



## Richard Valette Leach

March 6, 1948 - November 6, 2021

Richard V. Leach, age 73, of Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away, Saturday, November 6, 2021. He was born March 6, 1948 in Chillicothe, OH, a son to the late George Leach and Mabel Deeter Leach. Richard married the love of his life Pat Brannon in 1968. They welcomed the birth of their daughter Gretchen in 1976. Richard is well known for his thirst of knowledge. He wanted to share that knowledge with as many people as possible. Richard was a high school teacher for 22 years, instructing on the topics of French, German, World History and Economics. After retiring, Richard enjoyed reading, fishing, having coffee and conversations with friends and family at Barnes and Noble, and ultimately teaching again as a volunteer instructor at Lifequest of Arkansas.

Richard is survived by his wife Pat; his daughter Gretchen; and his brother Shannon. He was preceded in death by his parents George and Mabel Leach; his brother John; and his sisters Tommye and Ramah.

There will be a simple, informal service for family, friends and students on November 28th, 2021 at 1:00 pm at the Petit Jean Mountain Cemetery. Funeral arrangements made by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to Lifequest of Arkansas.

# Cemetery Details

## Petit Jean Mountain Cemetery

55 Trinity Loop  
Morrliton, AR 72110

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV 28. 1:00 PM (CT)

Petit Jean Mountain Cemetery  
55 Trinity Loop  
Morrliton, AR 72110

# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Valette Leach*

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January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *I was fortunate to work with Rick and Pat during their last few years at Bryant HS. We shared a love of baseball and I can still picture him in his Red Sox jacket. He was knowledgeable about all things and greatly respected by his students. My son Dylan took his class and credits him for having a profound positive impact on his life by inspiring him to become a life long learner. My condolences to Pat, Gretchen, and all who will miss him.*

*Jimmy Rogers*

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**Jimmy Rogers** - November 29, 2021 at 01:41 PM

DR

“ Rick was an erudite. He loved learning and was a wealth of knowledge. He enjoyed teaching and challenged his students to think. He was an excellent conversationalist with a sharp, witty sense of humor. There was never a dull moment when he was around!

Rick was widely traveled, and he had the ability to transport the listener to whatever country he was describing. He seemed particularly attracted to Lake Como when talking about Italy. One could almost see it through his eyes.

I was shocked and saddened to hear of his passing. Our paths had crossed only a few days prior in Little Rock.

Pat and Gretchen, I know you are experiencing a great sense of loss right now. I pray that the sorrow you feel now will soon be replaced by the lovely memories you have of this unforgettable man.

Debbie Rowan

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Debbie Rowan - November 14, 2021 at 09:08 AM

MT

“ I worked with Rick and Pat at Bryant High School. Rick was so smart, funny and kind. Pat would make shortbread cookies at Christmas time and Rick always brought me a zip lock bag full of cookies. He always had a story to tell and would let me when I messed up the daily announcements. Thinking of you Pat.

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Marilyn Thweatt - November 13, 2021 at 12:04 PM

RG

“ Rick and I taught at Bryant High School together for several years. He will be greatly missed but also fondly remembered by fellow teachers and former students.


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Richard Galbraith - November 13, 2021 at 10:10 AM

SP

“ Rick, Pat and I taught at Bryant High School for many years together. I always loved to talk with Rick, his knowledge and humor were always so interesting and refreshing. One of the memories they shared with me was when they lived in the northeast shortly after they were married and had no money they would splurge on weekend and get a coke and then quiz each other out if the encyclopedia. They were both very intelligent and a perfect fit for each. I had enjoyed seeing them at the high school retirees. lunches over the last couple of years.

Sandra Porter - November 13, 2021 at 07:56 AM

 Erin  
Leach  
Sinclair

“ I have many fond memories of Uncle Richard. When you were living here in AZ, he took us to our first movie in a theater. We went to see a new Pink Panther movie starring Peter Sellers. I didn't get all of it, but Uncle Richard was laughing hysterically. I remember going up to our cabin and carrying Gretchen as we walked around smelling the trees. We had learned in Girl Scouts that a lot of pine trees smell like vanilla, strawberry, or chocolate. I also enjoyed when ever he and Uncle Shannon came out to visit. There was nothing like listening to them and my dad talking, telling stories, and laughing together. Good times.

Erin Leach Sinclair - November 12, 2021 at 06:57 PM

SP

“ Rick and I taught at Bryant High School together for many years. Our rooms were next to each other. I have many happy memories of visiting between classes. When my students cooked, Rick always knew he would get some goodies. Since we have all retired we would see he and Pat at the Athletic Club at least once a week. I will miss our visits.

suzanne pidcock - November 11, 2021 at 03:17 PM

GB

“ Thank you Rick for sharing your love of knowledge with me and with students of LifeQuest. I enjoyed helping you get your audio visual ready for in-person classes and you casually strolling in at 3 minutes before the class started and giving me a heart attack each week. It was so nice when Gretchen joined you to help! A great relief for both of us, I'm sure. Then to watch you learn to teach via Zoom was an adventure too! I loved getting to know more about all the facts and pronunciations of places you taught about. You held such a plethora of knowledge but came across so casual. You were a really good teacher who really loved teaching. I am glad I got to witness it.

Thank you to Pat for sharing him with us. My prayers are with you and Gretchen.

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**Gina Bridges** - November 11, 2021 at 01:10 PM

BC

“ Such a beautiful person! He left a remnant of himself in our hearts that will never be forgotten. ❤️💕

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**Bernadette Cardenas** - November 11, 2021 at 01:02 PM

GN

“ Dad, there are a lifetime of memories we've shared. Too many to pick one to share here. I will keep fishing, hoping for the "big one", keep up your table at Barnes, and keep playing Wheel of Fortune...Boom!  
I love you more than words Daddy ❤️

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**Gretchen Nunez** - November 11, 2021 at 12:58 PM