



## Eli Patrick Dean

January 12, 2005 - March 21, 2025

It is with a heavy heart that the family announces the passing of Eli Patrick Dean. From the moment Eli came into the world on January 12, 2005, he brought joy to everyone that knew him. Eli enjoyed a wide range of music, playing his guitars, board games with family, video games with his friends, and watching horror movies. Along with his musical talent, he was a talented artist and avid story writer. Eli's passion for graphic design led him to pursue a degree in Game Design and Development. He would have graduated from Salem Community College in May. He appreciated the beauty in nature and loved hiking and chasing waterfalls with his family especially in Maine. Eli was extremely intelligent, funny, and was the master of perfectly timed one-liners. He was able to share more than basic knowledge on a variety of subjects including history, geography, movies, and everything UFC related. He was the technical support genius in the house. "Where's Eli?" would be heard whenever the TV or cell phone didn't work right. He was always willing to help. Our neighbors all knew "the boys down the street" were just a text or phone call away. To say Eli will be missed is an understatement. His smile, sense of humor and quiet loving nature can never be replaced. Eli was a beloved son, grandson, brother, cousin, and friend to many. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Eli is survived by his father, Duane Dean (Kelly); his mother, Amy Rhoads (Jack); sisters, Hannah and Hope; brother, Brian; his grandparents: Alice

Dean, Patrick and Nancy Myers, mom-mom Laura Watkins, and grandmom Cheri Storicks; as well as a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, William Dean.

Family and friends are invited to attend a celebration of life for Eli at 1 PM on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at the Reliance Fire Company, 25 Broad Street, Woodstown, NJ 08098. In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions to the Salem County Humane Society at 214 Game Creek Rd, Penns Grove, NJ 08069 or Gift of Life at 6405 Metcalf Ave, suite 109, overland Park, KS 66202 (913) 851-1947. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.stranofeeley.com](http://www.stranofeeley.com).

“Carry on our wayward son. There’ll be peace when you are done. Lay your weary head to rest. Don’t you cry no more.”

If you are having thoughts of hurting yourself, please seek help, confide in someone. Help is available 24/7 at the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. You can call or text 988 anytime. You matter more than you know.

Strano & Feeley  
Family Funeral Home  
302-731-5459

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Reliance Fire Company  
25 Broad Street  
Woodstown, NJ 08098

# Tribute Wall

LM

“ Eli,

*I thought about sharing your memories at your Celebration of Life, but I felt that it was best I just shared them here given the circumstances. My very first memory of you was your first breath. I had the honor of being a witness to the miracle of your birth. From that day on, I watched you grow. I spent almost every day of the first 11 years of your life with you. From day-to-day things like making your brush your teeth before school, to fun things like day trips, weekend trips, and the big trip to Disney!*

*Some of the best times that I can remember were the trips we took to Kings Dominion. This was the trip that you insisted you had to bring the disco ball. We had the disco ball and music playing most of the night in the hotel room. Part of the video Mom-Mom shared with you dancing around the disco ball was on that trip. You were dancing to “Push it” by Salt and Pepa. You were in your glory if everyone was laughing at your stunts! I also remember the trip to Williamsburg, VA where we were laughing so hard at the signs for Manassas, VA and Dumfries, VA on the way there. Your mom was driving and forgot the car was in reverse and when she went to pull away, we went zooming backwards and you were yelling, “GUYS! What is so funny anyway? GET ME OUT IF THIS CAR!” It made us laugh even harder we had to hurry up and make a stop at the next McDonalds for a bathroom break! The trip to Disney was a long ride in the car with 7 people. You rode all the way in the back of the car with your buddy, Ethan. The two of you were always getting into mischief. My favorite line from that trip that I still think about today is when you asked Matt, “What kind of Matt are you anyway?!” You wanted to hang out in our room and sleep in the pirate bed, so Ethan let you stay over a couple of nights with us. You and Ethan played pirates on the beds with your swords and your Mickey Mouse hats on.*

*There were plenty of times that you were upset with me and called me Evil TiTi because I wanted you to brush your teeth or get a*

*shower. Sometimes I think you just liked to call me that even when I wasn't asking you to do something! You spent most of the time at Mom-Mom's playing games or watching movies. You loved laying around with Sassi and Rebel. I hope that you are in heaven with them giving them all the love that they missed when you couldn't come over anymore.*

*I always hoped that I would be able to see you again. Learning that you are not a part of this world anymore has been difficult to accept. I am positive the world was better because you were here, I am sure you are shaking up things in heaven, but I would have given anything to have one more day with you, and it would have been even better if we could have spent one more weekend at Kings Dominion.*

*You have been missed for many years already. Many tears have already been shed over the time that we could not spend with you. The tears continue but they feel different now. These tears no longer hold hope, they hold sadness. Until we meet again, I love you, Eli.*

*Love, TiTi*

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**Lisa Myers** - April 05, 2025 at 08:42 PM

NM

“Tears come streaming down your face.. When you lose something you can't replace.. Lights will guide you home" God's promise to us is to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

We love you, Eli.

Love, Mom-Mom and Pop-Pop Myers



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**Nancy Myers** - March 31, 2025 at 07:51 PM

PM

“Eli, I will share my memories of you here. When you were born, Hannah used to like the song “Old McDonald Had a Farm”, and for some reason she thought your name was E-I-O. Later, she shortened to E-I. When you were old enough to talk, you could not say Hannah’s name, so you called her Nonnie. This memory I am sure would make you mad at me, but when you still wore diapers, you would wait until bedtime to poo and then decorate your nurse-y walls! Then your dad always had clean-up duty. It is funny now, but not so much then. All the questions you had, and there were many, and now I will tell you sometimes I fabricated some answers because I just didn’t know. The last thing I will share is your mom-mom told the story how you used to read under the blanket, but what she did not share was sometimes that flashlight magically came out from under the blanket and shined right in your sister’s face, and Hannah would yell, “ELI!” Your absence has been a heartbreak, your loss is unbearable.

Love, Pop-Pop Myers

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**Patrick Myers** - March 29, 2025 at 12:39 PM

KD

*Thank you for sharing the memories. I didn't meet Eli until he was 10 but Duane did share the decorating of the nursery walls. When he did Eli's face turned bright red and then he gave that little sinister laugh. Our home was even brighter with Eli's light.*

**Kelly Watkins Dean** - April 02, 2025 at 02:01 PM

PM

*Thank you for your kind words. We send our sympathy to you, Duane, and the rest of your family. Our home was brighter with Eli as well! He knew how to bring the fun!*

**Patrick and Nancy Myers** - April 03, 2025 at 08:39 PM

TF

“ *The Bush Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Eli Patrick Dean.*

**The Bush Family** - March 28, 2025 at 06:55 PM

TF

“ *The Bush Family purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Eli Patrick Dean.*



**The Bush Family** - March 28, 2025 at 06:55 PM

PM

“ When we think of you, Eli, we think of a sweet, funny, sensitive kid, and Hannah's protector. When you and Hannah were young, you had a language all of your own and you were each other's interpreters. Some memories we have of you are, you being picked up after school and you blasting the radio to your favorite songs and singing along. Some of the songs you liked at the time were "Welcome to my house" and "Best day of My Life". Your favorite joke at the time was, "How do you wake up Lady Gaga? Poker Face!" When you lived with us for a year, you slept on the window seat in our room. You would ask for an extra half hour to stay up. You would put your blanket over your head and read your books with a flashlight. On one of our last dinners together, we told Ethan we wanted to use his old green car to teach Hannah to drive, and you busted out laughing and said, "Great! She is going to run into all the trees!" Ethan agreed and said he would take the airbag out of the steering wheel. You ate us out of house and home with fruit snacks and cheese and crackers! We haven't seen you since you were 11 ½ years old, not by choice. We always hoped we would see you again, now that reunion will have to wait until we get to heaven. You have always been missed. You are loved beyond measure.

*Love, Your Heartbroken Mom-Mom and Pop-Pop Myers*



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**Patrick and Nancy Myers** - March 27, 2025 at 08:18 PM

KD

“ Although our time with Eli was short-lived, it was definitely a time full of love and laughter. Over this past year Eli became the “little brother” to a great group of outstanding young men. TJ, Sam, Logan, Quinn, Danny, Colin, Antonio, Kevin, Zach, Adam, Dylan, and Drake all welcomed Eli into their friend group immediately. Late night/early morning X-box sessions, midnight runs to Taco Bell, working on cars, golfing, playing poker, hangin’ at TJ’s crib or in the Manthorpe Man Cave Eli was there. Brian would walk through the front door after work and say “Where’s my son” and here come home Eli up the steps with his hat (he always wore that damn hat) and jacket on ready to go on their next adventure. Saturday night was date night with mom-mom. Eli introduced my mom to UFC and he created a monster. Every Saturday mom would say “Hey Eli. What time’s the fight tonight?” Eli patiently explain the moves, told mom-mom the name and stats for each fighter. The relationship Eli had with my mom was a special one for sure. When I couldn’t find my mom or Eli in the house, all I had to do was look outside at the patio table and the two of them would be chatting away. Hopey would be cutting Brian and Duane’s hair and look over at Eli saying “You’re next.” “Hell no” he said in response. Eli never asked for anything. I’d always call him before going to Acme, BJs or Wawa and say “Whatta ya want bud?” Same answer every time “I’m good.” I don’t think I’ll ever look at a bag of baked Lay’s or pizza flavored Combos the same way again. Nightly family dinners and games of Skyjo at the dining room table won’t be the same either. Eli and I would sneak off to Target Sunday night when Duane left to take Hannah home. Strawberry Uncrustables and mini ice cream sandwiches were at the top of the list. Brian lost his little brother. Mom-mom lost her Saturday night date. Hopey lost her chance to make hair history and her brother. Baby the cat lost her chef and Ginger lost her back scratcher and wrestling partner. Eli I’ll never forget our ride home from Princeton. God I miss you. Your bed is made and the books are in order on the shelf. Good night babe I love you with all my kiss on the head. Rest in peace my inherited son.





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**Kelly Watkins Dean** - March 27, 2025 at 10:37 AM