



## Edwin R. Brister Sr.

March 30, 1959 - August 6, 2022

If someone had to describe Edwin R. Brister Sr. in one word it would be selfless. Whether he was helping to fix a piece of equipment for someone, or taking his late wife Cecilia to cancer treatments, Edwin always put others before himself. With a cigarette in his mouth and a Sons of Arthritis t-shirt, you knew he would get the job done.

Born March 30th, 1959 to Beverly and John Brister, and growing up with his three brothers and two sisters, Edwin quickly discovered he had a knack for fixing things. This skill would later evolve into a career as a road mechanic for the New Jersey Department of Transportation. He took great pride in being the man people relied on to make their equipment safe and functional.

Before he found his career though, he found the love of his life. Edwin, or Ed as he preferred, met Cecilia in high school and the two of them instantly hit it off. They were married shortly after graduating from Monmouth Regional HS in Eatontown NJ, and their love for one another never stopped. They spent their lives together at their 57 Pemberton Ave home in Oceanport NJ with their two sons, Edwin Brister Jr. and Benjamin Brister. They enjoyed boating and BBQs and as their children became adults, got to enjoy spending time with their four grandchildren.

Edwin loved riding his Harley and throwing parties. He loved to laugh and loved making others laugh. Sometimes he would get frustrated and throw tools around the garage but a smile and a laugh quickly followed.

Edwin would eventually lose his wife Cecilia to cancer in October of 2020. As devastated as he was, he still continued to be there for the people who needed him. His love for Cecilia stayed with him until his last breath. In the early morning hours of August 6th, 2022 while asleep in his bed Ed's life was cut short. He was a bright light and a warm smile that will be missed by the countless number of lives he's touched and friends he made along the way.

Edwin is survived by his two sons Edwin Brister Jr. and Benjamin Brister; and four grandchildren, Liam, Nico, Cassidy, and Harley; as well as his two daughters-in-law Debbie and Romanette. He is also survived by his two brothers Dan and Jack; and two sisters Robin and Jamie.

A memorial visitation to celebrate Ed's life will be held 4-8 PM on Friday, August 19, 2022 at Bongarzone Funeral Home, 2400 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07712. For online condolences, please visit Ed's memorial page at [www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com](http://www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

AUG **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home  
2400 Shafto Road  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712  
(732) 918-6200

# Tribute Wall



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Edwin R. Brister Sr..*



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August 19, 2022 at 08:01 AM



“ *Love Margie purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Edwin R. Brister Sr..*



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**Love Margie** - August 17, 2022 at 10:04 AM



“ *With love, Mark, Debbie and Heather purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Edwin R. Brister Sr..*



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**With love, Mark, Debbie and Heather** - August 17, 2022 at 09:43 AM

WC

“ I have been a next-door neighbor of Ed for three decades, and he became a trusted friend and confidant. The hardships of Ed's recent years brought us even closer. We purposely left 18'-long gap in the fence, so that we could watch each other and walk over to each other's backyard for daily chats. We had a lot in common, and we talked about our spouses, children, home improvement projects, car repairs, politics, classical movies, and so forth. Ed was absolutely amazing friend and neighbor to me and everybody else. He had knowledge, tools, equipment and genuine desire to help anyone in need. He would offer help without even being asked. I still can't believe that Ed is gone, and I keep having this vision, that there he is walking toward me with a cup of morning coffee in one hand, a cigarette in the other, and a big smile on his handsome face. Rest in Peace, my dearest friend!

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**William Caldwell** - August 16, 2022 at 04:26 PM

WZ

“ We're heartbroken over Ed's passing. Ed was one of our dearest longtime friends of 27 yrs & Ceil. Ed was the kindest, giving, fun loving guy. We loved him dearly. Just 2 wks ago Wolfi & Ed were just hanging out talking/eating/drinking until midnight. Since Ceil's passing they would get together every few wks to hang out. We will always have our many years of wonderful memories with both of them & at the marina with our boats. Every Sunday we'd wake up to Ed cooking up his home fries & eggs on the grill. Our thoughts & prayers are with all of the Brister family especially Ben & Eddie. God Only Takes the Best..Now Heaven has Another Angel to Watch Over Us All. May your wonderful memories comfort you & keep him alive in your hearts. Ed you're with your Dear Ceil Now..We know you were lost without her. RIP Dear Friend..You were the Best. xoxo Love Wolfi & Phyllis (Zimmass)



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**Wolfi & Phyllis Zimmass** - August 16, 2022 at 03:56 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edwin R. Brister Sr..*



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August 15, 2022 at 11:12 AM



“ *RIP my friend, rest easy in the loving arms of Cecelia. I will miss you and will raise a shot of whiskey in you memory.*

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**Tom Bostwick** - August 15, 2022 at 09:04 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Edwin R. Brister Sr..*



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August 14, 2022 at 09:24 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Edwin R. Brister Sr..*




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August 14, 2022 at 09:03 AM

NT

“ *My Dad Worked With Ed 30 Years Ago At The New Jersey DOT ! My Father Art Rodrigues Spoke Often Of Ed And They Where Very Much Alike! Ed Bought Honey From My Dad ( Raised Honey Bees As A Hobbie) My Dad Passed In 1992 At Age 68! I'm Sure They Are Reminiscing In Heaven!*

Nancy Rodrigues Tyrpak - August 13, 2022 at 07:57 PM

 Pam  
Condron  
DeCarlo

“ *I saw Ed and Cele often when taking care of his and his siblings parents, whom I loved and adored as I do all of them. I felt like part of the family. Always bought the munchkins! He would always say... "going out for a smoke...you coming?" A beautiful man in his kindness; a beautiful wife, through her challenges, a lot of love and laughter spread all over the house. His mom's eyes always lit up when they were there and she always got giddy whenever any of her children called or visited. A wonderful sight to see. Too soon to go, Ed, but I am so sure Mom and Dad and mostly Cele are embracing you with love and joy that you are together again. Way too soon to go, Ed, but Rest In Peace in the arms of your beloved Cele and parents.*

Pam Condron DeCarlo - August 13, 2022 at 03:27 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Edwin R. Brister Sr..*



August 12, 2022 at 02:17 PM

CP

“ To my nephew Ed's family. You are all in my thoughts today as we grieve another loss to the family. Ed and I were 1 year and 2 months apart. I loved Ed and all of you children of my sister Bev and her husband Jack. I loved spending time with the family on South Street. You will be missed by all of your family and friends. You were a terrific person and loved by all who knew you. Go rest high on that mountain.

*Love always, Auntie Cathee and family.*

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**Catherine M Naylor-Price Presley** - August 11, 2022 at 09:39 PM

RK

“ I grew up with the Brister's in Eatontown. I remember each and everyone of them as we were all close growing up. Pretty much everyone knew everyone. Ed was a great guy. I do remember he did love fixing things, Back in the day there was always a car being taken apart in the driveway. A motorcycle, or even a lawnmower. That's just what we all did back then. Knowing that his pain is gone, and he is now reunited with his wife Cecilia, may they both rest in peace. Until we all see one another again, may the good Lord hold you tight in his arms. My condolences to his family and all his friends. I know he will be missed my many who knew him.

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**Richard E KULPA** - August 11, 2022 at 05:57 PM

TC

“ Truly saddened but not terribly surprised that you followed Ciele so soon after she past. You were both two Peas in a Pod and were never far apart at any given time and I'm know that the weight of her loss fell extremely heavy on your heart! You're a good Man, devoted and very loving Husband, Father and Grandfather and will now join your Ciele on the otherside. May you Rest in Eternal Peace! Our Condolence and sincerest of Sympathy's to Ed Jr, Benjamin and the entire Family and Loved ones. Tony & Julia Cupo

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**Tony & Julia Cupo** - August 11, 2022 at 04:12 PM

WB

“ I loved my cousin "Randy" ❤️ so, so much fun with the family on South Street, one of my favorite places to be! So many great stories but one I'll never forget is when Uncle Jack found cigarettes on him and made him smoke the entire pack in front of him. He had a way with story telling and we would laugh so much! Oh that laugh 🤔🤔 great memories! Just ran into him last month and, as his manner is, he had me in stitches. His heart was broken when he lost his love but that smile never changed. A crazy fun, special guy. Very sad... Love & prayers to the family

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**Wendy (Brand) Bonett** - August 11, 2022 at 12:43 PM

CL

“ Ed had the best stories. Loved to hear him laugh. He was a great guy and we loved him and Celie very, very much. They will be missed. Love to the family. You are in our hearts and prayers. God bless and much love.  
Michael and Clarissa McNamer

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**Clarissa** - August 11, 2022 at 09:17 AM

JH

“ Edmo as we called him in high school was a good friend. We stayed in touch over the years. Ed and Cecilia were the best. Thoughts and prayers to the family. Rest in peace Ed.

Janet Horvath-Howard - August 11, 2022 at 09:07 AM

RS

“ ED and I became friends about two years ago and I wish we could have more time as friends. We talked everyday . I live the next street over from him so I drove by his house daily and would stop to visit him . He was such a giving person . Having lost my wife in 2017 and our youngest son in 2021 from an over dose so I knew his pain he really missed his wife . He did have a very supported family. Such a shock . I will miss him. Rest in peace my friend

reginald A sears - August 11, 2022 at 06:47 AM

LV

“ I'm so very sorry for your loss. We all had such great times growing up together. Please know I will be thinking of you all.



Louise Brand Veverka - August 11, 2022 at 05:10 AM

AS

A life lived like Ed's does not go unrewarded. I will for Ever cherish all the memories I have growing up with this credible family like the outings at the park in Eatontown and countless others. Rest in peace my dear cousin. May God keep you and Cecilla in His Light forever.

Audrey Stlaurent - August 11, 2022 at 06:16 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edwin R. Brister Sr..*



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August 11, 2022 at 03:46 AM



“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Edwin R. Brister Sr.*



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**Bongarzone Funeral Home** - August 10, 2022 at 03:48 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers to the Brister family. I am so sorry for your loss. Ed was one of the kindest people on earth and I was blessed to have shared wonderful memories with him. My deepest sympathies to all of you.*



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**Kathleen Winans** - August 10, 2022 at 07:00 AM