



## Andrew Layne Leath

September 8, 1954 - January 9, 2021

Andrew Layne Leath, 66, went to be with the Lord on January 9, 2021. Andy was born to Robert O. Leath and Gretchen (Ford) Leath on September 8, 1954 in Tyler, Texas and lived there most of his life. He was proud of being a seventh-generation Texan. He attended Bell and Birdwell Elementary Schools, Hubbard Junior High and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1973. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Engineering and worked in Quality Control for Carrier, Rex-Hide, and General Dynamics where he recently retired. Andy had a lifelong love for history and returned to receive his Masters in History from Stephen F. Austin State University. He was an active member of the Smith County Historical Society and East Texas Historical Society. He served as an officer in both groups and regularly contributed articles and presentations. He did extensive research on his family genealogy and collaborated on numerous family books. He enjoyed meeting and keeping up with family all over the country. Andy also loved music and in his 30s, he shared his beautiful voice with the Reach Out Singers that toured churches in the midwestern United States and Europe. He was also in choirs and worship groups at Grace Community Church and Green Acres Baptist Church.

Andy was preceded in death by his father and is survived by his mother and siblings, Roxanne Kasiraj (Chander) of Spring, Texas, Randy Leath (Karen) of Abilene, Texas and James Leath (Melanie) of Tyler. He poured a lot of time and love into his nieces and nephews who will miss him greatly: Emily, Adam

(Ashley), Rebecca, Alyssa (Daniel), Renee, Catherine, Joanna, Aimee (Matt) and Virginia.

Graveside service will be held Friday, January 15, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Pine Springs Cemetery with Chaplain Elwood Stetson officiating under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Burial

JAN 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Pine Springs Cemetery  
4535 CR 328 East  
Tyler, TX 75708

# Tribute Wall

JL

“ I have just learned of Andy’s passing and am so sorry to hear of it. I did know Andy personally, but we corresponded about genealogy occasionally for almost twenty years. He was a great help to me and a role model for me. My most lasting memory of Andy will be how willing he was to freely share his knowledge. Although we shared a surname, we were not related. With condolences to his family and friends, Jack Leath.

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**Jack Leath** - July 10, 2021 at 03:01 PM

TA

“ Andy sought me out as a senior mentoring a college sophomore via InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in the late 70s. We only had one semester together, but he had a deep impact on my spiritual life. He graciously agreed to sign at our wedding in 1986 and I will always remember his careful approach to theology and truth and the beauty in the world. He loved chasing and documenting history in those days and now completes that record in the lives of many. Thank you, Andy - well done.

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**Tom Albers** - March 10, 2021 at 07:11 PM

DN

“ Crazy college adventures as roommates, road trips, museums, Broadway plays, late night conversations. Thank you my friend. My life is diminished by your absence. I am sorry we didn’t get to grow old together.

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**david nicols** - March 06, 2021 at 11:40 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Andrew Layne Leath.*



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January 15, 2021 at 10:51 AM



“ *Andy was my first Discussion Group Leader in Men's Bible Study Fellowship in 1984. We became fast friends and have remained so since. He has always been the brother I never had. He has been a true friend and cannot be replaced. We will continue our friendship in heaven one day.*

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**Chris R McCurry** - January 15, 2021 at 09:57 AM



“ *I have known Andy practically all my life. In this photo I am the little girl in front and Andy is directly in front of me in Sunday School at Marvin Methodist Church. We reconnected in high school and were very close buddies. While our lives took us on different paths, I always hoped we would be able to visit again. Now I guess it will be on the other side.*



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**Cherry Ann Greer Hardin** - January 14, 2021 at 07:21 PM

TK

“ Andy will be missed. He was a good friend and Brother in Christ. I miss the days singing together in the male quartet at Grace Community Church and wandering the streets of Rome together on the GABC choir trip. Until we meet again.  
Terry Koch

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**Terry Koch** - January 14, 2021 at 06:24 PM

TK

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Terry Koch** - January 14, 2021 at 06:14 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Andrew Layne Leath.



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January 14, 2021 at 02:23 PM

LR

“ I was part of a group with Andy as well as attending GABC with him. He was just the nicest person. Always friendly, concerned for others. I am so very sorry for your loss. Prayers for your family.

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**Lori Rayon** - January 14, 2021 at 08:44 AM

MF

“ I really didn't have the pleasure to meet Andy in person, but due to an Ancestry page we found out that we shared the same grandfather. I didn't know that much about my grandmother and grandfather Howard. He helped give me some info on that and I will be forever grateful for that. Thanks to Nelwyn Davis for helping with that connection. I am truly sorry for the loss of Andy. Much prayers, Marjorie Feland. My mother was Jessie Lee Howard Ray.

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**Marjorie Feland** - January 13, 2021 at 11:49 PM

TA

“ I am stunned. Had no idea. I first met Andy at A&M where we were involved with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. He was one of the kindest, wisest, and most spiritual of people I knew. He was one of the leaders in the group and one who had such great wisdom. Connected later at Green Acres Baptist. Though I did not see him often, I remember our last conversation was in the choir room. He mentioned the young men he had been discipling and I thought how he was just continuing on as he had done at college. Such a fine man. Wish I would have had more times with him. We will catch up in our heavenly home! God bless the family as I know they mourn his loss here.

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**Terry Aycock** - January 13, 2021 at 08:06 PM

RF

“ I first met Andy through the Singles group at Grace Community Church here in Tyler. He was a good friend of especially my brother David. Andy was just a year older than David and since they were both Aggies they became fast friends! I did not live in Tyler during those days but moved here from Abilene in 1994 at which time I became better friends with Andy through the East Texas Genealogical Society. He was a tremendous Genealogist and helped our organization in many ways with all his knowledge of the history of Smith County! I have recently enjoyed singing with Andy in the Green Acres Church Choir. He had a wonderful tenor voice! I thank Andy for all the lives he touched with the love of Jesus and his love of people.

*I am proud to say that he was my friend!*

*Rick Featherston*

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**Rick Featherston** - January 13, 2021 at 04:22 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Andrew Layne Leath.



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January 13, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Vicki Betts** - January 13, 2021 at 12:39 PM

TH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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Tom Hickey - January 13, 2021 at 12:07 PM

MD

“ To Gretchen, we are praying for you. dDan & Marie Dusek

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marie dusek - January 13, 2021 at 10:36 AM

TR

“ I recently reconnected with Andy at our Robert E. Lee 45th reunion in 2018. We also attended Bell elementary together. It was such a pleasure to talk with him awhile at the reunion and as adults, as I had not seen him since high school. While happy for where he is now, our world is a bit dimmer losing his presence. My heart goes out to the family and especially Roxanne. Losing your twin makes it extra sad. May God comfort all of you.

*Teresa Connally Roberson*

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Teresa Connally Roberson - January 13, 2021 at 10:20 AM

TQ

“ I had the pleasure of working with Andy at Rex-Hide Industries for several years and later in life we lived a few streets apart in the same neighborhood. Andy could carry a conversation relating to many topics. Even though Andy was very well educated, he never came across like he was talking down to anyone. Andy was educating people just with the general conversations he was having with them. I feel very fortunate to have had the pleasure to know him.

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**Tracy Quinton** - January 13, 2021 at 09:44 AM



“ My memories of Andy go back to Robert E. Lee High School, Mr. Wyche's Honors American History class, and they come up to the first part of this month when we were wrapping up the newest issue of *Chronicles of Smith County, Texas*, as co-editors. He had found one more filler photograph to use at the end of an article. We had worked all year together but only on the phone and online due to COVID and his health. His knowledge of Smith County history was phenomenal, and if he ever wanted to give up engineering he could have made it as a superb landman--he could make those deed and probate records sing! I would swear he knew at least half of the "begats" of nineteenth century Smith County. He is not replaceable, either as a person or as an historian.

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**Vicki Betts** - January 12, 2021 at 10:48 PM

SF

“ Andy was one of my closest friends when I returned home from college. We met at Friday Night Fellowship through Grace Community. The group met at Tom & Linda Maddon's home and lifelong friendships were established in this group. I look back on those days as some of the best times in my life. I remember Andy's easy going manner and genuine caring for others making him loved by all. What fun he was to be around!  
His sincere love for his Lord, his varied interests in anything historical and his kindness will always stand out in my memories of him. As the years sped by, I lost track of Andy and deeply regret not making contact with him these latter years. Rest in peace my friend. You will be missed. I look forward to catching up with you one day!  
Susan Forsgard

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**SUSAN FORSGARD** - January 12, 2021 at 10:12 PM

MW

“ Andy has been such a great friend and Brother in Christ for my years at Green Acres Baptist Church. He so loved to sing and we have many great memories of all of our times together. He would meet us for dinner at church on Wednesday nights, go by to visit his Mom and meet us back for choir practice. We could see how much he loved his Mom! I will be looking for him in Heaven one day when we will sing together again praises to God! We love you Andy!  
Mallory Walden

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**Mallory Walden** - January 12, 2021 at 02:30 PM

KJ

*I can't remember when I met Andy, but can't remember not knowing him, either. What a fine, fine man. I hadn't seen him for about 15 years; he just came to mind this evening, and in doing a search for him I found he's no longer with us. I'm sad that you're gone, Andy.*

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**Kathleen Jarvis** - June 10, 2023 at 02:04 AM