

Andress, Edwin Leroy

1933-2023

By Donna Bean | Published on August 16, 2023

Edwin Leroy Andress of Conroe — affectionately known to friends as "Leroy" and cherished as Papu, Peepa, and Papa by his family — passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, just before the age of 90. Funeral services were Saturday, Aug. 12, at the White Family Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Martinez officiating. Burial was at Sunset Cemetery in Sunset. Family received friends prior to the service at the funeral home on Saturday. Leroy was born on Aug. 13, 1933, to William K. and Clara (Hale) Andress in Wheeler County. He was a beacon of love, honesty and genuine warmth to all who had the privilege of knowing him. In the countryside of Sunset, Leroy not only grew alongside his family working on the farm but also harbored a profound love for animals. From a tender age, he rode and even broke horses, forming a bond with animals that reflected his resilient and compassionate spirit. These early experiences in Sunset would lay the foundation for the courage he showed as a young soldier in the Korean War. Serving four commendable years in the United States Army, Leroy faced several intense battles. Despite being injured multiple times, he showcased an exemplary spirit

by leading his men with bravery. By the tender age of 20, he achieved the rank of First Sergeant, a testament to his commitment and valor. While some say he was possibly the youngest First Sergeant in the Army at the time, Leroy, ever humble, would gently remind that such claims were never officially verified.

On Aug. 23, 1953, Leroy began another beautiful chapter of his life by marrying Katherine. Their love story, spanning 70 years, was an embodiment of commitment, patience, and endless affection. Together, they navigated life's highs and lows, raising two remarkable boys, Ronnie and Charles.

Leroy's post-army career as a traveling salesman not only supported his family but also enriched his life with numerous tales from almost every state in the lower 48. From the hustle of cities to the calm of countrysides, and even crossing the Mexican border, there was scarcely a place he hadn't been. His keen memory and impeccable sense of direction often amazed those around him. However, no matter where his travels took him, he always cherished coming back home to Katherine. In the later decades of their life, they were inseparable, finding contentment in each other's company.

Leroy was a man of steadfast traditions. Every year, without fail, he looked forward to attending fishing lodge with his buddies. With equal enthusiasm, he cherished his annual vacations to Branson, Missouri, with Katherine and friends — a tradition that highlighted his love for simple joys and quality time with loved ones. Leroy held an unbroken record of never missing a Super Bowl since its very inception.

Throughout their journey together, Leroy and Katherine made memories in Sunset, Odessa, Hurst, Lake Fork, and Conroe. In addition to his personal accomplishments, Leroy dedicated himself to the service of others through his involvement as a Freemason. His exceptional service was recognized with a Golden Trowel award from the Grand Lodge of Texas, and he held the esteemed position of Master of Tannehill Lodge.

For his grandchildren, Leroy's presence was a haven of joy. Always ready to play, listen, or indulge, he created a space of unconditional love and warmth for them.

Leroy's legacy continues through his family, as a father of two, grandfather to five, and great-grandfather to 13. His life was a testament to hard work, integrity, and unwavering love. We honor the memory of a true hero, not just in war but in life. His stories, laughter, and wisdom will be dearly missed but forever cherished in the hearts of those who knew him.

Leroy is survived by his wife, Katherine Andress; sons, Ronnie Andress and Charles Andress; grandchildren, Beth Fox, Heather Haynie, William Andress, Chase Andress, and Taylor Andress; great-grandchildren, Nick, Andrew, Eli, Emma, Brigham, McKell, Molly, Ellie, Brooks, Bryles, Cambrie, Garrett and Harlow.

Arrangements are entrusted to the White Family Funeral Home of Bowie.	