



Eric G. Canali

December 28, 1953 - August 31, 2017

ERIC G. CANALI

Of Pittsburgh, passed away on August 31, 2017 after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Diana Paar, sister-in-law, Millie Anderson and nephew, Derek Anderson as well as many beloved friends.

Eric was employed at Tobii Dynavox until recently, where he provided technical support on speech generating devices for 25 years. He formerly worked as the Floor Operations Manager of Buhl Planetarium (now Carnegie Science Center) for 17 years. An avid amateur astronomer, Eric was a member of Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh (AAAP) and the founder of South Hills Backyard Astronomy (SHBA) as well as leading the Thursday night tours at Allegheny Observatory. He was also the amateur observer who discovered "the Canali asterism" listed in the Uranometria Atlas and Catalog.

As "Earrach of Pittsburgh" he was a Neopagan Druid Priest, writer, organizer, musician, naturalist and religious artisan. He was the founder (1992) and Senior Druid (1992-2007) of Sassafras Grove ADF; Pittsburgh's branch of the international Neopagan Druid organization Ar n'Draiocht Fein. His always-insightful opinions as an active practitioner of earth spirituality can be found on his blog: thebookofsassafras.blogspot.com

A celebration of Eric's life is planned for September 22, 2017, the Autumn Equinox. The event is public, but space is limited, so RSVP is requested to diana.paar@yahoo.com . His cremains will be interred at Penn Forest Natural Cemetery, where an oak tree will be planted there in his name.

This kind and loving man shone a bright light upon all who were fortunate to know him. May his wisdom, humility and awe of nature live on in all of those it touched. One of Eric's favorite quotes is from Sarah Williams' poem The Old Astronomer which is also partly on the tomb of John and Phoebe Brashier in the Allegheny Observatory: "Though my soul may set in darkness, it will rise in perfect light; I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night."

Arrangements trusted to D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.

Tribute Wall



“ *Eric G. Canali*

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *Dear Friends and Family of Eric's-*

I am a speech pathologist that started calling tech support in 2000. I've never met him in person. Just many phone calls, some lasting well over an hour. Over the years, we worked on many devices...me describing what was happening and Eric piecing it together on his side. I enjoyed the camaraderie and levity he could bring to a tech call. He'd say something akin to, "Well, that's not how it's supposed to work! Let's try this..." I was always relieved when I was connected to Eric because 1) he probably knew the answer without thinking twice or 2) if it required more problem-solving, he was going to figure it out. I learned a great deal from him when he explained the ins and outs of the various devices and trouble shooting. It is incredibly important to people who use communication devices and their family members to have good tech support when it is needed and Eric was one of the best. I will miss calling in and being connected to his line. I am very sorry to hear of his passing and wish you all peace and comfort.

-Shannon

Shannon - September 10, 2017 at 04:36 PM

KC

“ 1 file added to the album Earrach as himself



Kim Castle - September 08, 2017 at 08:00 PM

GJ

yes, that is much more as i remember him ... he served the people well ...

Guru Aum Jah - September 09, 2017 at 01:05 PM

 Jill Forrest

I sat next to Eric at work for 10 years, and learned to love and appreciate this gentle soul. He was always an advocate for our customers, and treated each problem as if it had an impact on his own family. He was curious about everything, and kind and compassionate. I had years and years of wonderful conversations about the stars and cats and religion and our work and customers and - you name it. I still miss him every day.

Jill Forrest - September 12, 2017 at 11:22 AM