



Emmett O McNider II

November 1, 1979 - November 11, 2019

Dear Mackie,

We are supposed to write “your story”, your life, for loved ones to reminisce and for those who didn’t know you to get a glimpse. It’s an impossible task. I mean, how do you write the story of a shooting star? It’s here for a moment, burns bright and hot as it streaks across the sky, and far too quickly is gone.

You were a lot like that star, I guess. You were never still. You always had to be doing something; tinkering on a car, cleaning the yard and burning limbs, always moving, always doing. Like that star you had light and warmth, but you’d be the last to say it. There was no conceit in you; no vanity or selfish pride. You always wanted to be better, do more, achieve greater. In all the condolences we’ve received there has been one statement said over and over and over: “He’d give you the shirt off his back”. That is so true! You gave without realizing you were giving, and when someone would point it out you’d apologize that it wasn’t more.

Like that star, you blazed a trail through the darkness, becoming a memory far too quickly. Some of those memories will make us laugh. I remember when we were little and got that trampoline for Christmas. We discovered one day that if we all bounced just right, your tiny, lanky self would catapult skyward, higher than any of us ever imagined. Your goal became to see if you could go high enough to see over the house into the pasture out back. (Let’s not tell Momma that we achieved that goal, okay? Our secret.)

I remember those back handsprings you would do. Good Lord, over and over and over, you’d go until you ran out of room! And on the trampoline, even when you were 6 feet tall, you would still flip, bounce, flip, bounce, flip, bounce..... It was amazing! I remember once when we went to Tennessee to visit family, you and Lezli and one of our cousins from there got out in the back yard and put on a gymnastics show for all of us. Cartwheels, handstands, back bends, (and of course your signature back handspring) entertained us all.

You were all “Man”; tough, rugged, and handsome, but you weren’t macho. You gave amazing hugs, and you ALWAYS said “I love you”. That emotion didn’t embarrass you. You declared it freely, regardless of the audience, no matter if it was in person, on the phone, or in a text. We will cherish that forever!

Your talent for painting was a natural gift. From homes to cars, if you could think it you could paint it. Whether it was walls or a Corvette, we all loved seeing your finished work. You could cut in a line so sharp and crisp that it looked better than painters tape (which was an abomination to you). LOL. And speaking of abominations, nothing drove you crazier when you were working than a crappy paint brush! If one crossed your path it was promptly tossed in the trash and it's owner chastised and educated.

You had another talent that was hard for people to believe because you were so lanky: eating! You didn't like a wide variety, but what you did like you could sure put away! And chocolate! Oh my goodness, chocolate. The gooier and smooshier it was, the better! As amazing as your talents were though, they pale in comparison to the ultimate gifts you gave us all. They have your face and eyes and some of the same mannerisms, and they call you "Dad". From the first moment you learned you were going to be a father, you wanted better for your kids than you had allowed for yourself. You saw so much potential in them, and believed in their ability to do anything they set their minds to. Whether it was in your happy times or your darkest days, they were your heart. Like with us, you gave them gifts that you didn't even realize you were giving. You gave them a listening ear, and you gave them dreams.....

From Devin:

I remember when we spoke about our plans for the future. I wanted to go into filming and editing, and I was going to look into the stock market industry. We wanted to get a shop one day, so we could build cars. I've never told anyone what I told you when we had that conversation. You wanted to know what I was planning on doing in the future with you and myself, and I told you I wanted to work to be known to the world; not to be liked, famous, or rich, but so I could help people with their problems, and how to cope with the horrible situations that life puts you in without answers. No one listens to someone if they're not well known in the community. I want to let people know that they're not alone.

You were proud of me for what I wanted to do, and how I planned to do music and filming along with it. You told me I should follow my dreams and nothing else. You said you didn't follow your dreams because you didn't think it was possible so you went into construction and you regretted it forever. You told me how the decisions you made in high school affected you for the rest of your life and how you didn't want me to keep making stupid decisions just for fun. You wanted me to go to college so I could do what I've always wanted to do to. I am planning on going to college so I can go into to filming and editing, and to make music. I want to be the best person I can be because that's what you had always wanted.

I'm going to participate in the trade school next year so I can learn how to build cars and make movies, short films, and videos. At some point in my life I will have kids and I will get a shop so I can build cars. I'll get the kids to help me. I'll tell them stories about their grand daddy and how great of a man he was, how he was my best friend and was always there

for me no matter the situation. I'll always love you and miss you more than anything Dad. I intend on growing into the man you wanted me to be. Thank you for always being there for me when no one else was.

You gave them laughter, and you gave them fun.....

From MaKenzie:

Hey Dad, I just wanted to text u. I know ur not going to answer but this makes me feel just a little bit better. I miss you so much and I know ur in a good place now but I just miss you so much. Say hello to Mammaw and all my great grandparents for me please. Oh, and Robbie is gonna work on your truck because he knew the plans u had for it. Devin is gonna try to work so he can get a shop like u always planned to get when you got older and had a nice house built on a nice big property. I'm gonna try to be a lawyer or a nurse. You and mom always told me I would be a good lawyer because I was so good in arguments.

I miss our car rides because we always had the best time and the best conversations. I miss our music sessions when u danced and sang in the car. I loved when we just sat down and talked, and when u chased me around trying to catch me. I miss everything; every little thing, every big thing, just everything. I LOVE u SO much and I miss u SO much. You are in a better place and I'm gonna see u again one day and I can't wait till that day! ♥

Along with the funny and the beautiful, there were also times we would smack our foreheads and times we weren't on the same page. We didn't always understand the chapter you were in or the path you took, but over the past few years that had gotten fewer and farther between. These past few years, you opened up more than you ever had, to both God's love and to ours. You gave us back the son, the father, the brother, the uncle, the friend that had been absent at times. You made us laugh at your jokes and witty comebacks, and you made us smile when we heard the deep rumble of your laughter. We saw more twinkles in your blue eyes than we had in many years prior, and we saw you have something else that had been practically non-existent for far too long: hope.

That hope is ours now; hope that we can comfort each other in your absence, hope that we can honor you in the choices we make and the lives we live, hope that we can help your babies become the people you wanted them to be. We will never be the same without you, but with a love for you that will never go away, we will live each day knowing that one day we will see you again. Sleep well Love. Sweet dreams.....

I adored his smile.

I cherished his hugs.

I admired his heart.

But most of all

I love that he was

MY SON.

Forever in my heart, Mom

Comments



“ I miss you so much. You popped into my life and became my close friend and the trust we had with each was the most amazing thing. All I had to do was make a call and you were there. I honestly believe I'll never have that with anyone again. You were like a brother to me and I love you still. I miss your hugs and our conversations. Most of all I miss your smile.

Tanya Pargmann - August 12, 2020 at 09:09 PM



“ Well,I met you through The walker family,my second family they will always remain.You & Drew were good friends,I just can't believe now you are both gone!Yall would cut up and have the best time and you would check in on us every now and then to see how we were after we lost Drew.That meant the world to me cause no one really ask anymore.Give Drew a hug for me,I know you two are cutting up right now I'm sure.We love you and you will be missed by so many,your babies will miss you the most.Fly High Mackie.... we will never forget you.

Erin Fitzhugh - November 20, 2019 at 10:02 PM



“ I went to school with Mackie. We would all pile into that black firebird and go riding. Mackie was the type of person that everyone was drawn to. In a small town where there were certain “groups” that you hung out in, Mackie was loved by all and didn't conform to fit in with a certain group (that all seems silly now). You couldn't help but smile and have a good time when Mackie was around. He was special! One of a kind! Excepting of everyone! A wonderful rare bread these days! He will be missed deeply!!!

Anna - November 20, 2019 at 02:11 PM



“ I work at goco when i met this young man .he was so sweet

Rosie Lewis - November 20, 2019 at 12:00 PM



“ Emmett was a good hearted and loving man who loved his family deaply his children and his mother was his life and he was a great friend/brother to me and jay we will dealy miss him he was always smiling we will miss that he was a hard worker everyday he would find something to do just to stay busy we love you Emmett you will always be in our hearts

Evelyn Bishop Turner - November 19, 2019 at 06:16 PM



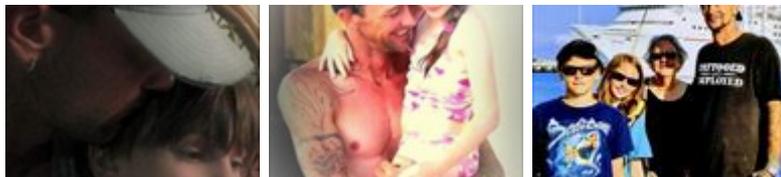
“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Leigh Ann Gates - November 19, 2019 at 04:26 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Leigh Ann - November 19, 2019 at 04:04 PM