

Facebook posts and letter to Honorable Judge Tupper written by Denise Pinkney

July 19, 2018

Day of tears.

Day of sorrow.

Eric Gulbranson, we miss you and are so grateful for the love and encouragement you brought to our lives. You were faithful to pray for us. I cannot express how much you will be missed.

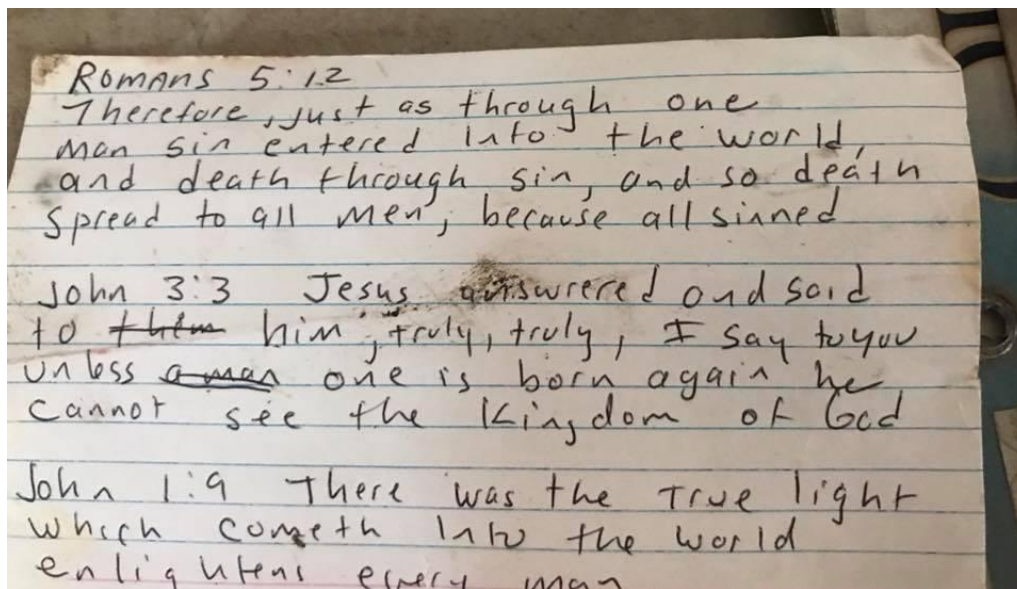
Mary Ellen Parnell we share in part your great sorrow.

July 23, 2018

If you were to die today, what might your last written words be?

These notes written by Eric Gulbranson were found in the grill of his pickup. He had a heart for God and shared his faith with many. Eric was killed last week in a head-on collision in Oklahoma on his way home from work when another driver crossed over the median on U.S. Highway 77.

Eric, we miss you so much!



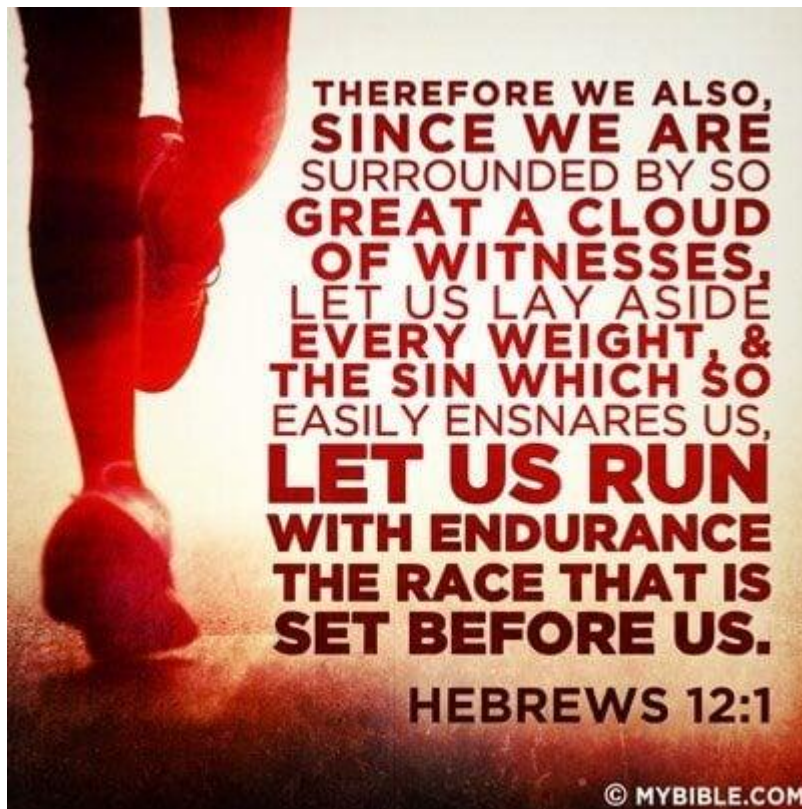
October 13, 2018

Today would have been Eric Gulbranson's 56th birthday. This week, encourage someone in his memory. He gave so much to others in word and in deed.

Be the Eric in someone's life.

July 18, 2020

Today marks the second anniversary of Eric Gulbranson's death. He was tragically taken from us in a head-on collision on his way home from work. Those who knew Eric cannot help but miss him. When you were down and needed prayer, Eric was in your corner. When you lost hope, he had words of encouragement. His heart's desire was that others would know God. As the Activities Officer in an Oklahoma prison, he was a light in a dark place. Known simply as "Coach," he was a father figure to many inmates regardless of their age. He treated each person with respect. I believe Eric is still cheering us from his position in the great cloud of witnesses. I give thanks for his life, his boldness, his prayers. And I pray that I may be an "Eric" in someone's life. May we, like Eric, run our race well.



October 13, 2020

Today, I remember Eric Gulbranson. It would have been his 58th birthday, but a drunk driver cut his life short at 55. Prayer warrior. Encourager. Man of the Word. He could make you laugh with his ability to tell a story. And he could build you up when you felt like your life was falling apart. As an Activities Officer at an Oklahoma prison, he gave respect and guidance to many who had lost their way. A father to the fatherless, regardless of their age. Above all else, Eric desired for others to know God. May you and I be an “Eric” to someone in need.

Eric, I remember you today. And always.



**“I thank my God upon every  
remembrance of you.”  
Philippians 1:3**

April 2021 letter to the Honorable Judge Tupper

Eric Gulbranson

Case 28CF2018-1101

The Honorable Judge Tupper:

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1

Eric Gulbranson was tragically taken from us in a head-on collision on his way home from work. Those who knew Eric cannot help but miss him. When you were down and needed prayer, Eric was in your corner. When you lost hope, he had words of encouragement. His heart’s desire was that others would know God.

As the Activities Officer in an Oklahoma prison, he was a light in a dark place. Known simply as “Coach,” he was a father figure to many inmates regardless of their age. He treated each person with respect.

Eric organized Christmas drives on behalf of the prisoners. Early on in his career, he encountered a prisoner who had no shoes. His feet were too large. Out of his own funds, he paid for shoes to be made for this prisoner. This is just one of the countless acts of kindness and compassion that Eric performed during his time in Oklahoma.

I believe Eric is still cheering us from his position in the great cloud of witnesses. I give thanks for his life, his boldness, his prayers. And I pray that I may be an “Eric” in someone’s life. May we, like Eric, run our race well.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Pinkney

July 18, 2021

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Today is a day of remembrance. Three years ago, Eric Gulbranson died in a collision with an impaired driver. We lost a friend. Prayer warrior. Faith builder. Coach. Cousin. Uncle. Nephew. Brother. Son.

Eric was there for you when you were weary, when you felt you could no longer run your race. He was quick to pray and to point you to your true source of strength, Jesus. He loved God and desired above all that others would know Him too.

And so, we are left to run our race. But we are not alone, He who was Eric’s strength and comfort can be ours.

Today, I honor Eric and give thanks for his life.

For those who did not know him, Eric was a person who dared to care. This is but one of many stories of Eric’s love for others. When he started his job at Lexington Prison in Oklahoma, he noticed a barefoot prisoner. His feet were so large that no shoes fit him. Eric paid out of his own funds for shoes to be made for this man.

May we be like Eric. To not only see a need that others have ignored, but also to fill it. Even if it costs us something.

In Eric’s memory, encourage the weary and the faint. Wait on the LORD. Renew your strength in Him.

October 13, 2021

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Today would have been Eric Gulbranson’s 59th birthday. His life was abruptly ended on July 18, 2018, in a head-on collision with an impaired driver.

Eric worked as an activities officer in an Oklahoma prison. Each day was filled with potential danger. He looked to God as his protector.

Eric treated each inmate with respect. He was affectionately known as Coach. To many, Eric represented a father figure. He was a light in a dark place. Eric shared God's love to those who had no hope.

Whatever you are facing today, remember God is with you. No matter how great the darkness or danger, He will be with you.

Fear not.

July 17, 2022

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn.” Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

Tomorrow, July 18, will mark the fourth anniversary of Eric Gulbranson's death. He was killed in a head-on collision with an impaired driver.

To those who loved Eric, we lost a friend, a prayer warrior, an encourager. Others lost a son. A brother, nephew, cousin, and uncle. To many of the inmates at the prison where Eric worked, they lost the only father figure they knew. It's been an unbelievable four years, Eric, and we know you are with God in Heaven. We miss you. And give thanks for your life.

July 18, 2025

Today marks seven years since we lost Eric. No words can express how much we miss him, his prayers, his encouragement, his humor.

Remembering Eric!

October 13, 2025

“...let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...” Hebrews 12:1-2

Today would have been Eric Gulbranson's 63rd birthday. He was killed seven years ago in a head-on collision with an impaired driver. Eric was always one to encourage others, whether his family or friends or the inmates at Lexington Correctional Center where he worked as an activities officer. He was a father figure to many inmates, treating them with dignity and leading many to salvation through Jesus Christ.