



Ernest R. Edmonston

November 12, 1942 - August 23, 2019

On Friday, August 23, 2019, Ernest R. Edmonston, 76, passed away. At his request, there will be no services. His body will be cremated, and his remains scattered in a private ceremony.

Ernest was born on November 12, 1942, in Clovis, New Mexico, to Marvin W. and Mildred Whinery Edmonston, now both deceased.

He is survived by wife, Roseanne Edmonston; daughter, Marla Edmonston of Albuquerque; and several cousins.

Ernest was schooled in Clovis but spent a lot of his childhood on an old dryland farm near St. Vrain, NM. It was here that he learned the work ethic that he carried all his life. Here also, Ernest became a self-taught marksman by hours of stalking the elusive jackrabbit with a Red Ryder BB gun and later an old Winchester single shot 22, and at times with only one round of ammunition. He won his first shooting match at the age of 10 while competing with over 100 other boys at a Woodman of the World camp.

He served over four years in the U. S. Marine Corps during the 1960s which included a 13-month tour of Asia. Ernest was very proud of being a Marine. He served in the 1st Marine Division and the 1st and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wings. His marksmanship abilities continued while in the Marine Corps, and

he never fired a qualification score with a rifle under that of Expert.

Ernest married Roseanne lafornaro in Albuquerque, NM, on July 29. They moved what belongings they had to Clovis the next day in the back of an old 1955 Ford convertible. They were together for 52 years.

He started with the N. M. State Highway Department in 1965, by dragging a chain on a survey crew making \$1.59 an hour. Ernest persevered with the thought of better things to come and retired in 1990 as an Engineering Technician Supervisor. He had supervised multi-million-dollar highway construction projects all over the South-East quarter of New Mexico. His attention to detail and honesty saved the taxpayers of New Mexico an untold amount of money.

Just after retirement, Ernest underwent a serious operation to remove cancer from his tongue, jaw, and throat. He battled this and other cancer diseases for over 21 years. Cancer returned in his mouth, but once again Ernest shook it off after more surgery. He never lost the determination to survive.

Ernest was a Patron Member of the National Rifle Association, a life member of the New Mexico Shooting Sports Association, and a life member of the Roswell Gun Club. He was or had been a licensed guide, a member of the American Legion, the Single Action Shooting Society, and several other organizations.

After joining the Roswell Gun Club, Ernest spent many, many enjoyable days at the range shooting metallic silhouette matches. Even after losing his right eye in an auto accident, he learned to shoot left-handed and continued to move forward. Even into his 70s, Ernest was competing as well as ever and had won over 1,100 silhouette matches. He set records in several of these matches, some remaining to this day. Ernest served as the Treasurer and was

on the Board of Directors of the Roswell Gun Club for over 18 years. Had it not been for Ernest's efforts during some trying times with the State and BLM, there would be no Roswell Gun Club today.

Ernest could never remain still and always had to be doing something with his hands. He was an accomplished "whittler" and carved many award-winning objects including figurines, walking canes, wooden chains, "Hitty" dolls, etc. Ernest never sold any of these objects; he just gave them away to people who he thought might appreciate his efforts.

He enjoyed researching his ancestry. Ernest had his branch of the family tree traced back to the mid-1600s in America. At one time the Edmonston family was quite wealthy and once owned the property that Washington, D. C. now stands on. It was, apparently, the Civil War that brought an end to the prosperity, as Ernest had relatives who fought on both sides of the war.

Ernest was of the Baptist faith.

Please take a moment and share a kind thought or memory with Ernest's family at www.andersonbethany.com.

Ernest's tribute was written in his honor by his loving family.

Tribute Wall

MH

“ Roseann and Marla,
sending condolences and love to you at this time. Was saddened to hear of Ernie passing. Words can't help but know he is in the best of company now. I was a recipient of one of his woodworking pieces while I worked at Dr Denton office and am looking at it right now and he did amazing work. I competed against him in shooting but there really was no competition as he beat me every time. He was a great man and we will miss him. Love to you and Marla,
Marla and Chuck Haydon

Marla Haydon - August 29, 2019 at 12:29 PM

JB

“ Yarborough chased that wounded deer for miles until he came upon Ernie. Ernie was always willing to help a person out and that was the case with Yarborough. Ernie took the deer down with his truck 30-30. One shot, one kill.

Joe Bellicini - August 28, 2019 at 10:54 PM

SR

“ I was saddened to hear of Ernie's passing. I first met Ernie in 1970 when I transferred to Clovis with the Dept. of Transportation. He was assigned as the Project Office Manager at the time. Ernie seemed slightly gruff at first, but as we got to know each other through many years of working together on different projects, I realized that he was a good person on the inside. He was smart with numbers, grammar, technical writing and punctuation. He was extremely talented in many ways. He was funny and could come up with nicknames that closely matched a particular individual. He and I shared some good times and many laughs. May he rest in peace.

Selmo Rael

Alamogordo

Selmo Rael - August 28, 2019 at 05:25 PM

JM

“Mr. Edmonston was someone I only knew "on site" for many years. I run for sport on the Spring River Bike Trail & most any day I would see him & hear a kind "hello" or "Good Morning". In 2007, I would be on the trail about 5:30am before sunrise, many times I felt a bit uneasy until I would see Mr. Edmonston & his 4 legged friend, our meeting would always give me comfort/security knowing they had just come down my path and "secured the area", I knew a call out of distress would bring him to my aid. I was always thankful for his presences. As years past & pleasant meetings occurred, he stopped me on the trail one day, reached in his pocket & handed me a small bundle. The bundle was a hand carved dog similar to his "Amy". I prized that gift more than any trophy I've won. At the time, he was still the man who whittled & walked w/his dog, so I left a thank you note on his windshield since I knew what he drove & where he parked.

As the years have gone by, I have a running friend, Shelby Griffin, who also got to know Mr. Edmonston through the Bike Trail & Gun Club. She & her husband Larry got acquainted at many of the dinners the Club presented. Both Shelby and Larry spoke very highly of Mr. Edmonston & truly valued his service in the Marine Corp. Over the years, Mr. Edmonston stopped Shelby & I & gave us more gifts, military boot toothpick holder & beautiful dolls. In 2016 his service to the Marines encouraged us to run The Marine Corp Marathon in Washington DC, he was our inspiration for that event & later got to share that with him.

I was honored to know Ernest Edmonston and value the person he was.

My deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers to his wife and the family. Ernest Edmonston will truly be missed.

Rest in Peace,
Jan Melton

Jan Melton - August 27, 2019 at 06:38 PM

TD

“Ernie was a great friend and co-worker. He was one of the sharpest individuals I ever met. He could print by hand as good as any computer could print. Any new procedure required for work was always quickly learned. His friendship was valued as he was always there if needed. An unique individual with many talents. RIP Ernie.

Tom Dick

Tom Dick - August 27, 2019 at 11:32 AM

TJ

“I first got to know Ernie in 1973 in Vaughn N.M. This was my first duty station as a New Mexico State Police officer and Ernie was working with the Hwy Department. We had a lot of meals together and I learned of his passion for reloading. He taught me about casting bullets and the fundamentals of reloading. I did not have a rifle at the time and one day he brought a rifle and said use as long as you like. he kept me in bullets as this rifle was a wildcat cartridge and I could not buy ammunition .I kept the rifle until I left Vaughn in 1974.He has given me and my wife several of his wood carvings and some are displayed on the fireplace mantel. One of my greatest joys with Ernie was to see and shoot with Ernie at the gun range. Sometimes I won and sometimes I lost. But, I won when I met Ernie Edmonson. Forever my friend .

Travis Johnson.

Travis Johnson - August 27, 2019 at 11:11 AM



“ *Dirty Earn was a good friend of my dad, Don Lewis, from mid 70s til my dad passed on in 2000, but that didn't stop Earn from coming to the shop and visiting me and my 4 sons. Earn loaded countless rounds of ammo for me and I am still amazed at his marksmanship. Amazing shot . I looked forward to seeing him and visiting with him. Earn was as sharp a person as I have ever known . RIP good friend.*

Mark Lewis - August 26, 2019 at 08:06 PM