



Robert David Andress

November 24, 1944 - November 1, 2023

Robert David Andress was born in South America on November 24, 1944, his birthname being Roberto Luna. For several years he lived on the streets, where he learned to play the guitar, spoons and harmonica. Missionaries, Dr. Paul and Lucey Andress, found Robert and eventually adopted him when he was about the age of 12, his father was the director of a school run by the mission. He worked for a time at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri. He spent much of his 20's in San Francisco, where he enjoyed playing and listening to all kinds of music and favored the life of a beatnik; jazz was his favorite music, but he capably played all kinds. He also made the acquaintance of a friend, Frances, who remained his dear friend for several years.

In his 40's and 50's Robert lived in Ashdown, AR with his mother after the death of his father. He tutored Spanish-speaking students in Ashdown Schools. Robert also worked at the Texarkana College radio station. His mother was very interested in nutrition and taught her son to enjoy wholesome food, including wheat bread she made and sold. At her passing, Robert remained in her house until his later years. In his 60's Robert played in the Ashdown Senior Center Band, where he sang and played acoustic guitar and harmonica.

Robert was a writer; when he was in the hospital, he asked for paper on which he could put his thoughts. He wrote poetry, songs, and birthday cards. Anyone who was a special friend, treasured his drawings and his words on his cards.

He added verses to songs he loved, of which there are hundreds. He often sat outside his home playing and singing.

Robert's heart was always friendly, curious about things, humorous and accepting. He loved animals, especially his dog he named Bear.

Robert passed away peacefully in Ashdown on November 1, 2023 after struggling with health issues for years. He is preceded in death by his parents and a host of other special family members. He is survived by a host of cousins and his adopted family, Robin and Steven McAllister and their children.

A memorial service will be Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 2:00 at Ashdown Cemetery.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Ashdown Cemetery

Peyton Avenue

Ashdown, AR 71822

Tribute Wall

DT

“ I just found out Robert aka cat daddy past away. He was a great artist, loved to play music and loved his cats. every year we would all get a Christmas card specially made from him. Roberto you were one of a kind and will definitely be missed .. Dena Trevino

Dena Trevino - October 22, 2024 at 08:12 AM

SM

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of my good friend Roberto. He was a fixture at KTXK the Public Radio Station in Texarkana for many years. I knew and interviewed his mother long before I knew Robert as she was an author of healthy eating. Robert was a walking encyclopedia of West Coast jazz and would often regale us with the stories of his time out there.

He will be greatly missed rest peacefully old friend.

Steve Mitchell

KTXK CEO

Steve Mitchell - November 21, 2023 at 03:29 PM

BA

“ Hello! This is Byron Atkins and tight I just found out that Roberto has passed away! Very sad indeed! I believe it was 1.5 or 2 months ago I spoke to him by phone and I knew his condition was not good! I'm a guitarist and had know Roberto for 50 years or more. We had a lot of good times and he was great friends with my mother and father, Jerry and Bonnie Atkins. My email address is batkins46@outlook.com. May he forever rest in peace, RIP my dear friend Roberto! I live in Dickinson Texas with my wife Diah. We were very sad to hear this news!!

Byron A Atkins - November 20, 2023 at 11:34 PM

PL

“ He always wrote poem to people at the senior citizens. And they were sincere. Mostly at Christmas

Patsy little - November 06, 2023 at 02:00 PM

JG

“ So sorry to hear of Roberto's passing, he was a wonderful kind man met him years ago at senior citizens center he was always the same, he will be missed continued prayers for all who knew him ..

Jerlene Hemphill Grimes - November 03, 2023 at 02:05 PM

JG

“ Jerlene Hemphill Grimes lit a candle in memory of Robert David Andress



Jerlene Hemphill Grimes - November 03, 2023 at 01:59 PM

CM

I am so sad to hear of the death of my friend, Robert. He was unique in so many ways, loving music, poetry, art and animals. He had the kindest heart and a very different perspective on life in general. I enjoyed some of the poetry and songs he wrote and his visits to the Little River News office when I worked there. I am so sorry that I didn't keep in touch with him in the past several years and thus didn't know he was ill. I will say that I thought of him, just out of the blue, on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 4th and 5th, and felt the need to check on Robert. It made my heart hurt to find that he had passed on. Robert was a very special person and there are those of us who will miss him sorely. I already do.

carolyn myers - November 06, 2023 at 06:56 PM

FM

Sorry to hear of the passing of my friend Robert. I work at KTKX public radio and Robert was a devoted listener of our station. He loved jazz and would often call me and my brother Pat to talk about music and jazz and other programs that we had broadcast. We will miss him and condolences to his family.

Frank Miller - November 18, 2023 at 05:56 PM