



Eric S. Handford

May 15, 1946 - June 14, 2014

Eric S. Handford, of Chester MD, died unexpectedly on June 14, 2014. He was 68 years old.

Born in Providence, RI, on May 15, 1946, to the late Stanley Wing Handford and Elizabeth Shortall Handford, he grew up in Camp Lejeune NC, Egypt, England, and Silver Spring, MD. He attended high school in England and college at the University of Maryland, College Park.

A master technician, Eric owned two businesses, H&I Automotive and Solar Enterprises, before starting his career at Volkswagen Porsche Audi and then Land Rover North America.

Eric joined Land Rover North America in 1986 when the company established its new headquarters in Maryland. As an early team member, Eric created the systems and organization needed to train and support dealer technicians. As Manager of Technical Service, Eric delivered highly effective “hands-on” training to thousands of students throughout the U.S. and Canada. Eric was known for his high energy and extraordinary technical expertise.

Throughout his twenty-one years with Land Rover, Eric was called upon to help with a variety of new initiatives. When Land Rover launched its pioneering Land Rover Centre retail concept, Eric worked with dealers on the

brick and mortar details of facility design and construction. During his final years with Land Rover, Eric played a key role at Land Rover University, an innovative training operation located in Lanham, MD.

After retiring from Land Rover, Eric started Cox Creek Services, his mobile marine business. He prided himself on providing excellent customer service and high quality work at a fair price. His friends and colleagues describe him as gifted, generous, brilliant, patient, a great man and teacher, wonderful friend, and a technical wizard.

Eric enjoyed working on his three classic cars, boating and fishing, and spending time with his family and dogs.

Mr. Handford is survived by his wife, Suzanne; daughter, Kristen Edsall and her husband Mark of Centreville; son, Robert Handford and his wife Michele of Greensboro; grandchildren, Elizabeth Edsall and Ian Handford; and brother, Peter Handford of Silver Spring.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Animal Welfare League of Queen Anne's County.

Tribute Wall



“ *Eric S. Handford*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Eric S. Handford*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Eric S. Handford*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ I am Charlotte Ellen Handford-Hooper Eric's first cousin. I had contacted him a couple of years ago via email. That was the first and last time we had communicated since our childhood. It was a great shock to see that he had died. As it happens he died on my 69th birthday. The last time I saw Eric was around 1954 or 1955 when Uncle Wing, Aunt Elizabeth, Eric and Peter came home for Christmas. Unfortunately, Eric had just gotten a new BB gun. I took it from him and shot two pigeons dead. I am horrified to this day that I did that, and I am sure Eric was too. Uncle Wing was furious. I admitted that it was me, not Eric who shot them. Nevertheless, Uncle Wing proceeded to clean them and told my Mama that Eric and I would have Pigeon rather than Duck or Ham. My Mama said that if he wanted to make his son eat Pigeon, fine, but her daughter would not be joining him. It didn't really bother me at the time, but over the years I have done all that I can to keep people from poisoning Pigeons which in some areas are considered pests. I wish that our extended family had remained closer over the years. We just take for granted that we have all the time in the world and let things go. I know Eric is most certainly with most of our family now. Hope they're all having a good time together.

Ellen Handford-Hooper - December 08, 2015 at 03:01 PM

KE

Thank you for that memory.

Kristen Edsall - December 15, 2015 at 11:33 AM

PM

“ I just happened upon Eric’s obituary today. I am truly saddened to hear the news and I would like to express my condolences to the Handford family. I first met Eric in 2006 when I was purchasing a used boat and I found his ad on Craigslist. Although I had just met the man, I was thoroughly impressed by his knowledge and mechanical skill, and felt completely confident to close the deal based on his recommendation. He later told me that I was his first customer at Cox Creek. We got to know each other over the next few years, when he did my maintenance and we talked about our old cars. He was the most prompt and reliable tradesman I have ever encountered and just watching him work with his tools was a pleasure to behold. And he was as honest as he was good. I’m big on preventative maintenance but he would always argue “No sense in replacing good parts”. I’m sorry he is gone.

Paul McCarthy - October 10, 2014 at 09:34 PM



Stephan Wimmer

Very True statement!!!! I can remember how good he was at everything and how respected he was by all :-)

Stephani Wimmer - December 03, 2015 at 08:40 AM

KE

I am just seeing this, Paul. Thank you for the kind words. It makes me both smile and cry. I love reading stories like this. Take Care.

Kristen Handford Edsall - December 03, 2015 at 11:49 AM

KW

“ Its been a long time but my heart breaks for your loss. I have many fond memories of Big E :) All my love to Stu, Kristen, Rob and family

Kim Wilson - June 30, 2014 at 01:12 AM

CS

“ I have known Suzanne since we were girls and I got to know Eric when they got married. My favorite memory of Eric is from long ago when they were newly married and Eric had his VW repair business. I was a student at UMd. One Sunday morning the clutch cable on my '64 Beetle broke on Georgia Ave. in DC. I called Eric and he and Suzanne came to rescue me. He crawled under the car right on the street and repaired it. We continued to Georgetown for brunch and Bloody Marys.
Most if the rest of my memories of Eric involved family and cars. Always the latter.
Eric was a remarkable, talented man. He is missed.
Camille Sauerwald

Camille Sauerwald - June 25, 2014 at 02:46 PM

KT

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Karen Tait - June 24, 2014 at 12:07 PM

KE

Thanks for sharing this.

Kristen Handford Edsall - December 03, 2015 at 11:47 AM

SW

“ Eric was one of my first contacts at Land Rover when I was building a new LR Centre. Though I was more than excited about this new venture, Eric raised the level of enthusiasm with his knowledge, professionalism and assistance. He encouraged and welcomed me into some of the technical classes which I truly enjoyed because of his passion for the brand. Very sad news and my thoughts go out to his family, friends and pets.

Susan - Land Rover Guilford

Susan Wiedmann - June 24, 2014 at 11:45 AM

DM

“ Sad news indeed. Eric was a warm, outgoing, cheerful man with remarkable gifts for learning and teaching. He hired me at Land Rover in 1988, a life changing opportunity for which I am ever grateful.

Rest in peace, Eric - always remembered.

David Mitchell

David Mitchell - June 24, 2014 at 09:54 AM

EH

I am Eric's first cousin Charlotte Ellen Handford from Batesville AR. I had emailed Eric a couple of years ago to say hello and I am so glad I did. I just now found this Obituary and I just want to send my condolences to all of his family. I wish we had all stayed in touch through the years. Our cousin Lim Parks, who was a retired Episcopal minister had wanted so badly to have a huge family reunion. Lim died last year of a stroke. Eric died on my birthday. Hope they are all together up there.

Ellen Handford Hooper - August 25, 2015 at 05:30 PM

KE

Thank you. A family reunion would have been great. I haven't been to Batesville since I was a young child.

Kristen Handford Edsall - December 03, 2015 at 11:46 AM

JB

“ Alister and I still can't believe that Eric is gone. While thinking about all the ways he touched our lives, it occurred to me that we found our first house in Annapolis because Eric and Alister decided to look for a property with large garages so they could store and work on (with lifts) their multitude of cars and parts. They found the perfect property in Bon Haven and within a year or two a nearby house came on the market which prompted our move from Arlington. Much of what has happened since then is a result of the decision to buy that garage property and coincides with our long-time partnership and friendship with Eric. It's going to be awfully hard on Alister whenever he wishes he could ask Eric for some technical advice on any number of items, not just cars and engines. I'll miss hearing Eric's distinctive voice on the phone saying "Hi Joan, is Alister there?" I'm so grateful we got to know Eric and his wonderful family. Sending them our deepest sympathy.

Joan (& Alister) Bell - June 20, 2014 at 04:52 PM

JT

“ You were an old neighbor to my family and have a wonderful family. You will be missed by many.

Jeff Taylor - June 18, 2014 at 07:52 PM

CC

“ Eric was always a role model of dignity and professionalism, a natural leader. Equally memorable, I witnessed Eric, on more than one occasion, stop and take the time to play with dogs visiting Land Rover University like an enthusiastic boy. A truly good man.

Cy Crowley

Cy Crowley - June 18, 2014 at 03:37 PM

-S

“ Eric epitomized what Land Rover in Maryland was all about: a warm welcoming family atmosphere. He was always fun to work with; had a clear vision yet was open to ideas. He left us way before his time. It's comforting to know that the family bonds are still strong. You have a lot of people who care deeply. Our deepest sympathy for your loss.

- Allan and Sally Seymour - June 18, 2014 at 03:36 PM

RB

“ Truly sad news - a gifted, generous & likeable guy. LR Canada would have missed its start-up if he had not have boarded a plane at the drop of a spanner to fly to wintry Montreal to get the nascent company's ONLY Range Rover back in fine fettle for a demonstration the next day -- thanks for saving my bacon then & all the other times you've willing helped out -- I'll miss you.

Roger Ball

Roger Ball - June 18, 2014 at 11:52 AM

RJ

“ Suzanne and family, our hearts are with you at this time of loss. Eric was a great man and a good friend. I was better for having known him and will always cherish my memories with him. Randy and Jennings family

Randy Jennings - June 18, 2014 at 10:43 AM

BB

“ Michele & Family

Herewith is our heartfelt and deepest condolences for the loss of your father-in-law, Mr. Eric. We're sorry for your loss. Rejoice, he is now at the right hand of our Lord. Ramon M. Montano and Family.



Baytan Babali - June 18, 2014 at 08:23 AM

NH

“ Nancy Harrell lit a candle in memory of Eric S. Handford



Nancy Harrell - June 18, 2014 at 05:05 AM

ME

“ Mark, Charlotte and I are so sorry for your loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Li 've to your family

Mark and Laura East - June 17, 2014 at 06:29 PM

NZ

“ Thinking of you all and hope the memories lift your heart and comfort your soul. Love you guys. Nicole & Brian

Nicole Zimmerman - June 17, 2014 at 03:26 PM

CO

“ *A kind and lovely man. Rest in Peace.*

Coyne

Coyne - June 17, 2014 at 02:48 PM

PT

“ *Patti Thorne lit a candle in memory of Eric S. Handford*



Patti Thorne - June 17, 2014 at 02:20 PM

GC

“ *What shocking news. It seems like only yesterday the original Range Rover crew spent a month together in the UK for inculcation.*

One of our lessons was on the ZF - "Zed-eff" as they say across the pond - transmissions.

Eric was enthralled. No one could keep up with his re-assembly, No manual required. As a joke, someone grabbed one of the transmission parts while he wasn't

looking. It didn't slow Eric up for a second. He knew what part was missing for the next assembly step. He quietly eyeballed everyone -

I think it was Stan Ford who grabbed the part - and got the part back.

Geoff Chase

Geoff Chase - June 17, 2014 at 02:14 PM

GG

“ To the Handford family.

I am deeply saddened by Eric's passing.

Eric's knowledge of the Motor Vehicle and all things mechanical was prodigious. He never boasted about his great knowledge but always eager to learn new things and open to help others. His legacy includes the way he influenced the many fine young people that reported to him over the years.

I can say, without equivocation, that he made my job of communicating with a new company possible. There is sort of glow that I feel remembering my association with this fine human being.

Graham Gardner - June 17, 2014 at 09:45 AM

CT

“ *Eric, you were one of the first people I met at Land Rover and you always had a smile for everyone. We are deeply saddened by your passing. Much love to your family during this time. Cheryl and Patti Thorne*

Cheryl Thorne - June 17, 2014 at 06:26 AM

JK

“ *Eric, You made a difference and touched so many lives for the better. We were lucky to have you. Godspeed. Heartfelt condolences to Suzanne and family.*

Jay King - June 17, 2014 at 05:21 AM

VD

“ *My dear friend Suzanne,
We are so sorry to hear of Eric's passing. If
you should need anything at all please let us
know. Please extend our sympathies to your
whole family. Love always, Verna and Fred*



verna downey - June 16, 2014 at 09:43 PM

DC

“ *Eric, you will be missed. Without you hiring me at Land Rover, I
wouldn't have the career I have now.*

Duncan Crook - June 16, 2014 at 08:34 PM

CR

“ *Carole Robertson lit a candle in memory of
Eric S. Handford*



Carole Robertson - June 16, 2014 at 04:17 PM

CR

You will be missed Eric, taken from us way too soon...

Carole Robertson - June 16, 2014 at 04:18 PM