



## Ernie Navarre Jr.

February 23, 1955 - February 23, 2025

Ernie passed away on his 70th birthday, Sunday, February 23, 2025. He was a resident of Springfield, LA. Ernie was known throughout his community as “The Donut King.” Ernie started his business, Ernie’s Donut King, in Amite, LA in 1972. For 25 years he served the Amite community before opening The Riverstop in Springfield, LA. After 7 years, he moved next door and opened Navarre’s Pastries and Famous King Cakes. Ernie has become known all over the state for having some of the best king cakes in Louisiana. If you walked through the door of “The Donut Shop” no doubt you would see him there with a huge smile to greet you. Ernie loved visiting with everyone in the community, especially handing out donut holes to all the children who visited. He adored his family and was happiest spending time with those he loved. His happy place was the Mississippi Gulf Coast and would go to the beach as much as possible. Ernie left behind a legacy that will go unmatched. He was an incredible man that is already missed by so many.

He is survived by his loving wife, Michelle Pace Navarre; son, Jules Navarre; daughter, Crystal Runyon; stepson, Wyatt Lott; grandchildren, Chloe Moore, Nadia Runyon, Nathaniel Runyon, Adrian Hernandez; and a cousin who was like a brother, Lawrence Navarre Jr.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents, Katherine and Ernest Navarre Sr.; and brother, Robert Kirkland.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the visitation at Brandon G. Thompson Funeral Home at 12012 Hwy 190 W Hammond, LA 70401 on Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 12:00 p.m.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 1. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G Thompson Funeral Home Hammond  
12012 Hwy 190 West  
Hammond, LA 70401

## Funeral Service

MAR 1. 12:00 PM (CT)

Brandon G Thompson Funeral Home Hammond  
12012 Hwy 190 West  
Hammond, LA 70401

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ To whomever reads this especially Ernie’s family:  
“The Lord bless you, and keep you;  
the Lord cause His face to shine on you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up His face to you, and give you peace.”  
Numbers 6:24-26  
Regina Martin of Independence



Regina Martin & Reggie Martin - March 01, 2025 at 08:38 PM

LF

“ Love, Kelly Jo St.Romain and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ernie Navarre Jr..

Love, Kelly Jo St.Romain and family - February 28, 2025 at 12:48 PM

LF

“ Love, Kelly Jo St.Romain and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ernie Navarre Jr..



Love, Kelly Jo St.Romain and family - February 28, 2025 at 12:48 PM

KF

“ *KK & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ernie Navarre Jr..*



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**KK & Family** - February 28, 2025 at 12:11 PM

AC

“ *Im so sorry for your guys' loss. Mr. Ernie always put a smile on everyone's face. He will be missed. Sending good thoughts and vibes your way.*

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**Amber Corrales** - February 28, 2025 at 10:16 AM

JN

“ *James, Crystal, Chloe, Nadia, Nathaniel purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Ernie Navarre Jr..*



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**James, Crystal, Chloe, Nadia, Nathaniel** - February 27, 2025 at 04:33 PM

CF

“ *Chad and Sissy Fagan purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Ernie Navarre Jr..*



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**Chad and Sissy Fagan** - February 27, 2025 at 01:13 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ernie Navarre Jr..

February 27, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ernie Navarre Jr..



February 27, 2025 at 09:31 AM



“ Sending prayers to the family of Ernie 🙏

*I will never forget working nights at Hood Hospital and I was about 8 months pregnant with my oldest son and Ernie would deliver donuts to me at the hospital ☐ It's the little things 🙏 What a blessing to have known him.*

**Leslie Dufour** - February 25, 2025 at 05:43 PM



*Ernie always asked about our granddaughters every single time I went to the donut shop. He would often ask me to sit down and have a cup of coffee with him. He was a kind man who will be missed.*

**Ronnie Randall** - February 28, 2025 at 12:31 PM



*Junior and I would like to send our deepest sympathy, thoughts, and prayers to Ernie's family. He such a kind person with a big heart. He will be missed. 💔🙏  
Cathi Ledbetter and Junior Cutrer*

**Cathi Ledbetter and Junior Cutrer** - February 28, 2025 at 09:53 PM

ST

“ Ernie hired me at his store worked for him for may years Julis was just a kid back than Ernie Amd I fought like we was sister and brother ran his store when he got married.. he left me in charge while he was gone but I was glad when he got back I told him don't ever leave again lol he had me up in that store helping him with them donuts and them king cakes like I'm a damn baker lol I loved me so Ernie sure gonna miss him Jules you are in my thoughts sweetheart..

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**skeeter taylor** - February 25, 2025 at 10:58 AM

DA

“ i knew ernie all our life from amite where he first started his donut king life touching that flour every morning and when he was done i would see him sitting on top of sacks of flour cause that is how small his building was back then with a smile. he loved his world.

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**dannie** - February 25, 2025 at 10:12 AM

LW

I met Ernie in '71 when he got his first job making donuts. He was 16 and I was 17. He worked next to the malt shop I worked at in Hammond. We became good friends. Matter of fact he told me several years later that he had a crush on me, but that I wasn't interested in him I was interested in someone else lol. He was a small little fella, but grew up to be tall and handsome. Ernie we spent many nights at that little donut shop while you were making donuts. Who knew that that little .90 cent an hour job would make you a wealthy and famous king cake entrepreneur! RIP Ernie, you will be sadly missed by all who grew to know and love you.💔

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**Lucille Norman Whittington** - February 27, 2025 at 09:23 PM

BR

“ Met Ernie in 1992 through a good friend of mine..what a great guy...the donut king...RIP Ernie...  
Bobby Ray from Jersey



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**Bob R** - February 25, 2025 at 08:42 AM

JM

“ Ernie will be missed. The best king cakes anywhere. RIP Mr Ernie.



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**Janet Methvien** - February 25, 2025 at 07:43 AM

GS

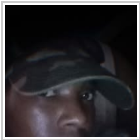
“ Many sweet memories of Ernie's Donuts all those years ago in Amite only to move later in life to find Navarre's so near home. It was such a pleasure to take a Navarre's King Cake to Washington DC to share with some of Ernie's friends from Amite in Celebration of the Inauguration. Thank you Ernie for being a friend to the communities of both Amite and Springfield. We are all saddened by your passing. Michelle, Jules, family and staff our prayers are with you. It was wonderful to reconnect with Ernie here. I know Heaven must be full of King Cakes!



Glenda Sharkey  
Alan Sharkey

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**Glenda Sharkey** - February 24, 2025 at 11:19 PM



“ Diana Shepard sent a virtual gift in memory of Ernie Navarre Jr.



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**Diana Shepard** - February 24, 2025 at 08:08 PM

MR

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

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**Mittie Rohner** - February 24, 2025 at 07:28 PM

MC

“ *Melissa M Cutrer lit a candle in memory of Ernie Navarre Jr.*



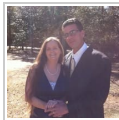
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**Melissa M Cutrer** - February 24, 2025 at 06:44 PM

DG

“ *We all lose friends...we lose them in death, to distance, and over time. But even though they may be lost, hope is not. The key is to keep them in your heart, and when the time is right, you can pick up the friendship right where you left off. Even the lost find their way home, when you leave the light on” Dale & LJ Guilbeau*



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**Dale G Guilbeau** - February 24, 2025 at 05:35 PM



*What a beautiful saying*

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**JoHannah Acosta** - February 25, 2025 at 10:04 AM

TN

“ *Ernie was such a sweet man. I can remember him in high school coming to parties dressed as Elvis. He had the most amazing personality. Tony & Donna Noto*

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**Tony Noto** - February 24, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Ernie Navarre Jr..*



February 24, 2025 at 03:08 PM



“ *Mr. Ernie always had a smile great person you will be missed by family and the community. Prayers and condolences to the family.*

**Chantell McAlister** - February 24, 2025 at 03:00 PM



*I remember lil Ernie coming to our house many years ago, his mama Katherine was my first cousin. He always had a big smile on his face that could light up a room. His mom and dad loved him so much. I lost contact years later but never forget my cuz lil Earnie.*

**Eva Younger** - February 24, 2025 at 05:23 PM



*Ernie always had a smile when i would get donuts. He always would ask how every thing was going in Wisconsin. He Marathon man it is good seeing you again. I will miss Ernie. AL Kohli.*

**Alfred Kohli** - March 01, 2025 at 11:31 AM