



**O**n a beautiful, sunny Sunday afternoon, Len Eric Albright left this earth suddenly for a quieter, calmer place while doing what he loved most..spending time with his son in the mountains surrounding Bozeman. Eric and Beau had just spent a few hours gopher hunting and were capping off the day of fun with a four wheel jeep ride in the Flathead Pass area. The vehicle slipped and rolled, killing Eric instantly. Beau performed heroically, calling 911, and attempting CPR while waiting for emergency crews.

Eric was born November 10, 1969 in Sacramento, California while his father was stationed at McClellan AFB. He moved to Bozeman with his family in January 1979. Eric fell in love with Montana and at the age of nine embarked on his lifelong passions of motorcycling, skiing, fishing and hunting with his Dad and later with his son. He continued his soccer playing in Bozeman while in school and played softball as a young adult.

Eric graduated from Bozeman High School in 1987 and after a brief try at college (MSU), he joined the United States Marine Corp in 1988. While in boot camp, he received a meritorious promotion and became Squad Leader. He went on to learn to become a radioman with his specialty PLRS (position location reporting systems). Eric's unit was one of the first deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for Operation Desert Storm. While in the desert, his company moved back and forth into Iraq and Kuwait using the PLRS to track enemy tanks and troop movements. He was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division and encountered enemy fire not only at the airport which they recaptured, but also several skirmishes with the Republican Guard before and during the war. His unit was under gas attack three times while meeting this resistance. Eric finished his service in Okinawa, Japan. He is a member of the VFW, American Legion Post 14, and the Marine Corp. League.

Upon returning home, Eric married Jenny Dolan and they were blessed with two children. A son, Beau, in 1995, and a daughter, Shayna, in 1998. They were the pride and joy of his life and from the day they arrived, you rarely saw Eric without one or both of them. He was a wonderful father who loved his children dearly.

Eric joined the Bozeman Police Department in 1994 where he was instrumental in restarting the motorcycle program with the help of Morris McLees. He also became one of Montana's motorcycle training instructors. While on the force, Eric initiated Bozeman's Presidential Plunge for the Montana Special Olympics. He was also involved in Neighborhood crime watch programs and the KUI task force. Eric retired from the police force after serving Bozeman for ten years.

He went back to college on the GI Bill and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management in December 2009. We were looking forward to seeing him receive his diploma in May. During his junior/senior year, as a project, Eric co-sponsored a business plan and later turned it into his business. Big Sky Ignition Interlock was started in February of 2009, installing and maintaining breath interlock devices to prevent persons from driving while intoxicated.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Len and Meme Albright and Tom and Alice Rickard, and his uncles, Jerry Walker and Roger Albright.

Eric is survived by his parents, Len and Judy Albright of Bozeman; his sister, Jaylen (Michael) Schmitt and their two sons, Griffin and Gavin, all from Portland, Oregon. Eric had a special way with kids and Gavin and Griffin particularly loved their Uncle Eric. Eric also had a special relationship with Voss Bowman and her daughters, Bayley and Maddie. He is also survived by his two dogs, Sam and Lation, who helped him through his most trying times. While many saw Eric as gruff and blustery, once he let you into his life, you saw a heart full of love and compassion. Remember his smile, hug your kids and loved ones everyday... you never know what God has in store for you.

In lieu of flowers, please remember Eric with a donation to Montana Special Olympics, Wounded Warrior's and quiet waters, or St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital.