



Joseph Andrew Merrill

SEP 22, 1960 - FEB 11, 2026



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Joseph Andrew Merrill

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Joseph Andrew Merrill, age 65, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, passed away Wednesday, February 11, 2026. He was born September 22, 1960 in Lansing, Michigan, to Eugene Merrill and Mary Clark Merrill, who preceded him in death.

Joe spent his early years in DeWitt, Michigan, where he enjoyed many friendships and made happy memories. In 1972, his family moved to Jonesboro, Arkansas. He graduated from Jonesboro High School in 1979, where he was awarded Best Draftsman in the school's vocational program. This recognition inspired him to pursue a career in mechanical engineering.

Throughout his career, Joe worked as an engineer for Superior Industries, Alumax, Gates Manufacturing, and Tyson Foods. He was respected for his knowledge, reliability, and steady presence, and he made friends everywhere he went.

In 1988, he married Judy Kever, and they moved to Fayetteville. In 1991, they welcomed their daughter, Josie. Named after her father, she inherited his big heart, sense of humor, and strong work ethic. He was immensely proud of her.

Joe and Judy shared 37 years of marriage. Their lives were full with careers in teaching and engineering and the joy of raising their daughter. Like many families, they believed retirement would bring long, quiet years together, and its brevity is deeply felt.

Joe loved his family above all else. He also loved music, time with friends, and sports, especially the Arkansas Razorbacks. He looked forward to taking Josie to the Roots Music Festival each year, and could often be found late at night listening to classic



Obituary

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rock. Through the ups and downs of Razorback football, he faithfully attended home games with his brother-in-law, O.B. Kever.

Joe Merrill was easy to like and impossible to forget. He made people feel comfortable, welcomed, and valued. The world is better for having had him in it.

Survivors are his wife, Judy Kever Merrill; a daughter Josie Leeann Merrill; his siblings, Anita Reagan (R.T.), Eugene Merrill (Nancy), Mary Merrill Tucker (Tommy); a brother-in-law, O.B. Kever, III (Shannan); nephews, Wynston Kever and Braden Jones.

Visitation will be from 4-6 p.m. Monday, February 16, at Nelson Berna Funeral Home in Fayetteville. Funeral mass will be 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 17, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fayetteville. Burial will be at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, February 19, at Oak Grove Cemetery in Wolf Bayou Community near Heber Springs.

For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the ALS Association (<https://als.org/arkansas>) in Joe's memory.




Events

Joseph Andrew Merrill

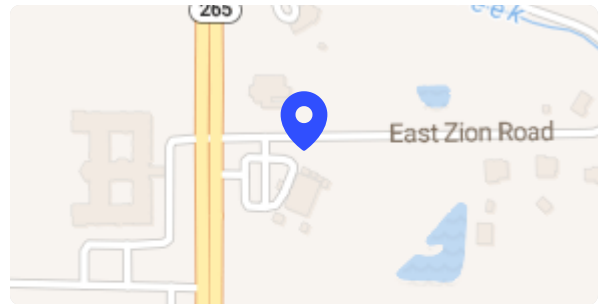
SEP 22, 1960 - FEB 11, 2026

Visitation


 **Monday**, February 16, 2026

 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM CT

 **Nelson-Berna of Fayetteville**
4520 N. Crossover Rd., Fayetteville AR 72703

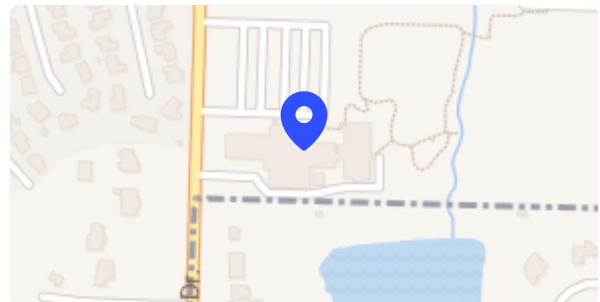


Funeral Mass

 **Tuesday**, February 17, 2026

 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT

 **Saint Joseph Catholic Church**
1722 N Starr Dr, Fayetteville AR 72701-2937





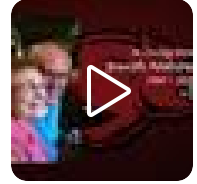
Tribute Wall

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Berna Funeral Homes shared a **Video**.



February 16 at 11:08 AM



Christian Bergeron posted:

My most sincere condolences to all in the family and friends. I worked with Joe at superior many years. He was my cubicle neighbor. We helped each other more times than I can count. I enjoyed his sense of humour very much...He was indeed a very good man.

February 16 at 5:12 PM



Yi & Eric sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Merrill family.



February 16 at 12:56 PM



Love, Randy And Chris Morrison sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Merrill family.



February 16 at 9:33 AM



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Merrill family.



February 15 at 9:59 AM



Love, Tarra, Aaron & Jordan sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Merrill family.



February 14 at 10:09 PM



Tribute Wall

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Tamara, Lydia, And Stevie sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Merrill family.



February 14 at 1:32 PM



Debbie P. posted:

Joe was one of the funniest and pleasant people I've ever known..I remember that it took me three months before I realized Joe had written 'Joe's Birthday' on my calendar at work every month of the year.My heartfelt condolences to Judy and Josie. ❤️

February 14 at 12:33 AM



Scott O. planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of Joseph.



February 13 at 4:15 PM



Dean And Janice Massey sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Merrill family.



February 13 at 2:21 PM



Dean And Janice Massey planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joseph.



February 13 at 2:21 PM



Chris Fitz posted:

Eternal rest grant unto Joe, O Lord,and let perpetual light shine upon him.May the souls of all the faithful departed,through the mercy of God, rest in peace.AmenSaint Joseph Knights of Columbus

February 13 at 2:01 PM



Tribute Wall

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Savannah K. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joseph.



February 13 at 12:06 PM



Bennett Mosteller posted:

Joe was very much like a second father to me and ive admired his wit, work ethics and the kindness and love he has for everyone in his life. Ive spent countless weekends staying at their house in my long friendship with josie since high school and he will be missed by so many. Im glad that I got to meet and learn so much from him growing up.

February 13 at 11:46 AM



Brian Garner posted:

Joe was my neighbor for the past 20 years or so. Always a smile and never a negative word about anything. Was saddened to hear of his diagnosis last year and now of his passing.

February 13 at 11:42 AM



Media

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Berna Funeral Homes shared a **Video**.

February 16 at 11:08 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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