



Eric "Opie" Watt

July 10, 1963 - July 8, 2022

Eric "Opie" Watt was born on July 10, 1963, and passed on July 8th, 2022, at the age of 58. Opie was born in Sarasota, Florida but grew up in Farragut, Tennessee with his siblings Rachel, Janee, and Chuck, under the loving care of his parents, Bob and Betty Watt. Opie enlisted in the Air Force shortly after graduating high school and spent the next 22 years traveling the world. His career as a Flight Engineer led him to Charleston, South Carolina where he fell in love with his wife, Sonya. They married in 1990 and raised two boys, Jacob and Jackson, who have since followed in their father's footsteps to military service. After retiring from the military in 2004, Opie moved on to the private sector and worked with The Boeing Company as a technical writer before being promoted to project manager. His success led to an opportunity to move from their home in Crestview, Florida to Edmond, Oklahoma in 2018.

In addition to his love for aircraft, Opie was an avid outdoorsman, a self-taught musician, and a devoted Christian. He was deeply involved in his home church, Emmanuel Baptist Church of Crestview, serving as a mentor, friend, and musician for the congregation for most of his time in Florida. He further acted as a member and mentor in faith with his involvement at Henderson Hills Baptist Church where he led a men's bible study group. Known for his quick wit and big personality, Opie was a devoted husband, loving father, and faithful friend. Opie is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Sonya Sande Watt; sons Jacob (Jessica) Watt of Goldsboro, North Carolina, and Jackson Watt of Wichita, Kansas; mother, Betty Watt of Cleveland, Tennessee; uncle Butch Woodward of Cleveland, Tennessee; aunt, Dottie Vining of Lenoir City; Tennessee, sisters Rachel (Alan) David of Cleveland, Tennessee and Janee (John) Cates of Southern Pines, North Carolina; and brother Chuck Watt of Knoxville, Tennessee.

The family requests that all flowers be sent to Crawford Funeral Service and in lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory to the Gary Sinise Foundation. There will be a visitation July 15th from 5-7 pm at Crawford Funeral Home in Edmond, OK. A memorial

service will be held on July 16th at 10 am, at Henderson Hills Baptist Church to celebrate his life.

Previous Events

Come-and-Go Visitation/Reception

JUL **15.** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Crawford Family Funeral & Cremation Service

610 NW 178th Street

Edmond, OK 73012

<https://crawfordfuneralservice.com>

Funeral Service

JUL **16.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Henderson Hills Baptist Church

1200 E. I-35 Frontage Rd

Edmond, OK 73034

<http://www.hhbc.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Crawford Family Funeral & Cremation Service created a Webcast in memory of Eric "Opie" Watt*



Crawford Family Funeral Centers - July 15 at 11:05 PM



“ *Crawford Family Funeral & Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Eric "Opie" Watt*



Crawford Family Funeral Centers - July 14 at 05:20 PM

VH

*Great tribute to Opie!
Condolences to the family.*

V. Joe Hill - July 15 at 11:29 AM

LR

*God received an angel, Christ needed him before we wanted him to go.
What a tribute , Family and Christ centered Man, Husband, Friend and disciple.
We will miss you and look forward to seeing you again.*

Larry Rowold - July 15 at 06:48 PM

PP

*Looks like the story of a good man who loved his life...well-done tribute.
Wishing good memories to family, friends, and loved ones.*

Pamela Parker - July 15 at 07:39 PM

BC

*What a wonderful tribute to such a kind man. Praying continually for you all as you navigate life without him. May God's grace surround you with peace and love. Always.
-Bailey Anne and Forrest Cox*

Bailey-Anne Cox - July 18 at 09:18 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.*



July 16 at 01:54 AM

DD

“ *We were so saddened to learn of Opie's sudden death. We are praying for you Sonya, your sons, and your family. May God, who has been so real in your lives, be most evident now in His comfort and love. Dave and Debbie Davidson*

Dave & Debbie Davidson - July 15 at 11:17 PM

JK

“ *So saddened to here of Eric's passing . Such a shock. Please accept my condolences. First thing that came to my mind was how excited he was to get a boat and how he made sure he used it as much as possible. It's been a couple of years since I left Boeing , but his boat pride stuck with me and made me smile. He was a good guy & he is missed .*

Jeanine Koons - July 15 at 05:05 PM

DC

“ *Opie lead a group men into our study of Genesis, Opie was a great leader and teacher , it was so obvious that his Love for God , the Bible and Mankind that Opie will be sorely missed on Earthand Celebrated in Heaven .*

dc - July 15 at 10:19 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.*



July 15 at 08:04 AM

SF

“ *Sindy Tascier and Family purchased the Cherished Memories for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.*



Sindy Tascier and Family - July 15 at 08:02 AM



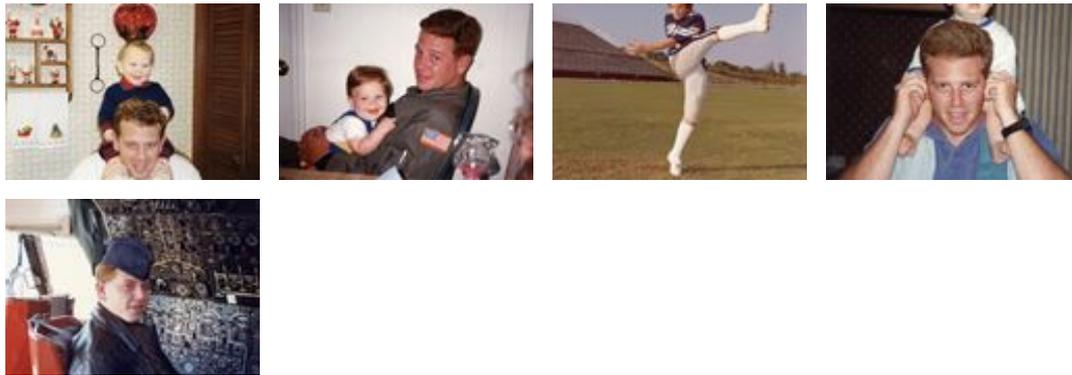
“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.*



July 14 at 06:07 PM



“ *110 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Crawford Family Funeral Centers - July 14 at 05:04 PM

SH

“ *To God be the glory for your life and testimony. See you again in Heaven Opie.*

Scott Hansen - July 14 at 02:01 PM

DW

“ *Our heart and prayers are with all of Eric's family, and we send our sincere condolences and love. David and Jane Watt*



David and Jane Watt - July 14 at 11:50 AM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.*



July 14 at 07:54 AM

ZP

“ *Oh so terrible to hear this news. Opie and I flew together on Special Operations missions at Charleston. His Flight Engineer knowledge was top notch. My deepest condolences to Opie's spouse and boys. Zip Peterson, Loadmaster.*

Zip Peterson - July 13 at 09:17 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.*



July 13 at 08:48 PM



“ *Thank you, Opie, for loving my sweet cousin, Sonya. You made a beautiful family and have two wonderful men to carry on your legacy. You were taken way too soon, and you're going to be missed by so many. Rest In Peace ❤️ Love and prayers to the family.*

Kim Sherman - July 13 at 06:58 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.*



July 13 at 06:40 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.*



July 13 at 04:57 PM

JA

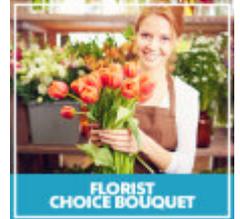
“ *John Anderson purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.*



John Anderson - July 13 at 01:17 PM

JG

“ *Judy Grammer purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.*



Judy Grammer - July 13 at 12:46 PM

TM

“ *Betty sorry about the loss of your son, didn't have the opportunity to know him but sounded like a great young man who loved the Lord. God's blessing for you and his family, Prov 3:5,6*

Tony Miller - July 13 at 12:44 PM

MI

“ *I met Opie at Boeing FWB. I don't have a defining Opie story; I just remember that seeing him or chatting with him would always buoy my spirits. I'm glad to have met him.*

Mike - July 13 at 10:50 AM

KN

“ 1 file added to the album Air Force Career



Kris Nordstrom - July 13 at 10:14 AM

KN

Opie and flight engineers testing the weight capacity of the wing!

Kris Nordstrom - July 13 at 10:16 AM

TH

“ Teresa and Amber Harris purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



Teresa and Amber Harris - July 13 at 09:32 AM

CL

“ Opie was a joy to fly with! He was always cheerful and respectful! I am saddened to hear this news! Prayers for his family! God bless! Fly high to the heavens!

Cecelia Lange - July 13 at 08:50 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



July 12 at 08:22 PM

TM

“ Opie and I got our measles booster together in Kuwait. As soon as the needle hit his arm he collapsed like a box of hammers. To see someone so strong and full of life faint over a shot took us all by surprise and he took a no end of ribbing over it. As always, he took it in good stride. He was a pleasure to be around and, as an outstanding flight engineer, always a joy to fly with. I was thankful each time he got us all home safely. I'm saddened to hear of his passing. My sincere condolences. Tom Markland, 8 Special Operations Squadron

Tom Markland - July 12 at 04:12 PM



“ Stately Lilies was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



July 12 at 03:36 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



July 12 at 02:51 PM

SS

“ Sheryl Sande purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



Sheryl Sande - July 12 at 02:27 PM

DA

“ Hey brother. A long time ago God placed you in my path, and through His Fire, a friendship & brotherhood was forged of which I cannot forget. Our memories together are our own and will always be cherished and passed on. God's Love for us is unmeasurable, as you truly know and I look forward to hugging your neck in Heaven and worshipping Jesus alongside you and our loved ones. You made a difference in my life and although we were separated living our lives, we will always be brothers in Spirit. Thank you for being you. Praise God in the highest! Always. See ya, Darrell

Darrell - July 12 at 11:23 AM

EF

“ Edward and Necia Falls purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



Edward and Necia Falls - July 12 at 10:23 AM

JW

“ My heart is broken! Loved this boy! Will be with you all in my thoughts. All my love! Rest in Peace Rick! "Aunt Judy"

Judy Watt - July 12 at 10:16 AM

LM

“ Words cannot convey the grief and sadness we share with Eric's family. He was my coworker, manager, and friend who always had my back. Quick witted and an easy smile, we shared lots of "war" stories and had plenty of laughs. When things got serious Eric could be counted on to find solutions and make things better. He influenced my career profoundly...things will not be the same without him. With thoughts and prayers from our family.
"What is there to do when people die - people so dear and rare - but bring them back by remembering?" -May Sarton

Lori Maus - July 12 at 10:04 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



July 12 at 10:02 AM

JW

“ Eric was my mentor and manager for two years. I have to say that in the time I got to know him he was truly one of the best managers I have ever had. I am glad to read that he was a man of faith as I am also. He will truly be missed and only knowing him for two years he left an everlasting impression for my faith walk.

Jeffrey Widmar - July 12 at 09:39 AM

MF

“ Maggie David and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



Maggie David and Family - July 12 at 09:25 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



July 12 at 09:04 AM

GF

“ Gerry McCabe and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



Gerry McCabe and family - July 12 at 07:14 AM

GM

“ I’m deeply saddened at the loss of Eric, a caring supervisor and true friend at work. I’ve known Eric several years, as both peer and manager. He was always a pleasure and quick to share a joke, of which there were many. He had a sincere kindness and ability to bring out the best in people, which I believe set him apart.

I know Eric has touched many lives as an uplifting influence. For me personally a few years ago, it was largely because of Eric that I chose to stay with Boeing...something he may not even have known. I haven’t looked back.

There is so much more good to say about Eric but I don’t have the words. Although it pains me to lose such a great friend, confidante, and mentor; I know God is welcoming him home with open arms.

Gerry McCabe - July 12 at 07:01 AM

JM

This has hit most of us extremely hard and still leaves us shocked and in disbelief. Sorry to hear of the passing of a great friend, colleague and manager. An angel gained his wings.

I met Eric when I started with Boeing in 2006 and he immediately left an everlasting impression on me. He had an outstanding work ethic, such a professional and showed everyone compassion and respect. He was a great person and always shared a joke to make people laugh.

Till we meet again my friend. RIP.

Juan Medina - July 14 at 04:05 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eric "Opie" Watt.



July 11 at 09:04 PM

EP

“ Opie and I deployed together to K2 on several occasions. He was always such a joy to be around and always smiling that crooked smile. We built furniture out of scrap wood we found around camp for our tent and Opie would play his guitar...he really made our time away from home better and the time didn't seem to matter as much. Opie was our de facto barber and would give haircuts for a can of Copenhagen! I hope he is up there on his boat catching fish and picking his guitar. Deepest and heartfelt condolences. Earl B Phillips, 8th Special Operations Squadron "Blackbirds"

Earl B Phillips - July 11 at 04:16 PM

JK

So Sorry for your loss. Although I never met Eric face to face, he has been my manager for 2 years. He was that kind voice on the phone who provided moral support during my and my wife's surgeries. He is the best Manager I have had in my 21 years at Boeing. His staff meetings were always ended with a trivia quiz which always provided new information to us all. My heart is heavy as I sink in he has graduated this earth and moved on. I will never hear that encouraging voice again. He was my lifeline. God's speed Eric, you will be sorely missed.

Jim Kimpel - July 13 at 08:56 AM

PG

RIP Eric,
I never worked on the same projects with Eric; however, we ran into each other often at the worksite, and he was always willing to stop and "chit chat" about small things or listen to a joke. My condolences to the family.

Patrick Goss - July 13 at 11:07 AM