

December 04, 2003

Eric Klonglan

Dec. 16, 1962, to Nov. 4, 2003

Eric DaWayne Klonglan, 40, of Apache Junction, Ariz., died Nov. 4 at Hospice of the Valley in Mesa, Ariz. A memorial service was held Nov. 8 at Grace Church in Mesa, Ariz. He had been fighting brain cancer for more than three years.

He was born Dec. 16, 1962, in Ames to Eugene and Sylvia Klonglan. He spent his first 11 years in the Ames area, most of it on a small farm south of town, where he loved to go squirrel hunting and ride his pony. He attended Ballard School's Kelley Elementary Center through fifth grade. At that point the family moved to Loveland, Colo., where he grew up and helped operate the family-owned campground business. He graduated from high school in Loveland, Colo., in 1981, and then attended WYO Technical Institute in Laramie, Wyo., to improve his already considerable automotive and mechanical skills. He loved the outdoors - hunting, camping, four-wheeling in the mountains and going to the sand dunes to try out the buggies he enjoyed designing and building for himself and others. In recent years he was part of C&C Automotive Specialties, a small company that contracted with Ford and GM to do advanced technical testing work on prototype cars and pickups years ahead of production.

He married Christine "Chris" Brunmeier on Aug. 22, 1987, in Loveland, Colo. In 1998 C&C transferred its operations to the Phoenix area, so Eric and family moved to Apache Junction. In Sept. 2000 doctors discovered he had a malignant brain tumor. Over the next three years he battled through surgeries, chemo and radiation, staying atop the struggle, even continuing to do the work he loved, until the final four months.

Survivors include his wife, Chris; two step-children, Justin and Jessica Brunmeier; his parents, Eugene and Sylvia Klonglan of Kirtland, N.M.; a sister, Kirsten Jansma; a brother-in-law, Mick Jansma; and his grandmother, Willene Klonglan of Story City.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Bernie Klonglan, a longtime Nevada resident; and his maternal grandparents, Clarence (Kelly) and Evelie Johnson, who also lived in the Ames area for a few years.