

Farewell Norman Eugene Hurt

(13 Mar 1948 – 19 Oct 2011)



Our precious brother Norman Eugene Hurt, at the age of 63, passed away at about 7:30 PM, 19 October 2011 from lung complications resulting from radiation therapy for a cancer tumor under his left jaw over 3 years ago. He struggled with related health problems since then.

Norman's darling daughter Ashley Marie Hurt survives him, as do brothers Robert M and Darryl H Hurt, and sisters Guyneth Kraus and Debra Tru. Brother Darryl has helped Ashley with administrative matters. Norman expressed the wish that his body go to the service of science, so no cremation or burial will occur. Ashley or others will schedule a collective **celebration of Norman's life**. <http://FindaGrave.com> shows his [permanent memorial](#).

I shall miss Norman till we meet again. He provided a glowing brightness in my life since his birth at my age of 5 in Houston, Texas. I loved him joyously his whole life as did everyone who met him. He lived with our family of parents and six children on England Street in Foster Place in Southeast Houston. I saw him as a delightful child, full of interest in and fascination about everything. He had a speech impediment till he had it corrected as an adult. **At four he told me "Come quickly Wobuht, theahs a biwd unda the wagon!"** We all thought that cute.

Family, friends, and neighbors doted on him, and of course the girls always loved him because he made them laugh and feel at home. As an adolescent, he went to live at **Buckner's Baptist Children's home where he spent his teenage years, worked for** the campus radio station, and hobnobbed with a girlfriend or two. Our sisters Claudia and Debra lived there for a time too, and he loved them dearly. I went to visit him occasionally during my last year in high school in Oak Cliff (Dallas) in 1961, and gave him a bicycle to get around on. Norman moved back to Houston at 16, but decided soon **to return to Buckner's, and there he lived till he graduated from high school.**

After taking a whirlwind round-trip tour to California in an old Volkswagen in the **mid 1960's with his orphanage buddy Fletcher Hurst, Norman joined the US Army in** 1969. He became a clerk and typist for the Military Police and worked a year for a General in VietNam.

At the end of his single term of military service in 1971, Norman returned home to Houston. He moved to Fort Worth where he worked as assistant manager for the notorious Jim Hill of the notorious Cellar Club, a popular rock and roll night club. Norman contracted Hepatitis B, and Jim nursed him back to health. Norman returned **to Houston and enrolled in the University of Houston while living in our mother's** home.

In that same year, Norman attended a seminar at the U of H intended to introduce students to The Urantia Book. **Its teachings captivated Norman's heart.** He became a strong but subtle advocate of the book and its teachings for the remainder of his life. Norman pretty much lived his religion and delivered unselfish loving service to everyone he knew.

Norman spent several years earning a bachelor's degree in psychology, during which time he worked as a reporter for the U of H newspaper, The Cougar, and in the campus radio station. There he met and received inspiration from a CBS Records promotion **manager who wanted radio stations to give their artists' new records air** time.

Around 1977 Norman became a Houston area Promotion Manager for CBS records. He spent several years at CBS promoting records for a variety of famous recording artists, and taking photographs and mingling with them during concert tours. Around 1984 Norman lost his CBS job in a massive company-wide layoff, and worked at a variety of jobs in the Houston area.

In 1978 Norman met and made a fast friendship with Joseph F. "J" Bauer of Houston. They remained friends for the remainder of Norman's life.

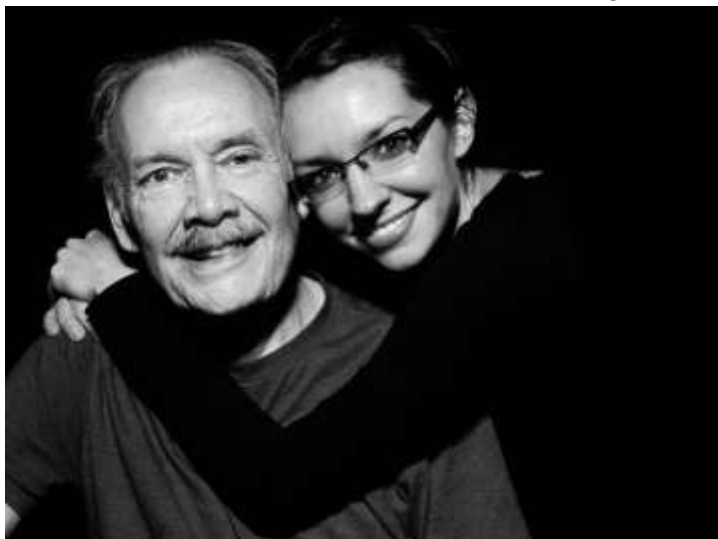
On 11 October 1984 Norman married Jeannie Sue Duke who gave birth to Ashley Marie in 1985. On 17 August 1988, Norman and Jeannie divorced. Thereafter Norman **reared Ashley alone, and with the eager support of his mother, Ruby "Tommie" Hurt** who cared for Ashley while Norman worked.

In 1986 Norman began work for a Rainsoft water treatment system dealer. He served several dealers till he settled in at Quality Water Systems of Texas where he excelled in in-home sales and sales training and motivation. He helped make QWS the number one dealer in the world.

Norman, J, Fletcher, and Ashley they formed the "NoizyBoyz" dinner group at the HofBrau on North Shepherd in Houston, a weekly Saturday-night food festivity they shared with friends and family. J and Fletcher became "Wolf-Parents" to Ashley, sometimes babysitting her and teaching her to stand up for herself and take no guff from anyone when Norman went out for sales presentation.

Norman bought a house in Northwest Houston around 1999.

In 2000, the Rainsoft parent company Aquion Partners recognized Norman as the number one salesman in the world. During his time at QWS Norman wrote many



articles and speeches related to selling Rainsoft systems, and provided articles for Water Technology Magazine. His brother Robert featured Norman on web sites <http://normanhurt.com>, and <http://rainsoft.com>.

In 2004 Norman attended University of Houston again and **earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism.**

Norman guided his daughter wisely during her formative years, teaching her self-reliance, common

sense, and the importance of standing up for herself while also treating others with respect. Norman had an infectious sense of humor, and insisted on making everyone feel at home in his presence. He said that his reading of *How to Win Friends and Influence People* as a teenager forever influenced his own attitude about treating people with friendship and respect.

Norman encouraged Ashley to expand her world of knowledge, funding a summer in Europe to further her French studies and cultural experience, and providing a safe, sane environment for her to pursue her own Studio Artist degree program at the U of H, from which she graduates in December 2011.

In summer, 2011 Aquion Partners recognized Norman's contributions by giving him a lifetime achievement award. In all, Norman gave 25 years as a salesman and manager for Rainsoft dealers.

In 2009 Norman noticed a sore area under his left jaw. A doctor diagnosed it as cancer. **On the doctor's advice, Norman accepted chemotherapy and radiation** treatments. Apparently they cured the cancer, but the radiation killed him over a period of three years of agonizing lock jaw, racking pain and discomfort, inability to taste, loss of saliva, inability to swallow food, and inability to control drainage into the lungs. The complications caused a blood infection in July 2009, and double pneumonia and a blood infection in early October 2011. Ashley took him to the Houston VA Medical Center on 2 October 2011 because he could not breathe well. The complications killed him today.

I know Norman's soul rests in peace, and that he welcomed the liberation from suffering death could bring. He told me repeatedly he wanted **the "plug pulled" rather** than to live on life support. He said he wanted others to celebrate his life, not mourn his death. So, I celebrate, and invite all others to do likewise.

Norman Eugene Hurt beneficially, positively affected everyone his life touched. A truly good man has left us.

Note: **I, Norman's oldest brother Bob Hurt, request anyone with additions to make to the above commentary on his Norman's life to send them to me by clicking the Email link below. I do not know all Norman's friends, so any who receive this should forward it to others. I personally thank Bill McGraw, CEO of QWS, for his gracious and wise support of Norman during the years of Norman's illness.** Note also that I shall keep **Norman's personal web site alive indefinitely** and post on it any comments people send me about him, his life, or his effect on their lives.

Great Turnout at Norman Hurt NoizyBoyz Memorial - 21 October 2011

150 NEW NOISEMAKERS ADDED TO NOIZYBOYZ – by Bob Hurt

I loved that noizyboyz memorial event at HofBrau/Sawgrass on North Shepherd in Houston last night for the First Annual Norman Hurt NOIZYBOYZ Memorial Festivities. For at least a decade Norman, Joseph Bauer, Fletcher Hurst, and Ashley Hurt, the core noisyboyz, gathered on Saturday night at a table in the Hofbrau, now

Sawgrass, restaurant on North Shepherd in Houston to eat, drink, harangue waitresses, and regale one another with one-liners and tales of derring-do. Last night, in continuation of grand spirit of the noizyboyz nights, probably 100-150 showed up to the event in Norman's memory.

Ashley had lain out Norman's hats and photos on the table, and her slide show ran in the background on the wall of Norman with all kinds of people. Lots of fingerfood. Open bar wine/pop/coffee/beer.

Both back rooms of the Hofbrau/Sawgrass noizyboyz haunt filled with people. Many from the local Rainsoft/Quality Water Systems (QWS) office where Norman worked for so many years. Kori and Tiffany showed up. Kori sat on my lap with her new baby (not enough chairs) and hugged me and cried. I hope nobody tells Maria. Kori stood up and announced her status as a noizyboy, and later worried that she had seemed silly. Darryl showed grace and good humor, as usual, and Sherry her traditional affectionate loveliness. Darryl's startling beautiful daughters Charyl (with Andy) and Darlene dazzled the crowd. Ashley and Melton looked gorgeous. She did a great job making this thing happen so soon. Jeannie came, and had a cast on her foot, bless her heart. Jeanne Schweer had gone off on an adventure and couldn't come.

Harold and Janice came from Plano, and looked so elegant as usual. Guyneth, Joan, and Marisa drove in from Denver-Dallas, and all look healthy and pretty. Someone stopped by and picked up Sean. He looked handsome as usual. We missed Claudia. Bill McGraw, looking fabulous, had printed up a bunch of Norm eulogies, in color, and MC'd the event. Old squeezes Jackie, Nancy, and Laura came from Dallas, Ft Worth, Austin (I hugged them and squeezed them thoroughly). I couldn't contact Lorraine, who had brought that marble DeadFletch.com headstone to Fletcher's advance memorial. She had loved Norman to pieces. Brian, who replaced Norman at QWS, looked so handsome, and the lovely Carol, Norman's star sales woman, and the gorgeous Maria the star Rainsoft telemarketer came. Cousin Kim came with her ebullient personality showed. And of course, Joseph Bauer, looking like a handsome, vigorous cowboy, in boots and hat, sat stage-center. He made his usual noise, as noizyboyz should. Kidd Noonan snapped a lot of photos, which I hope we get to see.

Bill McGraw called the crowd to attention and introduced cousin Charles Havard, Norman's cousin to start the talking. Charles read Darlene's lovely, humorous memorial commentary, and opened the floor for comments. Many rose and told of what Norman had meant to them in their lives. I invited everybody to join the HurtFamily group (hurtfamily-subscribe@yahoo.com), and visit Norman's website <http://NormanHurt.com>. As Norman surely would have commented (and so now I'll write it on his ghostly behalf) "there wasn't a dry seat in the house."

It felt so good to see everyone together, so wonderful and heartwarming to see the impact of Norman's love and goodness on the lives of others have a little meaning at the memorial gathering.

We missed Norman's one-liners and organizing talent. He had the tendency to put people of like interests near each other and tell them intriguing things about one another to get them to talking. Well, a lot of talking happened anyway. It seemed that, rather than simply leaving everyone with a hole in them from his absence, he actually filled a hole in them with some of himself, so he will be with all of us always.

Most had left by 11. But you wouldn't know Norman hadn't stayed there physically by the way things turned out. I loved that wonderful event, and [Robert "Kid"](#)

[Noonan](#) photographed much of it. We ought to find any excuse to become the new noizyboyz at least once a year. Norman's passing did deplete the noizyboyz by one more, but it also added 150 to the noizyboyz spirit.

We thank the organizers and Norman Hurt for making this event possible.

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