



Ernest Raymond Adams

August 20, 2016

ADAMS, Ernest Raymond, 56, of Louisville, passed away August 20, 2016, surrounded by loving family after a short, but heroic battle against cancer. Ernie was known for his unforgettable bass voice and his charming personality. Born in Los Angeles, CA, and raised in Owensboro, KY, he attended Owensboro High School and then Eastern Kentucky University, where he majored in Musical Theatre and met the love of his life, Dana Jo. Together they performed from Europe to Hawaii to Japan and back to Louisville. Ernie sang with Musicana Enterprises, Stephen Foster Story, Kentucky Opera, Louisville Orchestra, Katty Smith Singers and Louisville Vocal Project, but found a home at Derby Dinner Playhouse where he was a “Barnstormer” and beloved Leading Man for several years. With a mechanical background, he also excelled there in technical theatre. For more than 15 years, Ernie has cherished being employed by American Beverage Marketers, where he was the Safety and Compliance Manager. Although an avid UK fan, he may have been heard singing the National Anthem for UL Basketball games. Ernie was a proud member of Fern Creek Baptist Church where he served as a Deacon and was very active with the music ministry. His 32 year marriage to Dana and his three children brought him his proudest moments. He loved watching them on the soccer field, Carnegie Hall and the Broadway Stage. Ernie was preceded in death by his mother Joan Adams. He is survived by his father, Ernest Chacey Adams, his wife, Dana Adams and children, Ashley Kate of NYC, Wesley Chace of Louisville and Audrey Belle of

Lexington. He is also survived by his three older brothers, Gary (Paul), Randy (Judy), all of Owensboro and Leon (Lisa) of Houston, TX. His in-laws and a host of family and friends are left to celebrate his memory. Visitation will be held at Owen Funeral Home – Jeffersontown, 9318 Taylorsville Road, Thursday, August 25, 2016 from 5pm-9pm and Friday, August 26, 2016 from 2pm-8pm. Memorial service will be held at Fern Creek Baptist Church, 5920 Bardstown Road, 11am on Saturday, August 27th. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Fern Creek Baptist Church or University of Kentucky Opera Theatre.

Tribute Wall

DH

“ Dana and family-- praying for you this morning as the celebration of life for Ernie begins. I so wanted to come, but prior work commitments prevented travel this week.

I am broken-hearted over Ernie's too-early Homegoing. Ernie and I were in band, choir and chamber choir in Owensboro. Such a sweet soul, and a joy to be around-- even when we were younger. Reading all the comments on Facebook, it sounds like that was just the beginning of a lifetime of bringing joy to others.

When were juniors (I think) at the end of year choir banquet, I got the "I'm on pitch and Ernie's flat" award. He got the "I'm on pitch and David's flat" award :) So many great memories!

Again, I'm so sorry for your loss. Praying you'll sense the comforting presence of God who is near the broken-hearted and the strength of His everlasting arms holding you all.

*Grace and peace,
David Head*

David Head - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

WH

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We have such fond memories of Ernie. May God's peace comfort you during this difficult time. ??

Wanda & Cody Hall - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

NH

“ Ernie was a talented and kind man. I enjoyed working with him in various musical ventures. He was always professional, easy-going, and a joy to work with. I did not realize that he was ill, and seeing the obituary in today's C-J was shocking. I pray that you and your family will embrace the memories of a life well-lived and know that he will always be with you.

Nancy Harris - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

SA

“ I will truly miss the voice and especially the man. He was a wonderful friend with a great sense of humor.

Scot Anderson - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

RH

“ Our hearts are saddened by the loss of Ernest. I did not know him personally but heard a lot from his brother Randy. We will continue to pray for the family and friends. RIP friend.

Rondal Hambrick - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

SJ

“ I am so sorry to hear of your lost. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family and friends. Ernie was an amazing man and just a kind person. When I worked at Derby Dinner one Christmas I asked him if he would dress as Santa and go see my wonderful sister who was mentally handicapped and she loved Santa. When he walked into my Mothers house Judy was so excited she cried. That was the greatest gift she would ever get. Thank you Ernie for giving her and all of us so much happiness. We love you and will see you again in heaven, Suzanne

suzanne Jordan - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

MT

“ Dana,
So sorry to read this in the Owensboro paper. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Mike Tichenor

Mike Tichenor - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

LA

“ Dana, Ashley, Wesley, and Audrey,
We are all so sorry for your and our sudden loss of Ernie Ray. But we are all better people for having shared in his love and devotion to all of us. We will miss him but we know he will be looking over us from Heaven. See you guys in a few days.
Love,
Leon, Lisa, Kathryn, and Connor Adams

Leon Adams - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

DS

“ Dana, although you don't know me, my condolences to you and your family. As the Theatre Arts director at Highland Hills I have seen and heard about Ernie from many people. As a member of the theatre community just wanted you to know we are thinking of you!

David Stone - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

JD

“ *Dana & Family,
Scott & I are extending our deep & heartfelt sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Family, friends and memories will console you and the girls, but Ernie will always be in your hearts.
Working at Derby Dinner with Ernie & you will always bring pleasant memories to me. A hug from Ernie always made my day. Such a loving & gentle heart. I cry for you and the family, but rejoice in the thought that Ernie is singing in the Heavenly Choir. Love you.*

Janet & Scott Davis - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM

BF

“ *May God help you find comfort in the memories and knowing that Ernie is watching over your family. We prayed for a miracle but maybe that's what was granted by not allowing him to suffer a long time. Ernie Adams will always hold a special place in our families heart! We were blessed to have your entire family touch our lives while we lived in Louisville. There are few men in this world that are as kind and welcoming as Ernie. We were blessed to have met you so many years ago. We know that Ernie's spirit will live on through his amazing three children. Sending Peace and Love, Mike, Kim , Ashley and Blake!*

Burger Family - June 28, 2018 at 03:47 PM