



## Richard Bradford, III

August 10, 1946 - October 25, 2011

"Rock" Richard Furman Bradford, III, age 65, died Tuesday October 25, 2011 of a heart attack.

Born in Brooklyn, NY he was a son of the late Judith and Richard F. Bradford, II.

Mr. Bradford was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in both the Navy and Marine Corps. Rock attended the University of South Carolina undergrad, and the University of Southern California post graduate work in Eastern European studies. Rock's resume spans successful careers in import/export services, business owner, entrepreneur, and registered nurse in intensive care cardiology. He had a life-long love for sailing and made many trips including a solo trans Atlantic voyage.

His forced retirement due to health issues led to sailing to the Dominican Republic and purchasing a farm where he pursued his passions for literature, music, cuisine and nature.

He is survived by wife, Maggie Eliot of the Dominican Republic, brother James Bradford of SC, and nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be private.

# Tribute Wall



“*Rock and I were at Camp LeJeune together and shared a lot of adventures with the USMC. We were both Navy Corpsmen and loved to go to the base club and put several dollars worth of quarters in the juke box to play "Kiss Me Sailor" by Diane Renay. I ran into him again while I was on the faculty at USC and we caught up on things. When he left Columbia, I never heard from him again until a friend sent me this yesterday. Rock never had a dull moment and those of us who were lucky enough to share the thrills will never forget him. My warmest regards to his family and all who loved him.*

*Jerry Dockery.*

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**Jerry Dockery** - June 30, 2015 at 07:17 AM



“*Maggie, please accept my deep felt sympathy. Rock was the poster boy for "Larger than Life". The phrase was surely coined for him. My fondest memories are of our times together at Lake Dogwood, aboard 'Brier Patch' and collaborating on the 2 liters of JRT's by Bert and Mona.*

*Please let me know the next time you are in SC.*

*Harry Hooker*



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**Harry Walker Hooker, Jr.** - November 17, 2011 at 10:50 AM

JE

“*“Larger than life” - a understatement for sure. Rock was like a great character out of a fantastic novel. I have the best memories of the times we spent at various Bradford/Eliot homes over the years. The doors were always open, the drinks were always shared, the conversation rich, the laughter boisterous, and the time went far too quickly...*

Jenn Barnes Eliot - November 12, 2011 at 08:03 PM

LJ

“*Maggie, knowing you and Rock has been a wonderful treasure. Visiting you at Lake Dogwood, working with Rock and visualizing the happiness that the DR farm must have brought to you both brings joy to this landlubber who still prefers horses to the sea. Jim and I will leave a wreath of fall foliage when we go into North Inlet this weekend and a candle at high tide on North Island. Many blessings and our love to you and please send me a message when you are coming back to SC, we would dearly love to see you. Lee Anne Jackson-Stoddard and Jim Stoddard*



Lee Anne Jackson-Stoddard - November 09, 2011 at 01:40 PM

PE

“*What a joy to have known Rock and remember his laugh, and love of life. He will be missed. Maggie, I hope you will keep in touch. May his death remind us to live every day to the fullest, just like Rock did...Love to you, Paula and Bill Elliott*

Paula Elliott - November 07, 2011 at 07:41 AM

VH

“ You have my most sincerest condolences for your loss. Maggie, I know your husband is in heaven with all my relatives that have gone on to glory. Know that he is in God's hands and that he is in a better place. I know you will miss him but know that your love and committment will always be with him and you will see him again in heaven. Love and miss you and if there is anything I can do, call me. Vivian Hardin

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**Vivian Hardin** - November 03, 2011 at 01:23 PM

DK

“ So very sorry to hear the awful news. I believe Rock lived a life we all envied, so this seems very unreal. Absolutely hilarious sense of humor and wit is what I remember about Rock. My deepest condolences to Maggie and his friends/family.

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**Debbie Kelly** - November 02, 2011 at 09:35 PM

GI

“ My most vivid memory of Rocky was asking him what he had cooked for dinner on our trip to Antigua in the 50 foot Hood with John Black and me and several assorted females and boy were they assorted. He responded by looking at his cracker hash and what was in the other pot and said I don't know make your choice . You can just guess what was in the other pot . They both looked alike. We did eat some repulsive food on that voyage. On the same voyage we had to transfer diesel from on tank to another and I was the one who poured the fuel from on tank to a funnel between Rocky's legs. I managed to get the diesel all over Rock'y due to the pitching and rolling of the boat. Rocky said that he would always remember me fondly for that . I would sail with him any where on the seven seas. I will miss him a lot . Maggie I had a dark and stormy for him made from the bottle of old rum you gave me. Bon voyage Rocky on your next voyage , and get that place ready for my arrival. Love to you and Maggie George Ireland [gsi6@yahoo.com](mailto:gsi6@yahoo.com)

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**George Ireland** - November 02, 2011 at 11:06 AM

PB

“ Larger than life does not begin to describe you, my friend. Your wit, your intellect, your BS detector. Underneath it all, a heart so big, a true friend. Miss the good times from "The Dump" to St. James and Magpie. The delicious food and Big Red Cups. When you and Maggie sailed off to DR it was bittersweet, knowing how much we would miss you both, but how great it was that your dreams were beginning to come true.  
Here's to you, Rock! Peace!

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**Pete Burgess** - November 01, 2011 at 09:26 AM

JB

“ Rocky and I shared more than a few adventures together. He was truly larger than life. On one occasion we were in 40' seas in a 49' boat running from a gun boat off the coast of Colombia and I was at the top of the mast untangling a shroud. Thanks for all the excitement Rocky. This world will not be the same without you! John Black

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**John Black** - November 01, 2011 at 08:39 AM

PP

Hi John! I'm still crying but he did live a remarkable life. I'm still using that writing tray you made for me. Write me at [seypatrice@yahoo.com](mailto:seypatrice@yahoo.com) so we can fill each other in.

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**Patrice Page** - November 01, 2011 at 09:02 AM

RE

“ Ryan Eliot lit a candle in memory of Richard Bradford, III



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**ryan eliot** - October 31, 2011 at 08:33 PM

PO

“ Maggie, I'm so sorry to hear about Rock. I had the pleasure of working with him for years at Providence in the MCCU. So witty and charming, just a joy to be around. I remember visiting you both in Georgetown with my daughter Mary, and you opening your closet to a little girl who loved shoes, your very brave!! I'm sure wherever Rocks is, theres a warm breeze, good food and drink, and a crowd gathering for conversation. He is loved and missed.

*Patty Oliverio (Huckabee) and the old gang from MCCU*

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**Patty Oliverio** - October 31, 2011 at 08:07 PM



*Maggie,  
I'm so sorry to hear about Rock. We served in Vietnam together and he was on many patrols with me. He was very courageous and on one occasion I remember he volunteered to jump on a helicopter to administer aid to wounded Marines who were receiving heavy fire. He was a hero and great individual. If there is anything I can do, please call me at 256-931-6081.*

*Sincerely,  
Bobby Hall, 3RD Recon*

*I will grieve for Rock !*

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**Bobby Hall** - November 03, 2011 at 12:22 PM

TB

“ *I miss my old friend. Our dance lasted 50 years. I will miss his wit, adventures, reminiesing about high school, college, being a hippie, Key West, mutual friends and so much more. I mourn his absense, but am glad that I was there for part of the ride.*

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**Toni Burnett** - October 31, 2011 at 03:28 PM

LR

“ *The door was always open on St James street in Georgetown and we were always greeted with a nice glass of Pinot noir or a fabulous Rock Bradford Dark and Stormy. The conversation and home made meal that followed was amazing. Rock and Maggie are true friends and some of the most fun and interesting people we have ever known. Rock your intellect and sense of humor is unmatched. We will miss you my friend.*

*Lesley and Paul Robert*



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**Lesley robert** - October 31, 2011 at 10:45 AM

WM

“ Maggie thanks for the call. I have been thinking about my call with Rocky Tuesday. I can say that he was looking forward to the future and there was no indication anything was wrong. He was aware of his health issues but was dealing with that as he dealt with everything . I have read all of the tributes to Rocky and know he would be pleased. I was there for the FiFi incident and it was better than could be written or told. Please keep in touch, I will miss my good friend. Billy Mock

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**William H. Mock** - October 31, 2011 at 09:50 AM

VB

“ Maggie, I am so sorry for your loss... Please let me know when you will be close so we can catch a visit. I have missed you and Rock... He was one helluva guy... just never knew what was next... Your friends on the farm, Vikki and Barbara Brogdon

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**Vikki Brogdon** - October 31, 2011 at 08:42 AM

ME

“ I'm Maggie's nephew, and it was my pleasure and privilege to know Rocky for more than 20 years. As anyone reading this likely knows, he had a great sense of humor, a wonderful laugh, and the world's most highly calibrated BS detector. He was scary smart, a generous gentleman in true Southern tradition, and a gourmand in every sense of the word. My wife and I have so many great memories of visiting Rock and Maggie on Lake Dogwood, and of taking our kids to visit Georgetown. I love him, I miss him already, and thanks to him I will never be able to keep a straight face if I hear the name Fifi (Maggie, I hope you remember that story).

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**Matthew Eliot** - October 31, 2011 at 04:50 AM

PP

“ Rock(y) wrote ". . . and i have always said (and i believe) that there are lots worse things than dying and it's something everyone is going to do once. until then, i'll just live my life. i've led a remarkable life" to me on Thursday, October 20, 2011, 7:32 AM.

*Patrice Page*

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**Patrice Page** - October 31, 2011 at 03:00 AM

JB

*Hello Patrice!*

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**John Black** - November 01, 2011 at 08:43 AM

RC

“ Roy & Anne Clauson lit a candle in memory of Richard Bradford, III



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**Roy & Anne Clauson** - October 30, 2011 at 11:19 PM

BG

“ i met Rock in 1975. his intellect, wit and charm led to a fast deep friendship. many times we would have conversations all night which went off in tangents which no one else could follow, if they cared to. Rock advised me that i needed to visit Key West, that i really belonged there. He also told me, "wait until you meet Beverly, you will just love her." Thirty five years later Bev and I are still together in key west. i recently reconnected with Rock on facebook, and was so looking forward to seeing him again. As Rock once told me Carpe Diem! ...God is a fish :) RIP my friend. bill goldner

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**bill goldner** - October 30, 2011 at 06:39 PM

KH

“ We met Rock and Maggie in the home of our best friends, Ronnie and Pat, and instantly liked them both. Rock had an easiness about him that just drew you in. He invited us to see their boat in Georgetown before their departure, which we did. We were envious that they were doing something so adventurous. We are glad we had the opportunity to meet him. Salute! Danny and Kathy Hall

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**Kathy Hall** - October 30, 2011 at 06:06 PM

KW

“ Halloween 2009@ Luperon Yacht Club...Rock's costume shocked the guests....he was in his glory and grinning from ear to ear.



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**Kim Watsonn** - October 30, 2011 at 05:20 PM

PB

“ I am so happy I had the chance to spend time w/Rock and Maggie before they left SC, visiting them both in their home and boat. The last time I saw Rock, Ronnie and I had him and Maggie for dinner in our home. Very fond memories. Heres to Rock!!!  
*Pat Botti*

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**Patricia Botti** - October 30, 2011 at 05:14 PM

LJ

“ 4 files added to the album Dominican republic photos



Lisa Johnson - October 30, 2011 at 05:09 PM

ME

“ 8 files added to the album Dominican republic photos



maggie Eliot - October 30, 2011 at 03:44 PM

CJ

*When I was a little kid, people sometimes asked me who was my hero. I never had one back then -- did not meet him until the age of 50! Rock Bradford was my hero: veteran, smuggler, historian, adventurer - he had a thousand stories and I am very sad that I heard so few of them. He had just read a great tome on the history of Cuba and now I have to read it myself instead of getting him tell me about it :(*

Cade Johnson - October 30, 2011 at 08:29 PM

TA

*rocky,you are one of the toughest and classiest men i ever met. rest in peace my friend, tutone*

**thomas e. abelson** - October 31, 2011 at 09:55 AM

NG

*Maggie, I was so sorry to hear about Rock. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.*

**Nancy Brown, Georgetown,S.C.** - October 31, 2011 at 10:36 PM

RM

*Maggie, we we're so socked to hear about Rock's passing and you have our deepest sympathy! Rock was a good friend and I'll miss him a lot!*

**Rod & Kathy Miller** - November 02, 2011 at 09:16 AM

TU

*thinking of you maggie, hope you are ok. tutone*

**tutone** - November 11, 2011 at 08:32 AM