



Dr. Eric J. Betlock

October 27, 1949 - December 5, 2022

Dr. Eric J. Betlock, 73 year old resident of Little Falls, MN passed away Monday, December 5, 2022 at his home in Little Falls. A Celebration of Life will be held at 12:00 P.M. on Monday, December 12, 2022 at First Lutheran Church in Little Falls, MN with Rev. Beth Pottratz officiating. A visitation will be held from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. on Monday at First Lutheran Church in Little Falls, MN. Caring for Eric and his family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls, MN.

To join in on Dr. Eric's livestream, please click the following link: <https://my.gather.app/remember/eric-betlock>

Eric was born on October 27, 1949 in Little Falls, MN to the late Willard and Alma "Bobbie" (Flack) Betlock. He attended Little Falls High School where he graduated with the Class of 1967. Eric loved sports and played football, basketball and baseball while in High School. He met his wife, Kathleen of 52 years at Moorhead State College. She swore she could never marry a poor dresser and a guy that couldn't dance but guess what... he stole her heart and on August 15, 1970 in Jamestown, North Dakota they became man and wife. They set out on their lives together after Kathleen graduated from Moorhead State and Eric transferred to the University of Minnesota where he completed his undergraduate degree in 1971. He then went on to pursue a doctorate degree in Optometry at Pacific University in Forest Grove, OR.

Upon graduation in 1975 he moved back to his hometown in Little Falls, MN and took over his father's optometric practice. Eric had a solo practice for many years and then combined with Dr. Todd Baumgartner to form the Little Falls Eye Clinic where he practiced until his retirement 10 years ago.

He was a major part of the community for many years and was instrumental, along with the Little Falls Exchange Club, in getting the Little Falls Exchange Arena built. Eric loved playing and watching sports of all kinds. He especially loved watching his two sons, Derek and Beau play hockey throughout their high school careers. His biggest love of all was hunting and fishing and being a part of a special group of guys that called themselves the Esquagamah Sportsman Club. They dearly loved their deer shack along with the many wonderful memories made there.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Kathleen Betlock of Little Falls, MN; children, Derek (Lisa) Betlock of Shakopee, MN, Beau Betlock of Thailand and BreAnne (Matt) Lipp of Stillwater, MN; brothers, Barry (Chris) Betlock of Boise, ID and Greg (Joan) Betlock of Casa Grande, AZ; sister, Laurie (Doug) Veillette of Little Falls, MN and 5 wonderful grandsons, Aiden, Leighton, Jamis, Owen, and Eli.

Eric was preceded in death by parents, Willard and Bobbie Betlock.

Memorials are preferred to: Little Falls Food Shelf, D.A.V (Disabled American Veterans), St. Jude's Research Hospital and CHI Health At Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 12. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Lutheran Church - Little Falls
2100 Riverview Drive
Little Falls, MN

Celebration of Life Service

DEC 12. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Lutheran Church - Little Falls
2100 Riverview Drive
Little Falls, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - December 10, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ *Dr. Eric J. Betlock*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *I'm saddened to hear the news of Eric's passing. The spelling of our last names meant we were often sitting in desks by each other in Jr & Sr high. He was always kind & smiling. Condolences to the family..may it be your last sorrow. 🙏*

Norma Bergstrazer Hessary - December 12, 2022 at 07:49 AM



“ *I met Eric in 1971 at Pacific U. Optometric School, Since we were both from MN there was a bond. I was shocked to here the news of his passing. My sympathy to Kathleen and the family. Yes Eric was a great guy!!*

Roger Pabst OD

Roger Pabst OD - December 11, 2022 at 05:02 PM

RH

“ 1 file added to the album *FISHIN'*



Roy Heberger - December 11, 2022 at 01:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - December 11, 2022 at 10:49 AM

LH

“ *My uncle Eric was one hell of a guy. An original, not prone to common human defaults. In forty years, no hyperbole, I never once saw him angry. I never once witnessed him speak bad about anyone. He was the epitome of positivity. I will dearly miss his positive influence on me.*

Luke

Luke Hodgdon - December 11, 2022 at 12:11 AM

DB

“ I was very fortunate to meet Eric after graduating from optometry college and moving to Little Falls in 1987. We forged a friendship and became optometric partners in 1996 until he retired in 2012. We shared so many great times professionally as well as friends. Eric always had such a positive attitude and was one of the few people I know that never had anything negative to say about anyone. I learned a lot from Eric and will greatly miss him and his friendship. My sincere sympathy to Kathleen and all of his family. Dr. Todd Baumgartner

Dr Todd Baumgartner - December 10, 2022 at 09:48 PM



“ 70 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lemieux Funeral Homes - December 10, 2022 at 11:29 AM

BC

“ I remember coaching Eric when he was a halfback on the Flyer football team. He was our eye doctor for years. We appreciated his professionalism and kindness. One could walk into his office as a client and walk out feeling like a friend. Our sincere sympathies to his loved ones. Bev and Dick Culshaw

Bev and Dick Culshaw - December 09, 2022 at 12:50 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Eric J. Betlock.*



December 09, 2022 at 12:08 PM



“ *Kathleen and family,
Our deepest sympathy to your family at the loss of Eric. He was a very special person.
Dave and Irene Becker*

Irene Becker - December 09, 2022 at 11:23 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. Eric J. Betlock.*



December 08, 2022 at 08:43 PM



“ *Charlie And Dianne Ledbetter lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock*



Charlie and Dianne Ledbetter - December 08, 2022 at 07:36 PM

JC

“ We send our heartfelt sympathy to the Betlock family. Our family was blessed to have Eric as our optometrist for many years, as we did his father. Eric took such good care of our Mother as her eyes were failing, and we were so thankful for his care. May his memory be a blessing to you all.

Jill Christopherson - December 08, 2022 at 04:15 PM

LO

“ My sympathy to his family. He was a very special person to many people he sure will be missed.



Laurie Ochoa - December 08, 2022 at 08:59 AM

KN

“ I went to school elementary to High School. He was always kind to all and had the biggest smile. He was a good athlete and a leader to many. Sadly missed by us of 1967 class

Karon Leikvoll Newcomb - December 07, 2022 at 09:05 PM

PL

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Betlock family.

Patty Lutzwick - December 07, 2022 at 09:03 PM

BA

“ Eric was one of those men that you would be hard pressed to find something negative to say about. Always treasured knowing him. God's peace for Kathleen and family at this difficult time. Barry Mowers

Barry - December 07, 2022 at 07:08 PM

MB

“ *When Dr. Betlock's father retired and Eric took over his practice, he became my optometrist until he retired. He was a good doctor, friendly and professional. at the same time. He will be missed.*



Myron Bahmer - December 07, 2022 at 11:22 AM

BD

“ *My deepest sympathies. Eric and I grew up together. We traveled to Oregon to go to optometry school together. And, of course, we practiced as colleagues for many years. I am saddened by Eric's early death, which took a good man away too soon.*

Burt Dubow - December 07, 2022 at 11:21 AM

SD

“ *Sue Doucette lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock*



Sue Doucette - December 07, 2022 at 09:40 AM



“ *Judy Berger lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock*



Judy Berger - December 07, 2022 at 07:34 AM

DB

“ My fondest memories of my cousin Eric were childhood memories. His mom and dad were close to my folks and as children we often got together to enjoy waterskiing on the river. Eric of course was the smallest but always was around to enjoy his older brothers and his cousins. We shared a real love for family. As we grew older and parents passed away, I was able to see Eric as my eye doctor and got my first set of glasses from him. It was special for me. Years ago we had a family reunion in Little Falls and it was a moment to embrace as the families came together. Yes love was always felt and for this reason Eric will be in my thoughts and prayers always. He was a wonderful cousin, a good man whom I will dearly miss. May his soul now rest in peace with Jesus his savior..

Daniel Betlock - December 06, 2022 at 11:15 PM

JB

“ Jim & Jeneva Bellefeuille lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock



Jim & Jeneva Bellefeuille - December 06, 2022 at 07:22 PM

DL

“ The Betlocks have been personal friends for 45 years. Over the years Eric has been a fishing, hunting, boating, cards and party buddy. His personal relationship was always has cherished and respected. A great man leading a wonderful family.

Dennis Lind - December 06, 2022 at 06:17 PM

BR

“ *Our deepest Sympathy, Kathleen and family.
Eric meant a lot to Bruce, lifelong friend. Hugs
for All.* 🕊️🦋

Bruce and Patti Hammerbeck



bruce - December 06, 2022 at 04:30 PM

VB

“ *Virg And Babe Brisk lit a candle in memory of
Dr. Eric J. Betlock*



Virg and Babe Brisk - December 06, 2022 at 01:53 PM

PC

“ *Prayers to the family during this difficult time.*



Pete Christopherson - December 06, 2022 at 01:50 PM

RA

“ *Laurie,
Sorry to hear about Eric.
I miss talking with you.
Ralph*

Ralph - December 06, 2022 at 12:16 PM

DP

“ *Sympathy to the Betlock family*



Darlene Palm - December 06, 2022 at 11:30 AM

KB

“ *Kathleen and Family, So sorry to hear about your loss. Eric was awesome and always so friendly. You will be in my thoughts and prayers 🙏*

Kathy Baumann - December 06, 2022 at 11:24 AM

BB

“ *My heart was sad to hear about a great friend that left our world. Eric was a gentle and kind person, he always had a smile, I am blessed to have had a wonderful conversation with him about 2 - 3 months ago at the rice creek game farm along with gentle hugs. So very sorry for the family, he is that special angel that someone is blessed with.*



Beth Birr - December 06, 2022 at 10:08 AM

PM

“ *Patty Mallak lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock*



Patty Mallak - December 06, 2022 at 08:17 AM



“ Karen Haaland lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock



Karen Haaland - December 06, 2022 at 08:06 AM



My thoughts and prayers will be with you during this difficult time

Karen Haaland - December 06, 2022 at 08:06 AM

DL

“ So very sad to hear of Eric's passing! A truly kind & caring man & he will be missed. Our sincere sympathies to the Betlock family. Our hearts, thoughts & prayers are with you all- 🙏❤️! Love, Dawn & Brad Laager



Dawn & Brad Laager - December 06, 2022 at 07:54 AM

MS

“ Mark & Pam Savage lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock



Mark & Pam Savage - December 05, 2022 at 11:22 PM

RP

“ Deepest sympathies to Kathleen and family during this very sad time. Eric was such a nice and friendly man. He was my eye doctor his entire career and was so good at his job. He will be missed by everyone that knew him. We will miss the nice welcoming smile that you got as soon as he saw you. 🙏🙏🙏

Rosi and Joe Przybilla - December 05, 2022 at 10:57 PM

JS

“ John & Janell Staab lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock



John & Janell Staab - December 05, 2022 at 06:32 PM

BE

“ So sorry to hear of yet another classmate who has died. My deepest condolences to the family. Beverly (Posch) Eppler

Beverly (Posch) Eppler - December 05, 2022 at 06:18 PM

CV

“ He was THEE best optometrist I ever will have had! Just a wonderful man! He will be missed!

Cindy Vogt - December 05, 2022 at 06:06 PM

SN

“ *Sandy Nelsom lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock*



Sandy Nelsom - December 05, 2022 at 05:00 PM

DF

“ *Kathleen and family. Deepest sympathies to you all. What a nice guy. He will be missed by all. Another angel has his wings.*

Darrol & Judi Zak Ficek - December 05, 2022 at 04:29 PM



“ *lit a candle in memory of Dr. Eric J. Betlock*



December 05, 2022 at 03:27 PM

RS

“ *Our deepest sympathy & condolences thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Eric Betlock. Eric was a great family man. Eric always had a great smile, an took time to visit with the people he knew. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. May he Rest In Peace with our Heavenly Father in heaven. God's blessings on his family. Rest In Peace Eric.*

Richard & Mary Schneider - December 05, 2022 at 12:43 PM

SH

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.* ”



Susan Hanson - December 05, 2022 at 12:20 PM