric became the stepfather to Christopher “Chris” Earnest and took that role with honor and dedication. Eric and Karen loved their people well and together, we're an unstoppable force of kindness and thoughtfulness, ensuring everyone around them felt loved and cared for. Our world travelers just celebrated 30 years of wedded bliss this past May.

Karen is predeceased by her father, James “Jimmy” Joseph Amodio, and is survived by her mother, Gladys Pearl Amodio, her son Christopher “Chris” Earnest (Alison), her four sisters, Brenda Allmond (Scott), Cynthia “Cindy” Davis (John), Mary Amodio (Billy), and Jamie Bowden (John), as well as granddaughters Chasity Earnest and Cabella Earnest. Eric is predeceased by his parents S. Lee and Mary Nuzie and is survived by his sister, Sandra Ortega (Tony), and nieces Erin West (Shawn), Allison Grainger (Paul), Rylee West, Olivia Grainger and nephew, Preston West.

Inseparable even in death, we will be holding a Celebration of Life to honor the lives of Eric and Karen Nuzie on August 6, 2022, at 3 PM at The Retreat at Bradley’s Pond (9002 Bradley Road, Tallahassee, FL 32309). Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 6. 3:00 PM (ET)

Retreat at Bradley's Pond
9002 Bradley Road
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Tribute Wall

CH

“ *My heart aches for my grandparents, and I was so young when they died I would stay in my room for a while, and I would be so depressed. But now, I remember that they loved my so much and that they will always remember me and I will always remember them. Karen would always do stuff for me she would let me get what I wanted to at a store, Karen is a sweet, loving person and she always loved my and my sister Chasity. Karen was the best person I have ever know, and she will always be in my heart.*

I will miss you both.

Their granddaughter, Bella

chasity - April 10 at 08:51 AM

CH

“ *its been over three years since Eric and Karens passing and i still think about them every day. I have finally mentally accepted what happened, knowing that they were together, as they wouldn't have wanted anything different..*

Reading everyones memories with them makes me happy that we all had the same loving, caring, and empathetic people in our lives. My grandparents still influence my thoughts and life even though they aren't with us. I use the knowledge and love they gave me to better myself everyday and do what they would want me to do.

Eric taught me to be a gentle and kind soul that listens to everyones side, someone that has the ability to emotionally see both sides of a story without letting your own opinion get in the middle. Karen taught me to always know what i want and to never settle for less.

They both taught me to show compassion and always have a smile on your face no matter what you are going through. I wish everyone could have taken a lesson from them.

I will always miss you both <3

chасы - July 06, 2025 at 06:04 PM

CH

“ *7 files added to the tribute wall*



chасы - September 02, 2024 at 01:02 PM

JM

“ It’s taken me a long time to add to Eric’s Tribute. He was a close friend and colleague for many years. He sent me an email just days before he passed. It was a friendly note asking if we were doing OK. Very typical of Eric and made it very difficult to imagine my vision of the world without him. Eric was a special person. Of course they say that about everyone in a case like this, but he was definitely the exception. I personally can’t remember him being angry or openly agitated regardless of the situation. Sometimes a work issue, we did work with sometimes opposing organizations, would get us bumping heads or refusing to listen to others. This was especially true with me and Jim Crain, definitely Eric’s closest friend, because we were so alike. Eric would quietly approach and always start by saying the same thing “Well Joe” in a calming tone. I always wondered if he did the same with Jim. He had the special ability to resolve conflict and leave each party happy with the outcome. I deeply miss him and the sound of his calming voice.



Joe McCauley - December 11, 2023 at 05:02 PM

JC

“Karen, Eric, and I met in the mid-eighties while working at the then Florida Department of Environmental Regulation. I knew Karen as a friendly, focused, and efficient worker. Eventually, Eric and Karen found each other and were married. They were soulmates who enjoyed many activities together (sports, travel, family outings, etc.)

I was asked to meet Eric to find out about valuable information he was compiling on potentially hazardous waste sites in Florida. He asked me to go to lunch at Nick's Restaurant. That was the beginning of an almost 40-year friendship during which I considered Eric my best and closest friend, like a brother.

Later, Eric managed a group that evaluated potential hazardous waste sites. As a result of a reorganization, he and his group were transferred to a section I administered. In addition to continuing to manage the site evaluation program, Eric worked with me to obtain funding from the Department of Defense, NASA, Department of Energy and the Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of the funding was for Florida's participation in the restoration of current and past federal facilities throughout the State. It also enabled us to establish partnerships with the managers of restoration programs of federal facilities.

We got to know each other well as we spent many hours travelling all over Florida to conduct site inspections and hold meetings with professionals to address environmental restoration. The program required travel to all the Navy, Air Force, and other federal facilities in Florida.

Eric made a significant difference in the lives of Floridians through the work he did for almost 40 years protecting public health and the environment. He had the knowledge, skills, empathetic personality, and drive to help accomplish the goals of the restoration programs.

In their Tribute Wall entries, Jorge Caspary and Gayle Waldron gave heartfelt summaries of Eric's contributions with which I agree whole

heartedly and recommend that you read. Gayle wrote in part:

"He was a wonderful, supportive friend. I will miss his warmth, his humor, his intelligent way of looking at problems and his creative ideas for solving problems. He was such an upbeat person! He was always helpful, always ready to contribute, always looking for new ways to help people understand each other and develop trust in each other. It is so hard to accept that he is gone."

Eric always was ready to offer help to anyone in need; moving furniture, providing rides to and from the airport, cutting down trees, and mowing your lawn when you were away. He provided much needed assistance to several of our friends in declining health, who sadly passed away. Please consider yourself incredibly lucky and blessed if Eric was your friend, as do I.

Even after we both retired, we tried to have lunch together at least twice a week, just to continue sharing our lives with each other, talking about sports, Marvel and DC movies, sci-fi and fantasy books, tv shows, our family events, finance, travel and just life in general. Now that he is gone, I feel that a part of my heart is missing, and that I will never be completely whole again.

We will miss Eric and Karen always. My wife Diana, and I offer our deepest sympathy to the family. We share in your grief.

Jim Crane

James J Crane - August 21, 2022 at 06:07 PM

SJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sue Johnson - August 06, 2022 at 12:33 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Eric and Karen Nuzie.



August 05, 2022 at 06:32 PM

SJ

“ *One our girls trips, we always had so much fun together.*

Love and miss Karen and Eric



Sue Johnson - August 05, 2022 at 02:06 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eric and Karen Nuzie.*



August 05, 2022 at 01:55 PM



“ *Whitney Littleton and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Eric and Karen Nuzie.*



Whitney Littleton and Family - August 04, 2022 at 05:24 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eric and Karen Nuzie.*



August 03, 2022 at 01:20 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Eric and Karen Nuzie.*



August 01, 2022 at 01:26 PM

JC

“ Eric and I shared many, many, hours driving and meeting all over Florida with professionals addressing environmental contamination in military bases. He was an avid tennis player and jogger and we’d jog after meetings, shared some great moments visiting from NAS Key West to NAS Pensacola and every military installation in between. Besides his professionalism and his approach to deal with complex issues, his main influence in my life was his encouragement to go back to FSU to finish my engineering degree; I will always appreciate his encouragement to better myself and my family. Sometime in the 90s, he met my then-three little daughters and after that he always called me “pops” -even in retirement. A good and caring person. He would often drive to see his parents in Vero Beach and cherished his nieces. A good son and uncle. Still remember him marrying Karen (her smile was amazing) and both happily moving into their home and enjoying each other’s company as they traversed life. A good husband. We saw each other graying with the passage of time and I venture to say, perhaps fittingly, both have crossed the final threshold together. A good son, stepfather, husband, uncle, and friend. Sleep well, Eric and Karen. Eric, you were an example of what good humanity can offer. My deepest condolences to their family.

Jorge Caspary - August 01, 2022 at 01:20 PM

RL

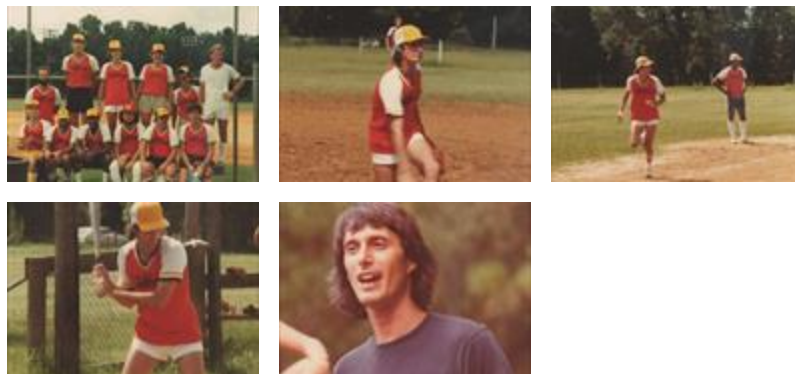
“ Richard L. purchased the Lavender Reflections S pray for the family of Eric and Karen Nuzie.



Richard L. - August 01, 2022 at 12:45 PM

PM

“ Eric and Karen were an important part of Peter's and my social and working lives since 1982. Karen, Eric and I worked together at FDER. Karen worked with me at Restoration Assistance. Peter, Eric and I played softball together on various teams. Unfortunately our paths rarely crossed over the past 30 years. We were heartbroken when we heard of their accident. They will be missed.



Pat Dugan & Peter Mamatey - July 30, 2022 at 08:32 PM

KB

“ A picture of Karen, Monica, Brenda, Cindy, and Mary!



Katy Blanton - July 30, 2022 at 02:06 PM

GW

“ Eric Nuzie

I met Eric in 1993 at the first Partnering training for interagency (EPA, FLDEP, Navy and contractors) teams working to clean up contamination on Navy sites. He and Jim Crane of FLDEP had initiated a process designed to promote collaborative decision making, building trust, eliminate or manage conflict, and build teams. They knew that there had to be a better way to get that essential cleanup work done and eliminate the roadblocks that ongoing misunderstandings and conflicts had caused, with millions of dollars being spent and little actual clean up being done. Eric and Jim helped create a methodology that has worked with teams throughout the USA and saved the taxpayers money while accelerating clean-up.

Eric was always a warm, intelligent, creative, and committed team member and friend and essential to promoting this new way of getting things done. He modeled the values and behaviors that productive team members need to have.

He was a wonderful, supportive friend. I will miss his warmth, his humor, his intelligent way of looking at problems and his creative ideas for solving problems. He was such an upbeat person! He was always helpful, always ready to contribute, always looking for new ways to help people understand each other and develop trust in each other. It is so hard to accept that he is gone.

Gayle Waldron

President

The Management Edge

Gayle Waldron - July 27, 2022 at 04:56 PM

AE

“ *Mary and Cindy with their sister, Karen on the river cruise in New Orleans. March 2022.*



Alison Earnest - July 21, 2022 at 11:33 AM

CD

“ *There are no words to ever express how much I will miss her. My heart will ache every single day until I see her again. She was a part of me. Not only sister but soul mates. My purpose now will be to be there for her only son and granddaughter. I made a promise to her that I will never break. Rest in peace, Karen, my beautiful sister.*

Her sister Cindy Davis

Cynthia Davis - July 20, 2022 at 08:04 PM


KB

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Katy Blanton - July 20, 2022 at 01:54 PM

MB

“ *My dearest friend. We share so many memories, friends from 5th grade, girl scouts, volunteers at a hospital, first jobs, in each others weddings, so many memories. I will miss our calls and texts we talked so offen. I know you and Eric are in a heavenly place now, but my memories will always be there to reach for. I love you my sweet friend and will miss you terribly. Till me meet again....* 

Monica Blanton - July 20, 2022 at 01:42 PM

JG

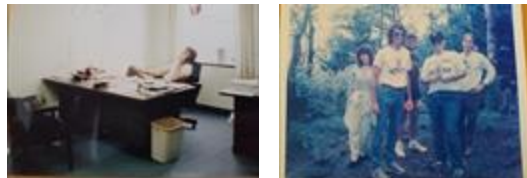
“ *I had the pleasure of knowing Karen and Eric for almost 25 years and to work on staff with Karen at the FICPA for 7 years. She had a wonderful laugh and smile - especially when talking about her grandkids. Sending many prayers.*



Jennifer Green - July 18, 2022 at 08:45 PM

JM

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Jim McCarthy - July 07, 2022 at 06:38 PM

JM

“ Eric was a friend, boss and mentor. Both Karen and Eric were kind, gentle people. Eric was my boss at FDER/FDEP for 22 years and guided me through both good and some tough times. I am so saddened by the tragic accident that took their lives. He was the best tennis player I ever faced. The FDER/FDEP family has lost so many people over the last few years. I know there must be a Nicks in heaven and they are all having lunch there.



Jim McCarthy - July 07, 2022 at 11:08 AM

MA

“ My dear long time friend, I am so devastated for the loss of your sister Karen and brother in law Eric, and your sisters and family. Hope your memories will bring you comfort during this difficult time. We are truly heart broken for you. Love, Tim & Mary

Mary - July 06, 2022 at 08:46 PM

 BEVIS

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Bevis Funeral Home - July 05, 2022 at 09:39 AM