



Eric D. Bottoms

May 26, 1971 - February 18, 2026

Wantage— Eric D. Bottoms, age 54, passed away on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at Newton Medical Center. Born and raised in Dyersburg, Tennessee, Eric has lived in Sussex County for most of his life. He had been a route salesman and deliveryman for Herr Foods in Oakland. Eric was a devoted family member whose greatest joy in life was bringing people together - whether around the dinner table or by the water's edge. A passionate cook, Eric believed that love was best expressed through a well-prepared meal. The kitchen was his happy place, and family gatherings were made special by his favorite recipes and generous portions. An avid fisherman, Eric found peace and patience in quiet times by the lake. Fishing was more than a hobby; it was a time for reflection, storytelling, and often sharing laughter with his family and friends. Above all, he was family-oriented. He showed up consistently and wholeheartedly for birthdays, holidays, school events, and everyday moments that mattered most. His legacy will live on in the traditions he created, the recipes that will be passed down, and the stories that will be retold. He was predeceased by his father, Tommy Bottoms and his mother, Jean (Tandy) Hickey. Eric is survived by his loving wife of 27 years, Gina (Battaglia); his son, Jacob; his daughter, Leah; his brother, Nigel Hickey; his sister, Amy Kellum and her husband Louis; his stepmother, Dena Bottoms; his step-father, Joseph Hickey; and his large extended family of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Friends may pay their respects to the family from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at the Pinkel

Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Private cremation services have been held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Eric's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Online condolences may be offered to the family at www.pinkelfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Private Cremation Services

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **28**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.
31 Bank Street (Route 23)
Sussex, NJ 07461
(973) 875-3272
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

BR

“ Beth Rini planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric D. Bottoms.

Beth Rini - February 27 at 03:21 PM

BR

“ Beth Rini purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Eric D. Bottoms.



Beth Rini - February 27 at 03:21 PM

UB

“ Uncle Peter and Aunt Betty purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Eric D. Bottoms.



Uncle Peter and Aunt Betty - February 25 at 02:17 PM

LA

“ We are so grateful for the memories, the laughter - ALOT of laughter - and all the LOVE Eric brought to our family. And can't forget his pecan pies! He will forever be a part of us and will always be my brother. We're here for you, Jake and Leah always. All of our Love, Aunt LaLa and Uncle Steve

Laura & Steve Alexis - February 24 at 04:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Eric D. Bottoms.

February 24 at 04:14 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray* was purchased for the family of Eric D. Bottoms.



February 24 at 04:14 PM



“ *I'm very sorry for your loss. I worked with Eric at Herr's for a very long time. He was a very friendly guy and always happy to be in crowds. I will miss him him. God Bless.*
Nick A ndretta

Nick Andretta - February 23 at 12:20 PM



“ *Kathleen, Cas, Saskia, Jeff & Jace planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eric D. Bottoms.*

Kathleen, Cas, Saskia, Jeff & Jace - February 22 at 07:58 AM

KJ

“ *Kathleen, Cas, Saskia, Jeff & Jace purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Eric D. Bottoms.*



Kathleen, Cas, Saskia, Jeff & Jace - February 22 at 07:58 AM

KM

“ Dear Gina and Family,

Our heart's are truly heavy as we send you our deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved husband and father, our dear cousin, Erik D. Bottoms. This loss is felt deeply within our family as well.

Erik was not only the cherished stepson of my brother, but also the son of my dear sister in law, whose passing in 2023 still rests heavily on our hearts. It is especially painful to lose him so soon after her, and I can only imagine the weight of grief you are carrying. When I think of Erik, I remember his wonderful humour — the way he could make anyone laugh, his playful sparring with the family and kids, and the joy he brought into a room without even trying. He had a special sparkle, a way of connecting through laughter that made everyone feel at ease.

He loved to cook, to care, and to provide for those he held dear. Even while bravely undergoing dialysis for diabetes, his heart remained focused on giving, sharing, and being present for the people he loved. That strength, that kindness, that generosity — those are the things that will never fade from our memories.

Today, we honour and celebrate Erik's life: his laughter, his warmth, the quiet resilience, and the love he shared so freely. He will be dearly, deeply missed.

Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very sad time. May you find comfort in the love that surrounds you and in the beautiful memories of Erik's life — a life that touched us all profoundly.

*With all our sympathy, love, and support,
Kathleen, Cas, Saskia, Jeff & Jace
Your Dutch family, always connected*

kathleen Maarseveen-Hickey - February 22 at 07:40 AM

TK

“ Gina - Once I met Eric and his flawed passion for being a Cowboys fan, I made a friend and the words that are written here become true of everything else I knew of him. Praying for you, your circles of influences and family to be able to hold strong to the fond memories to get you through this.

Todd Kozey - February 21 at 08:59 AM



“ We have known each other along time but you was still one of the boys and will be greatly missed and wish peace for your family. Rip my good old friend till the Next one sincerely. Mikeestyx

Michael Mccaskill - February 21 at 07:35 AM

RA

“ Will miss his kind heartedness, family recipes, celebration barbeques, and family traditions, that were so important to him. With great sadness, Ralph B.



ralph - February 21 at 05:56 AM

SM

“ Going to be hard to lie to the wife when we both smell like giant bass lol 😂

Steve Muller - February 20 at 10:14 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eric D. Bottoms.



February 20 at 10:03 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Eric D. Bottoms.

February 20 at 09:26 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Eric D. Bottoms.



February 20 at 09:26 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Eric D. Bottoms.

February 20 at 09:15 PM