



Earl C. Shepherd Jr.

December 13, 1969 - August 18, 2016

Earl C. Shepherd Jr., age 46, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, August 18, 2016. He was born December 13, 1969 in McKeesport, the son of Patricia (Thomas) Novak and the late Earl C. Shepherd. He served in the Marines and went on to be a Police Officer in North Versailles, Glassport and the City of Pittsburgh. He also served as a Pittsburgh Firefighter, and worked several years as a Sports Performance Coach. Earl competed internationally on the U.S. Bobsled Team from 1996-2001. In addition to his mother and stepfather, he is survived by Lori Patterson, and their son Zane Shepherd; special friends Mario, Melissa, and Maureen Serrapere; sisters Tammy (Ron) Ehalt, Debbie Plummer and Michelle Novak; special aunt Maryann Babiak, many nieces, nephews and cousins; and his "brothers from another mother" Big Tony Yauch and Gary Shurina. Friends and Family will be received 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Forgie-Snyder Funeral Home, 1032 Broadway, East McKeesport, 412-823-8083. A funeral service will be held 11 a.m. Thursday at the Broadway Alliance Church, 1000 Broadway, East McKeesport. Interment will follow at the Good Shepherd Cemetery, Monroeville. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to either the family to benefit his son or to the Pittsburgh Chapter of Best Buddies at www.bestbuddies.org. For online condolences please visit www.snyderfuneralservices.com.

Cemetery Details

Good Shepard Cemetery

733 Patton Street
Monroeville, PA 15146

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **23**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home
1032 Broadway Ave
East McKeesport, PA 15035
(412) 823-8083
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

AUG **24**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home
1032 Broadway Ave
East McKeesport, PA 15035
(412) 823-8083
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

AUG **24**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home
1032 Broadway Ave
East McKeesport, PA 15035
(412) 823-8083
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Service

AUG **25**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Broadway Alliance Church
1000 Broadway Ave.
East McKeesport, PA 15035

Tribute Wall



“ *Earl C. Shepherd Jr.*

October 07, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ *Earl C. Shepherd Jr.*

August 23, 2022 at 04:00 PM



“ *I have many memories of Earl, but who could forget that night in The Civic Arena in 1992, against The American Gladiators, he brought the house down with his performance. I'm gonna miss you.*

Rob Eremic - August 23, 2016 at 09:45 PM



I was just thinking of Earl

Thinking how tough a person can be and still be a victim of circumstance

Earl wouldn't even smoke a joint in high school

He was disciplined and structured and persistent

*They're truly won't be another earl Shepherd
What a determined force*

So amazing in so many ways

*I was at his house a few months before he passed checking out his
gold medal and credit card from the Olympics
What an icon*

George Madden - August 17, 2025 at 03:19 PM

KE

“ Growing up with Earl was very unique. Those who knew Earl know what I mean. Great guy through and through. The Lovell family sends there deepest sympathy.

Kelley - August 23, 2016 at 07:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Earl C. Shepherd Jr..



August 23, 2016 at 04:54 PM

SC

“ Although I only knew you a short time, I found you to have a sincere and gentle soul with a giant personality! You made me laugh and I instantly liked you. We will never know why God called you home so soon but I have peace in my heart knowing that you are in Heaven laughing and smiling.

Suzie

Suzie Cruz - August 23, 2016 at 07:03 AM

KR

“ So very sorry! Earl was such a unique and special human! Gods peace be with all of you during this difficult time! Kerrian Romansky



Kerrian Romansky - August 22, 2016 at 10:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Earl C. Shepherd Jr..*



August 22, 2016 at 01:13 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Earl C. Shepherd Jr..*



August 22, 2016 at 12:50 PM



“ *Dear Pat, Tom, Tammy, Debbie and Michelle:*

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your dear son and brother.

I will always have great memories of your parties and the pool.

I am sure my dad was there to welcome him with open arms, a beer and will take good care of him.

Please let me and Amy know if there is anything you need.

*Love,
Lara Eskievich Lepley*

Lara Lepley - August 22, 2016 at 11:44 AM

TM

*Earl was my friend since we were kids. He called me his hero, but really he was mine. Rest in Peace brother.
Tom Monzo, Jr.*

tom monzo - August 22, 2016 at 05:19 PM

 Robert Jackson

“ *Such an original person. God only made one of him. Thanks for all the laughs and heart to heart talks in high school. Rest with God.*

Robert Jackson - August 22, 2016 at 07:42 AM

ST

“ *Stephanie/Rob lit a candle in memory of Earl C. Shepherd Jr.*




Stephanie/Rob - August 22, 2016 at 07:13 AM

GL

“ *Thoughts and prayers to the Sheherpd Family from The Lokay families.*

G Lokay - August 21, 2016 at 03:38 PM

 Lori Bateman McCloskey

“ *Earl was a sweet man, who was kind, caring and accepting. May the Lord raise him up and hold him in his arms as he carries him home. God bless his beautiful soul and the souls of this love ones left behind. You were a blessing.*



Lori Bateman McCloskey - August 21, 2016 at 01:37 PM

 John
Gombita

“ Our 1999 Pittsburgh Fire Recruit Class had the good fortune to become associated with Earl. With Earl's antics we never had a dull moment! It was all in good fun and kept everyone loose. During training he was a bear; Earl was very fit and his strength was so necessary in doing the required tasks. What a great guy to have with us. My favorite memory is of the 'fake teeth and fake glasses he'd periodically wear!' Earl had us in stitches every single day especially when he'd mimic one of the guys who fell asleep in class! Earl was so full of life and his great attitude made him fun to be around. Earl my friend you are gone from this world way to early. Rest easy in the arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You will not be forgotten.

John Gombita
"Gombita nine!"
(Earl's impression of me!)

John Gombita - August 21, 2016 at 01:35 PM

.M

“ Earl gave his time to come to speak to our EA children at Westinghouse. The children were so excited listening to his bobsled experience. Such a great young man.
Love, Mrs. Matsko
Coach Matsko remembers great time at football!

. loretta matsko - August 21, 2016 at 12:42 PM

LC

“ This man may have had some struggles, but they never stopped him from caring greatly for others. He had a genuine heart to love and care for the feelings of others. He would be the first one to help anyone in need and I know he not only greatly influenced and impacted my life in a better way for knowing him, but many others as well. One memory I have to share is we were taking a walk on a track and passed other oncoming walkers. He would consistently say "hello, how are you today?" To total strangers.. These people would respond back hesitantly at first, but would always end with a smile. I told Earl how I wish I could be that friendly and open with people...I envied his ways of easily starting conversations and making people feel comfortable... He said to me " ok, your turn to try then, the next person you see, say hi, how's it going today?" You never know if it will make that persons day... So, I did just that and it was uncomfortable, fun, funny, rewarding and something I continue to try and do even now.... It's the little things that can be something big to others.. I am so grateful to have known someone who it was so hard to say good by to. Rest easy, my friend.

Lindy Charney - August 21, 2016 at 12:14 PM

 David Staats

“ What an incredible loss (aka Superman).... thank-you for incredible memories as my partner in the late 90's with the Pittsburgh Police... I will never forget. David Staats

David Staats - August 21, 2016 at 07:38 AM

JY

“ My heart is broke for losing a person of awesomeness it was a honor to know him and to hug him and him say he loves us. We were lucky to be part of your family as Godparents to your only son Zane and Earl to be Godfather to Anthony! Sadly missing that crazy funny dude.

jessie yauch - August 21, 2016 at 05:59 AM



“ So sorry for your loss!
Lisa Drago

Lisa Drago - August 21, 2016 at 05:03 AM



“ *This may be inappropriate, but one summer (my family and I) were out there..PA....and I was in basketball! Earl was helping me keep practiced up! He went to guard me....I shot.....and I made it! He said "u little bastard"! I said "I'm gonna tell, poor loser"...he said "what? I said you are a bass's turd"!!!! That's nothing! Lol! NEVER FORGOT! And many more! Like the song..."it must have been love....but it's over now....)! Love him, miss him*

melanie behrens - August 20, 2016 at 10:43 PM



“ *Ms. Novak - Debbie - Tammy and Michelle - So sorry to hear about the loss of Earl! I remember growing up with him. You are all in my thoughts & prayers.*

Erin (O'Donnell) Huff

Erin M. O'Donnell Huff - August 20, 2016 at 08:45 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Earl C. Shepherd Jr..*



August 20, 2016 at 08:36 PM

PP

“ Thoughts and Prayers from the Parafenuk Family.



Pat Parafenuk - August 20, 2016 at 08:27 PM

DS

“ So shocked and upset this happened, Earl was 1 of a kind and a childhood friend. Very glad to have seen him and talked to him recently, he was so proud of his son. Praying for the entire family.

Dana DaVane Serrapere - August 20, 2016 at 07:15 PM

Debbie Deb

“ We are truly sorry for your loss and he will be missed! The Mays family



Debbie Deb - August 20, 2016 at 07:04 PM

SM

Only learning of Earl's loss today and I am truly devastated, along with the rest of the bobsled team circa late '90's. Our time at the Olympic training center cafeteria, weight room and beyond. Our time in Park City, preparing for Salt Lake '02. Calgary. He was the light of our team and the light of my life. I still have his flowers from Morocco. I have all his accomplishments in the press, which I will attempt to get to his child. Earl. You are and were, one of a kind. Your smile was infectious. I never met a person who had no enemies until I met you. Your child will be as magnificent and infectious as you were. Love to all who love you, and love to you from me dear Earl. You will always have a permanent part of my heart 💙 Godspeed

Suzy Meth - April 27, 2017 at 01:15 AM