



Leigh Eric Bass

March 19, 1964 - December 28, 2023

Leigh Eric Bass, 59, of West Fork, AR, passed away on December 28, 2023. He was surrounded by family and friends after a brief battle with cancer. He was born in Little Rock on March 19, 1964, to James and Mary Bass, who preceded him in death. In September, Leigh had to say goodbye to his beloved Uncle Don Spradling. In October, he was saying goodbye to his mom, Mary Bass. He and his sister, Cheryl, were both grieving these losses, but not without hope. With their faith in God, through Jesus Christ, they knew they would see them again. Leigh made Jesus his Savior and Lord a long time ago. Now he is in God's presence and we sorely grieve here, but with hope. While growing up, his family moved around quite a bit. He attended several different schools, but was always the first one in the family to make friends while the movers were still unpacking the moving truck. He spent three years of High School at Liberty-Eylau High School in Texarkana, TX, but eventually graduated from Hartford High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ouachita Baptist University in 1988. While at OBU he was a member of the Beta Beta Men's Social Club, worked in the OBU News Bureau and played on the OBU Soccer team. After college, Leigh was a fireman with the Little Rock Fire Department for a time, but later moved on to what he was best at...managing people. He was a true Servant/Leader. Whether it was hundreds of employees he managed at Whirlpool or a smaller team in one of his other management positions, he led by example and was a boss who took great pride in his employees and wanted them to succeed. Leigh was a huge

Arkansas Razorback fan, Minnesota Vikings fan (go figure?), loved to golf, fish, and generally hang out and have a great time! He was like his dad...in that he never seemed to meet a stranger. He was a fiercely loyal friend, and he had many friends who loved him like a brother. His only sibling was his big sister Cheryl. Although it has been "alleged" that she told her mom and dad to take that baby back to the hospital, she quickly came to adore him! She loved it when he decided to attend OBU, because she was working there during his freshman year. He used to hide in her office, in Mitchell Hall, during "pledge week." It was the only place he could get away from Beta members and catch a quick nap. He was a good uncle to her children and she will miss his voice saying, "Hey Sis." There is so much they shared that only she and Leigh can understand, and to say she will miss him is a complete understatement.

In January 2015, Leigh was introduced by friends to a beautiful gal named Shawn. She lived in Fayetteville while he was living in Vilonia and they met in Little Rock...but it was meant to be. Leigh's family had never seen him happier than when he was with Shawn. They married in May, 2016. Her large and loving family in Northwest Arkansas grew to love Leigh and welcomed him into the fold. He had such plans for the coming years he hoped to share with Shawn. Leigh is survived by his precious wife Shawn; three sons, Hayden Bass and Logan Bass of Conway, and Jacob Bass of Prairie Grove; granddaughter, Gracelyn Bass of Conway; sister, Cheryl Williams (Paul) of Little Rock; nephew Andrew Williams (Susan) of Jackson, MS; nephew Stephen Williams (Allie) of Little Rock; niece, Catherine Shepherd of Cordova, TN; great nieces, Evelyn, Jane, and Eleanor Williams; great nephew, Walker Williams. He is also survived by an extended loving family: Maggie Milligan (Jeff Brooks) and family of Little Rock; Jennifer Evans (Eric) and family of Prairie Grove; John Guenther (Shanda) and family of Fayetteville; Justin Guenther (Jessica) and family of Prairie Grove; Samuel Guenther of Fayetteville; Gillian Brooks (Justin) and family of Springdale; and Savannah Guenther (Katie) of

Fayetteville.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Oak Cliff Baptist Church, Ft. Smith, AR on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 11:00am. There will be a time for visiting with the family after the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to KalebHouse. www.kalebhouse.org

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Oak Cliff Baptist Church
3701 Gary St.
Fort Smith, AR 72903

Tribute Wall

AH

“ Cheryl, I can only imagine the grief and pain your are feeling. To lose your mom and brother in such a short time is heartbreaking. May God give you comfort, peace, and memories that warm your soul! Your family has always been special and remembered in such heartwarming ways!!

Ann Hatchett - January 09, 2024 at 12:13 PM



“ First, I want to send my love and prayers to Leigh’s beloved family and all those whose life he touched. I “met” Leigh a few years ago through work and a company transition. I say “met” because unfortunately I never got a chance to come to Arkansas in person, we always chatted on Teams and calls. My calls with Leigh were like talking to an old friend, more how’s life treating you rather than all business. Through these conversations I felt like I got to know his family and friends and he loved to talk about them! He was so proud of his family, and his work family too. If Leigh had your back, you knew it and so did everyone else. I have no doubt he would go to bat for anyone he believed in. This world needs more Leigh’s and I am sad that we have one less, but I pray that he is always talked about, that a memory is shared without even thinking, because in those moments, Leigh’s legacy continues. I hate so never got to shake the man’s hand, but in our short lives one working together, he made an impression on me that will last a lifetime. Rest easy good sir.

Brandy Seay - January 07, 2024 at 11:17 PM

JB

“ A few words about Leigh Bass...

He was not just my father-in-law, but also a dear friend, a cherished co-worker, a reliable GameDay partner- a testament to his love for life and his ability to bring joy into every situation.

Leigh was a man of humor, a lover of sports, and above all, a devoted father and husband to his beloved wife, Shawn. He was a true sports enthusiast, with an unyielding loyalty to the Minnesota Vikings and Arkansas Razorbacks. His passion overflowed into every game he watched, every radio commentary he listened to, and every conversation he held about his beloved teams.

Leigh was a people person, always ready with a story or a joke, and loved making new friends. His gift of gab was legendary, and his ability to keep a conversation going was unrivaled. He was not just a manager in his career, he was a leader, a mentor, and a friend to his colleagues. His natural ability to connect with people led many to declare him as the best manager they ever had.

An avid golfer, Leigh found joy in the wide-open greens and the camaraderie of the game. He was not only a playing partner but also a coach, offering tips and advice to improve my game. Our shared love for golf and the Razorbacks created a bond that was strengthened with every game attended, every golf swing analyzed, and every light-hearted debate about the latest Razorbacks news.

Leigh was a hardworking man, a skilled home builder who crafted two beautiful homes for Shawn in just the past few years. They had dreams of homesteading, of a life filled with chickens and goats and the joy of living off the land. Leigh's dedication to his work and his family was evident in every nail driven, every board laid.

The things I will miss most about Leigh are his lively conversations and his valuable advice. His presence at family gatherings, his laughter over board games, his joy in cooking out – these are

memories that will remain etched in our hearts forever.

Leigh was an eternal optimist, a believer in the potential of the Razorbacks even when the odds were against them. His unwavering faith was a testament to his positivity and his love for the game. Gillian and I were looking forward to many years of Leigh being a loving grandpa to our toddler, Jenson, with dreams of forts built and memories made.

Leigh knew how to enjoy life, whether it was savoring a cold Miller Lite beer or engaging in a spirited discussion about fantasy football. His love for the game translated into a keen understanding of fantasy football, which led him to win our league just last year. His enthusiasm for the sport was infectious, and his expertise was admirable.

Our time together building the first home for Shawn was a bonding experience I will always treasure. The laughs shared, the problems solved, and the camaraderie formed during those months were priceless.

As we remember Leigh today, we know he is in a better place. A place where he can talk endlessly, build beautiful homes, and cheer on his favorite teams. A place where the heating and air units are always just the right size.

We will miss Leigh's presence at our future games and gatherings, but his spirit lives on in our hearts, our memories, and in every life he touched. His love for life, his passion for sports, and his dedication to his family are a legacy that will continue to inspire us.

As we say our goodbyes, let us celebrate Leigh's life, remember his laughter, and honor his memory. Let's hold in high regard the memory of Leigh Bass - a great man, a dear friend, a loving family member, and a true sports enthusiast. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

*Thank you,
Justin Brooks*

Justin Brooks - January 02, 2024 at 09:41 PM

SB

“ 1 file added to the album Leigh



Shawn Bass - January 02, 2024 at 05:18 PM

SB

“ 4 files added to the album Leigh



Shawn Bass - January 01, 2024 at 05:04 PM

SB

“ 17 files added to the album Leigh



Shawn Bass - January 01, 2024 at 01:05 AM