



## Mr. Ernst Arne Andersson

October 13, 1958 - February 4, 2020

Ernst Arne Andersson went to be with his dear Lord and Savior on Tuesday, February 4th, 2020, at the age of 61. He was surrounded by his family at home in Titusville, Florida. He was brave and a fighter until the very end.

Ernst was born in Ethiopia to Norwegian missionary parents, David and Sigrid Andersson. His wife, Marit, was born in the neighboring house and the two knew each other from childhood. He was the eldest of 5 children and attended Norwegian and German schools in Ethiopia. He moved back to Norway at the age of 17 to finish high school and college.

Ernst was adventurous and hardworking, and saved up money for a trip to the United States with his buddies in 1978. That trip changed his life, and a new dream formed from becoming a surgeon to becoming a pilot. With that goal in mind, he worked night and day, 3 different jobs. He embarked on his new adventure in 1980, starting his pilot training in Kennett, Missouri. He took to flying like a fish to water and was offered various instructor positions not long after. He accepted one in Seward, Nebraska, quickly fell in love with the Midwest and the U.S., and boots became his staple.

Shortly after, letters started flying back and forth between him and the Norwegian girl from the neighboring house. They got married in Norway in August of 1984. The following year they started their life together in the U.S., where Ernst established his own flight school, Ernie's Aviation, in Nebraska. Soon their two children, Melissa and Selina, were born. Being a good father and husband and raising their children was his first priority. There he also worked for an airline where he rose from First Officer to Director of Operations. After moving to Florida in 1998, he went on to hold the position of DO in several aviation companies and enjoyed the warm weather and laid-back lifestyle of Florida.

His humor and fun spirit along with his gentle but firm ways and wisdom made him an excellent father, and his favorite response when the girls didn't think life was fair was "builds character". He was always a loving best friend and soul mate to his wife. His family was blessed by his encouragement, strength, love and faith in God. He was an example to

them in every area of life. Wherever he worked, he was all in and the safety and well-being of his pilots was his top concern – he took no shortcuts. Known lovingly as “Big E”, his strong work ethic and knowledge combined with his humor and humility affected many and he appreciated the friendships that were formed with colleagues.

He is survived by his wife Marit, daughters Melissa and Selina, siblings Dag, Anne Kari, Rune, and Bernt, and many extended family members in Norway, Ethiopia, and the Middle East.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, February 14th at 11:00am at Faith City Church in Titusville, Florida.

Though he was not able to become an American citizen before he passed, it was one of his greatest desires and he had a heart for America and its veterans. Memorials may be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.

[https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/default.aspx?tsid=10043&ovr\\_acv\\_id=5246](https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/default.aspx?tsid=10043&ovr_acv_id=5246)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

FEB **14.** 11:00 AM (EST )

Faith City Church  
5195 S Washington Ave  
Titusville, FL 32780

# Tribute Wall

PG

“ I was one of Ernst's flight instructors in Kennett, MO late 1980 until early 1981. I remember him as a very friendly, serious and determined guy. Back then already he said he would be off to Nebraska as soon as he would be a licensed commercial pilot and so he did. I went back to Europe late 1981 and it's been almost 40 years since, but over time I've now and then wondered what had become of him. Apparently he did good and it doesn't surprise me he did, him being a good and dependable man. I will remember him fondly. My thoughts are with his family.

*Happy trails, Ernst.*

*Peter Giel.*

---

**Peter Giel** - April 17, 2020 at 10:28 AM

“ Ernst Arne was a very, very dear and good brother to me. I am lucky to have had him as my big brother. I especially appreciated his thoughtfulness, his wisdom, his sense of humor and all of our good conversations.

All of us, five siblings, were born in Ethiopia while our mother and father were missionaries there. We had a good and safe upbringing with loving parents who always pointed to Jesus. Through all the years, every evening at supper we had a devotion. We were fortunate to experience living in Ethiopia in East Africa with all that it entailed. We went to Norwegian school in the capital and lived in the country until EA was 18 years old. EA very much liked being together with Ethiopians and had many good friends among Ethiopians

In Norway he never felt completely at home. The United States became his homeland. He loves the States !!!!!

There is a long distance between the US and Norway. For many years we communicated by writing letters and talking on the phone, and every Sunday EA called our mother and father in Norway. He was genuinely interested in everyone in the family. It was especially nice when he and his family from the US came to Norway, and we are grateful for the times my family and I got to visit you all, first in Nebraska and then in Titusville. It was a great pleasure for all of us. We love you Melissa, Selina and Marit and you will always be in our prayers.

Our dad became a widower in 2009 and after some time he was not able to make contact with the family in the US himself due to illness. At that point EA and I started talking more and more, and I will always be grateful for all the conversations we had over the years. It was so easy to talk to him and Marit. EA he showed a LOT of kindness and care for others and he always had wise advice to give. Many times he told me that he loved me and that meant a lot. He always remembered my birthday and the whole families birthday.

Ernst Arne was firmly rooted in his faith and spoke warmly about how God had been involved in his life. Often he said: “God is good -ALWAYS!! EA had a long way driving to work and told me he often used that time to pray.

On a wall in their home here in Titusville they have a picture with the words: men Gud kan! That means :But God is able. !!!!!That is true although we do not understand why things happens many times.

It has always been important for EA to look ahead, to search for solutions and to give thanks.

It is painful to lose someone you love, but the great joy is that Ernst Arne is home in heaven. And we have lots, lots of good memories.

Lastly, I want to tell a little story:

Some years ago, when we visited EA and the family in Titusville, I noticed that there was a small carton on the coffee table with a mixture of milk and cream.

*With my Norwegian-American I read the text "half and half". EA just smiled and told me: In the US we call it "hæf and hæf".*

*Now it is no longer half and half or 50% and 50 % , but 100% , yes 100 % joy in heaven for Ernst Arne, my dear, dear brother*

*Your sister Anne Kari*

---

**Anne Kari Haug** - February 15, 2020 at 09:59 AM

MB

“ *It is with a heavy heart and tears in my eye when I write this message. The first time I met Ernie was in Norway 2006. Many of the family members were present. It was fun and joyful. Ever since, I learned that Ernie was, loving, caring, funny, always fun to be around him. When we heard about his sickness he was in our prayer list so that our dear LORD would heal him. Many people prayed for him and his family. It didn't turn out the way we wished it to be. "The secret things belong to The LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us..." Deut. 29:29. Now he is with the LORD. May the Good LORD shine His face upon you Marit, Melissa and Selina. May God comfort all the siblings. I will not forget his saying: " A brother from another mother". From Berit sister-in-law and Mehret-Ab brother-in-law.*

---

**Mehret-Ab Bereke** - February 14, 2020 at 08:19 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Ernst Arne Andersson .*



---

February 13, 2020 at 10:59 PM

BR

“ Dearest brother,

*Ernst Arne, you left a group of people that miss you very much. Your beloved family and friends know that it was hard for you to leave, even for a home like heaven. You loved your life here, and you loved Jesus. Until your last day you had power and healing in his blood. And in the same blood you now have everlasting freedom. “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed”. John 8:36*

*I looked up to you many times. Very often I have tried to live as you lived, to be a good example. When I look back, thinking about all we shared through these years, it's all and only good memories. And I'm very thankful for everyone of them. Every time we met, either in USA or in Norway, you embraced us with your big and warm hugs. Myself, my wife and our three children appreciate that. We experienced that you accepted others, and treated people fair, no matter if they were family, friends or employees in aviation.*

*You loved your wife and daughters most of all. I know you had so many dreams for them, and many of them came through. You were very professional at work, had a lot of experience and knowledge, but most of all you were admired for your wisdom and personality. You gave your closets family the most valuable thing in life, you stood by their side, fair and righteous as husband and father. We will do our very best to take care of them and pray for them.*

*In great gratitude to the Lord. He gave the life you lived. We will preserve the good memories. Rest In Peace.*

*Brother Rune*

---

**Brother Rune** - February 13, 2020 at 10:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Ernst Arne Andersson .



---

February 12, 2020 at 09:04 AM

CM

“ My favorite memory of Ernst is when he would come over to get Lucky. I am not sure who was beaming more with excitement, Lucky or Ernst. Ernst so proudly allowed Lucky to sit in the passenger seat and be his co-pilot. We are blessed to have known you Ernst. Celebrate your time with Jesus.

---

Cynthia Mascarenhas - February 11, 2020 at 03:52 PM

BK

“ My deepest sympathy to the Ernst Anderson family .  
I had the privilege to fly with Ernst at G.P. Express Airline based in Grand Island NE.. Ernst was a new hire I was a new captain on the C402 and we instantly hit it off. I remember his humor and big teddy bear type of personality and his non Midwest accent. Those were some of our greatest days when we were doing what we Loved to do not getting paid very much but we were on our way to a real flying career, we all had big dreams. What we didn't know was tougher days were ahead just as live goes. Ernst stayed with GP helping that airline grow and expand with many new airplanes becoming chief pilot and DO as I remember I left GP for my next job at Continental Express within a year or so 1990. Continental soon went in bankruptcy twice and then finally started to expand years later and eventfully a merger with United. Ernst and I would cross paths now and again and my nephew, Bob Kucera flew for Ernst so he kept me up to date with how he was doing and then when Ernst moved to Florida. I hadn't heard much until today when Bob called me with the news that Ernst has gone home his very last flight to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We all look forward to that last flight I will see you then my friend.  
I pray God will comfort family and friends during the days of sorrow and loss ahead we will all miss Big E

Bill Kucera  
Gering, Ne  
777 FO United Airlines Retired

---

Bill Kucera - February 10, 2020 at 09:31 PM

JØ

“ How do we convey a message of condolences in times like these?  
Words become empty as we try to describe the loss, the sorrow, the pain, the memories, - even the hope and faith we share.  
It is as if we enter a landscape we have never visited before, and we see steep hills, deep valleys, mountain paths where we do not see what is behind the next hill.  
Sharing the faith in Jesus, however, we trust he is a guide who will guide us, even in this new and strange surroundings.  
We pray that you all will feel God's comforting hands around you, that you will find His peace that comforts you.

*Rest in peace, dear Brother-in-law.*

*Marianne and Jon Østby  
Vennesla, Norway*

---

**Jon Østby** - February 10, 2020 at 08:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Ernst Arne Andersson .



---

February 06, 2020 at 11:48 PM

JM

“ Big E was an amazing man and a wonderful boss as well as a treasured friend!  
He always made working at Flight Express a wonderful experience and I miss the way he would make me call him Big E if he was right and I was wrong. The man love his wife & girls more than anything! I may not be able to make it for the celebration of his life but I will be there in spirit. Heaven has truly gained an angel!  
Love & peace to his family and friends!

---

**Julie Mauney** - February 06, 2020 at 11:40 PM