



Ernest Walter Anderson Jr., age 65, passed away at his Hollywood, Florida home on Sunday, August 29, 2021. He is predeceased by his parents Ernest Walter Anderson Sr. and Anne Marie Minch Anderson and brother David “Crockett” Anderson. He is survived by siblings Gail Anderson, Bobby Anderson, Carole Anderson-Rivers and Patrick Anderson and by his adult children Erik Anderson, Jillian Capri Anderson, Gretchen Lynn Anderson and Emily Joyanne Anderson.

Ernie was born at Saint Joseph Hospital in Mount Clemens, Michigan on June 9, 1956. His family moved to South Florida when he was 6 months old. He attended Holy Family Catholic School, North Miami Jr. High, North Miami Senior High and Miami-Dade College. Ernie was a beloved member of the North Miami High School Class of 1974 and also a member of the class’s Reunion Committee.

“Ernie was full of jokes and belly laughs. There’s not a single soul in a sea full of people that he wouldn’t strike up a conversation with,” commented his daughter Gretchen, *“He would talk to anyone about anything when given the chance. Ernie loved each and every one of his friends—even the ones he never got the chance to meet, and he’d always go above and beyond to make sure they were taken care of. All he ever wanted to do was make people laugh and smile.”*

He began his career working in real estate, playing an important role in developing the Pembroke Falls community in Pembroke Pines. He was later employed by D.R. Horton as a real estate agent. In the last years of his life, Ernie enjoyed traversing the tranquil streets and vast, well-designed interstate highway systems of Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. His self-proclaimed job title was ‘floral expeditor’ for Al’s Florist driving a vehicle he had affectionately christened his “Gaymobile Maxi”.



“It rides good but it's a pain in the ass for me to climb up in it,” commented Ernie on Facebook in 2019, *“I prefer my old Beater... it needs only 1800 more miles to hit 250,000..I've put 200,000 on the damn thing myself”*.

He would always provide interesting commentary and photographs taken from his driver seat point-of-view on what he came across and found as an active participant in South Florida’s traffic gridlock.

Through life’s journey as a sports fan and real estate sales person, he was lucky to become friends with Manny Ramirez from the Boston Red Sox, Ricky Gutierrez from the Cubs and Cleveland Indians, and 2003 World Series Champion Marlins' pitcher Braden Loper.

Ernie was also a world traveler, with one of his favorite places being Rome, Italy, where he loved the artwork and architecture. He traveled there at least five times and was proficient in Italian.

Speaking of Facebook, this highly engaging man had almost 1000 friends on the social media platform where he regularly had a comment for just about any topic. Upon the shocking news of his passing, Facebook was filled with expressions of sadness and sorrow, followed by an amazing outreach of love for Ernie. We all know we lost someone unique and special. The number of comments and tributes were numerous. Here are just a few:

- *He was a true gentleman and funny as hell. Always a smile on his face and a quick wit. (Marie Soule)*
- *Lost a dear friend from high school today ...although in truth I became a greater friend after high school. RIP Ern ... Few could make me laugh as much as you did (David Summerford)*
- *I'm so sorry you've left this earthly plane, but wherever you are I know there will be lots of laughter. (Karen Haven)*
- *I will miss Ernie so much - his irreverent take on life is just, Classic Ernie. He is one of a kind. (Diane Loffredo)*
- *He was great man with a great heart and true Friend .. his sense of humor was great he was always had a smile-on his face (Rosa Vergara)*
- *I can't stop thinking about him & the genuine loss so many are feeling & have expressed. My heart aches & the tears continue. A truly special man who embraced his world around him. His amazingly acute & sensitive perspective on daily life. His clearly creative and always humorous expressive words of what he saw and stories he shared through his lens... (Mike Stern)*
- *One month ago, I got to hug you like I saw you every day, and talk to you like we never missed a beat. You got to meet my husband and my children. You were not just a man, you were my fathers best friend and like an uncle to me. Today we mourn the loss of an amazing soul. I can't believe you were taken so soon. Rest in paradise Uncle Ernie. (Jaclyn Gonzales)*
- *We went our separate ways after graduation and I didn't speak to him for probably 25 years or more. Then we found each other on FB. I looked forward to his funny remarks and fell in love with his humor. (Kathy Ferraribaldwin).*
- *Lost a dear friend today. He was the funniest guy on this planet but I guess God needed a funny guy too. (Linda Romeo)*
- *Ernie will be sorely missed. He always made me laugh. He always made me feel good. He always went out of his way for others. (David Glickman)*
- *May you Rest In Peace with garlic rolls and all your favorite food, drinks and a pack of cigs by your side! Love and miss you! Heart of gold! (Neeners Neeners)*
- *My friend Ernie Anderson was upset that I hadn't based any characters in my book on him. So I promised him in the sequel I would. And I have! My only regret now is he won't see it. God speed old friend (Paul Dow)*
- *Rest in Peace Ern' I will always love you and have your back! (Lydia Thomas)*

Ernie was a larger than life, lover of life. A person who lived in the moment, living life to its fullest, and relishing all the experiences it had to offer.

“Our dad passed away suddenly and it’s taken a toll on a lot of us,” said Ernie’s daughter Gretchen *“My siblings and I are arranging a celebration of life in memory of our dad. Due to work and school schedules, we’re planning on hosting his memorial mid-October. I’ll create an event group on Facebook once things are solidified, and anyone who would like to come is welcomed. For anyone unable to attend in person, we will livestream it on Facebook. I know he’d love nothing more than for his friends to be there to reminisce on his life”*.

So we close this final chapter of Ernie’s life with an extreme sense of sadness and loss. But, what we always will have to embrace is the copious amount of photos, visions, texts, posts and memories of this wonderful man that will forever burn bright in our hearts and minds. We all know that his life was a blessing and truly a privilege to call him our friend.

To his memory, Ernie would want all of us to raise a cold glass of beer, hell he would want you to make it a pitcher. Then polish off a plate of a couple of dozen Uncle Al’s chicken wings in his honor, and round out the feast with a dozen or so of those amazing Mario’s garlic rolls. He would then take you aside, put an arm around your shoulder and comment that the bag that Mario’s garlic rolls comes in, would give the extra added value of another amazing meal when you threw a half a pound of warm cooked pasta in it and shook it up. We tried it, and of course, he was right.

Paraphrasing the late great singer-songwriter John Prine in “When I Get To Heaven”:

“I’m gonna smoke a cigarette that’s nine-miles-long...”.

Perhaps that twinkle in the sky when you look up tonight is Ernie smiling down and lighting up.