



Mark Joseph Forster

May 15, 1967 - May 3, 2025

Mark Forster

May 15, 1967— May 3, 2025

Dr. Mark Joseph Forster, age 57, of Buford, Georgia, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, May 3rd after a courageous battle with ALS. Mark was preceded in death by his parents and his older brother, Steven. Born on May 15, 1967, in West Allis, Wisconsin, Mark was the beloved son of Donald Joseph Forster and Marcia Krueger Forster. He was raised in Gwinnett County and graduated from Dacula High School in 1985. Mark continued his education at the University of Georgia and went on to earn his Doctorate with Honors from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee. Mark began practicing optometry in Lawrenceville, Georgia, in 1993 and, in 2001, founded Forster Eyecare. He served his patients with unwavering dedication and compassion for more than two decades. Throughout his career, Mark built lifelong friendships and earned the deep respect and affection of his colleagues, patients, and community.

Mark was the president of the Gold Key International Optometric Honor Society and a recipient of the Ciba Vision Contact Lens Achievement Award. He was also a four-time recipient of the Southern College of Optometry Outstanding Clinician Award. Dr. Forster was board certified by the American Board of Optometry and was a member of the American Optometric Association, the Georgia Optometric Association, and the American Academy

of Orthokeratology and Myopia Control. In 2022, Mark was recognized by Newsweek as one of the Top Eye Doctors in America.

Mark will be fondly remembered for his intelligence, quick wit, determination, unwavering strength, and, above all, his kindness and generosity toward others. A lifelong sports enthusiast, he found joy in playing, coaching, and mentoring young athletes. He also enjoyed a good round of golf, traveling, and spending quality time with the people he loved most.

He is survived by his loving wife, Lena Paul Forster of Buford; his sister, Judy (Mike) Owens of Social Circle; his brothers, Dan (Jennifer) Forster of Social Circle and Duke (Michele) Forster of Winder; grandsons, Jake and Sam, as well as many cherished nieces, nephews, extended family members, and close friends.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home with Reverend Duke Forster officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Friday, May 9, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **9**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Flanigan Funeral Home
4400 South Lee Street
Buford, GA 30518

Memorial Service

MAY **10**. 2:00 PM.

Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home

Tribute Wall

RB

“ I learned of Mark’s passing today. After reading through all the kind words that his family, friends, patients, coworkers and acquaintances have written here I don’t know what else I can say. Every word rings so true about this wonderful fellow human being. I counted Mark as my friend also. As a doctor he gave his undivided attention to every single patient that he treated. We were his family-of-patients and we all felt that rare and genuine gift that he possessed which connected us to him. I will miss our time together and the way he cared for me. I will miss his quick wit, his humor and his sometimes cynical laugh....all so unique to this special, unforgettable man. For now, I will pray to our Lord to grant comfort and peace to all those enduring the loss of this and generous man. And Mark...I will look forward to seeing you again, my friend, when my time comes.

Richard Busacco - August 05, 2025 at 01:41 PM

TW

“ There are not many times that people look forward to going to a doctor, any doctor. But every year I looked forward to my annual checkup with Dr Forster. I knew we would chat and catch up with each other and just see what was happening in life. Every year I looked forward to that. I always wished I could have 6 month checkups just because I loved going. I knew the last time I saw him he wasn't feeling well but his attitude was still the same-he had the same smile and we had the same chat. I will miss my yearly visits with him but to know that he is healthy and free of what ails him brings me happiness. My thoughts are with his family, his friends and his work family who I am sure miss him terribly. May his memory be a blessing.

Toni Wyman

Toni Wyman - June 10, 2025 at 11:09 PM

NN

“ I'm shocked to learn of the passing of my friend and classmate from optometry school. Mark & I shared many fond memories navigating our way through school, sports, business, and life. I still remember our late nights studying together, often times with our fellow classmates Jana, Robin, Brad, Eric and many others...He was a wonderful person, and feel anyone that knew him was usually touched by his enthusiasm, humor, sincerity, and hard not to follow his lead as a true servant leader. My last great memory with him was when I visited him and our time together while showing me the beautiful view of his city while standing atop Stone Mountain. I miss you Mark and know you will be greatly missed! May your family know that your spirit and memories will live forever in many of us. God bless you and your family.
Dr. Nolan Ng

Nolan Ng - May 18, 2025 at 12:47 PM

AC

“ Dr.Forster

*Doctor is just the beginning to describing the man he is
Rare in that I have not met another doctor since that invested in his
craft and love for optometry but also his team to grow right along
with him*

*Fearless to be the first doctor to try a new device or equipment to
better his patient care*

*Observant in wanting to be apart of every section of the office and
understanding their flow. He was not a doctor to just sit back and
you never saw him*

*Resilient in never allowing challenges stop him and the care for his
pts. Covid was truly life changing for everyone and even more so for
a business owner. He never wanted to stop giving the best care for
his pts, at the same time not neglecting the safety of his employees
Sincere in caring about his employees. He treated each one of us
as family. He got us all books to learn how we received and express
work love languages to understand us all better.*

*Tenacious is definitely Dr.Forster. When we had his mind set on
how something could be done , he was determined to see it through
to the end. Great example of not going to give up.*

*Educated without a shadow of a doubt. I truly feel like if he was not
a doctor he would be an English professor. His way with words or
ability to put together a bio, or explanation of benefits for new
technology is like no other.*

*Real. He also stayed true to himself. You know he was always going
to have cash because CASH IS KING. And he always was down to
have a good time with having a great conversation and might be
able to get a little dance.*

Dr.Forster is definitely more than a doc.

*I will be forever grateful of you giving me an opportunity to work for
you for six years. Love you doc*

Armani Chapman - May 10, 2025 at 08:33 AM

DM

“ Oh how we have missed and will continue to miss Dr Forster. We met him at Dr Tonge Office back in 1993. I believe he had just come out of school and was taking over the practice. He was so funny and kind and took actual time with his patients to talk and catch up from the previous years visit. We live in Stone Mountain, but we always made the trip out to his offices because he was so thorough and kind. On our last visit to his office on the way home we were saying that we hope to see him the next year as we did not know that he had been ill. When we received words of his passing, we were so very sad and prayed for both he and his family. May he rest in peace and our condolences to his family.

David and Karla Moody. - May 09, 2025 at 12:29 PM

CC

“ I am saddened by the loss of Mark. I only knew him for years as my eye doctor, who talked my ear off at every dr. visit. Just a few years ago, I did the lawn for him and Lena when they moved into their new home. I was able to get to talk to him but it was pretty much the same type of conversations. He cared about getting to know who YOU are in the doctor's office and out of the doctor's office. You are already missed dearly. Lena and family, I am praying for you.
Love, Carlena, Patrick and Blake Collins

Carlena Collins - May 09, 2025 at 09:31 AM

KB

“ Mark was my second cousin. While I only knew him as a kid, he was a wonderful, fun and funny kid. Always so full of life. I have so many memories of him when he was a kid. My sincere condolences to his family and friends, for your loss. I'm so happy he was a spiritual man because I'm sure he's gone to his reward.
Kristi ELSTAD Bradford.

Kristin Bradford - May 08, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ *To say Mark was a good man would be an understatement—an insult, even—because he was simply wonderful.*

As my boss for six years, Mark taught me so much, both professionally and personally. He wasn't just a leader—he was a friend. We shared stories and laughter every day, along with the inevitable trials that life throws our way.

Mark genuinely cared and never hesitated to help. When my car broke down on the way to work, he went out, bought oil, picked me up, and got me back on the road. That was Mark—kind, generous, and always there when you needed him.

I'll always remember his laugh, his smile, and the intensity in his voice when he spoke about something he was passionate about.

Mark was a legend. And he'll never be forgotten.

Megan Brown - May 07, 2025 at 03:26 PM

DO

“ *He was an amazing boss and friend. Humble and kind. Will always remember Spanish lessons. MJF will be dearly missed!*



Daniella Ortega - May 06, 2025 at 10:51 PM

RC

“ We met Mark when he first came to Hebron. He often shared the row with us at worship and became friend and then became our eye doctor. When we moved, I know he blocked extra time when we came for our check up so we could catch up. He was a good man and a good friend. He will be missed greatly. Our love and prayers go out to his family.

Richard and Judy Clay - May 06, 2025 at 08:23 PM

CC

“ I remember play softball and baseball with him and his brother Duke when I was in high we play ball for Hebron Church



Christy Chumbler - May 05, 2025 at 09:56 PM

JH

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Mark's passing. I was one of this longest customers. I was with Jack Tonge and he passed me to Mark one month after Mark started at that practice, fresh out of school. I thought the world of Mark both professionally and as a friend and had many fond talks with Mark about his brother Duke (one of our pastors at Hebron in the 90s and forward). We talked about everything from sports cars to guns... I will greatly miss him and our thoughts and prayers are with his family

Joseph Hardee - May 05, 2025 at 06:00 PM

TW

“ Dr. Forster was the only eye doctor our boys ever knew. He became our family optometrist in 1994 when our youngest was just a baby. His first office was with Dr. Tonge right across from Central High School. You couldn't ask for a better doctor, so knowledgeable, I enjoyed our conversations whenever we were there. We followed him to his office off of Hurricane Shoals. We all loved him and his staff. He was one of the good guys. So sorry he has gone so soon. Prayers for his family and friends. Terri, John, Jonah and Daniel Wical, patients for 30 years.

Terri Wical - May 05, 2025 at 05:59 PM

CS

“ To the Forester family and many friends of Mark I am truly sorry for our loss to know him was to love him I knew him and I loved him , as a teenager he spent time in our home ,as a Doctor he was caring,and compassionate we always caught up when I went in for my eye appointments.
I have already missed him and his sweet smile.
Until we meet again my sweet friend and I have no doubt we will RIP

Charlotte Smith - May 05, 2025 at 05:50 PM

PO

“ What an amazing man and grandfather. He will be so very missed. 💕



Polly - May 05, 2025 at 05:25 PM

KC

“ *Mark will be dearly missed by this family. I was a patient and friend for almost 18 years and my children for years. I will think of him fondly always. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

Katen W. Toller, AEMT, CCA - May 05, 2025 at 05:15 PM

LH

To: The Forster Family. I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. Forster, was my Eye Dr., for almost 25 years. He will be truly missed. My prayers & thoughts are with the family & Staff at Forster Eye Care.
Laynora Hill

Laynora Hill - May 06, 2025 at 10:24 PM

LC

Gina and Gary told me of Marks passing. My thoughts and prayer for each of you. God bless you. Linda Cox

LINDA Cox-HAWKINS - May 12, 2025 at 12:48 AM

KP

Just heard about Dr. Forster's passing. He has been my family's eye doctor for over 10 years, and was the kindest, most compassionate person. Thank you, Dr. Forster, for your service. To me, you were the best eye doctor. I will miss you. It will not be the same going to your office. I wish you a peaceful journey.

Keecia P. - May 13, 2025 at 08:11 PM