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# Andrew Samuel Griffith Obituary

JULY 04TH 2012 BY STAFF WRITER

## Andrew Samuel Griffith Obituary

Andrew Samuel Griffith, known best as “Andy”, died Tuesday at age 86 in Manteo, N.C. Griffith was born in Mount Airy, N.C., on June 1, 1926, the son of Carl and Geneva Griffith.

He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and majored in music and graduated in 1949. He taught school for three years in Goldsboro, N.C.

He found summer work at the outdoor drama in Manteo. Griffith from 1949 to 1953, and appeared on the dinner club circuit as a comedian and singer.

Best known for his role as the top sheriff of Mayberry, Griffith inspired, created and starred in the 1960 debut of The Andy Griffith Show on CBS. In its final year, 1968, it finished as the No. 1 show on TV.

Griffith played the role of Sheriff Andy Taylor. His role was of a man of faith, who was a steady hand of positive wisdom and authority in small town America.

Even though Mayberry was filled with oddballs — a self-incarnated town drunk, “party girls” from Mount Pilot, a sweet aunt who made hazardous pickles for the fair — there was a fundamental nobility about the hometown and its characters.

There was always a certain dignity in Otis Campbell, integrity in the Darlins and Earnest T. Bass, "just due" for every bully, both young and old. Mayberry’s psyche was true to

life experiences filled with a good, wholesome religion, surrounded by complete Southern living.

The Andy Griffith Show has proven to be one of the most durable shows in television history.

“Our basic theme was love,” Griffith once said. “And understanding one another. And hoping the best for one another. Love.”

Originally cast into the comic role in the show, Andy Taylor quickly transitioned to the more serious role of sheriff with the addition of friend and costar, Don Knotts.

“And I never regretted it.” noted Griffith. “The straight man has the best part. He gets to be in the show and see it, too.”

Griffith became a producer in 1972 and acted occasionally until 1983, when he was stricken with Guillain-Barre syndrome. He recovered, and in 1986 produced the legal series Matlock.

Griffith married UNC classmate Barbara Edwards in 1949, and their union lasted 23 years. They adopted two children, Andy and Dixie. His son died in 1996.

In 1973, he married Solica Cassuto and they divorced in 1981. He wed Cindi Knight in 1983. They spent his retirement near Manteo, on Roanoke Island.

His place on this earth will be missed by many but welcomed into the streets of Heaven.

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/images/Andy Griffith.png

### **Words of Wisdom from Andy Griffith:**

*“Do you know what a North Carolina Democrat is?”*

*Griffith said on the ad. “It’s somebody that sometimes votes Democratic and sometimes votes Republican — but always votes for the best man.” ~ Andy Griffith*

### **Family Remembrance:**

*“Andy was a person of incredibly strong Christian faith and was prepared for the day he would be called home to his Lord,” Cindi Griffith said in a statement. “He is the love of my life, my constant companion, my partner, and my best friend. I cannot imagine life*

*without Andy, but I take comfort and strength in God's grace and in the knowledge that Andy is at peace and with God."*

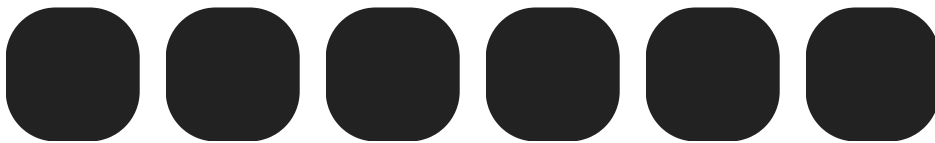
**Tweet By Ron Howard (Opie Taylor):**

*"Andy Griffith. His pursuit of excellence and the joy he took in creating served generations & shaped my life. I'm forever grateful. RIP Andy,"*

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## Ronald Reynolds

JULY 02ND 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Ronald Reynolds, son of Betty L. Denkins Reynolds Acton and the late E. J. Reynolds, was born in Poplar Bluff, Missouri on February 10, 1958, and passed away at his home near Dexter on July 2, 2012, at the age of 54.

He had lived most of his life in Dexter.

On June 24, 1989, he was married to Ruth McRoy in Bloomfield.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth Reynolds of Dexter; three sons, Matt Reynolds of Bloomfield, William Reynolds stationed in North Carolina with the U. S. Army, and Josh Reynolds of Dexter; two daughters, Amanda Cochran and Jennifer Watson both of Dexter; seven grandchildren; and two brothers, Don Reynolds and Rick Reynolds both of Bloomfield. Other family and friends also survive.

Visitation will be held after 11 a.m., Thursday, July 5, 2012, at Watkins and Sons Funeral Home in Dexter.

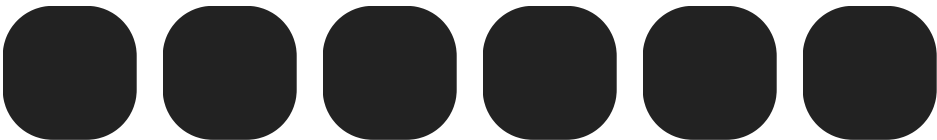
Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, July 5, 2012, at the Watkins and Sons Chapel in Dexter with the Rev. Jim Hook of Bloomfield officiating.

Interment will follow at the Walker Cemetery in Bloomfield with Watkins and Sons Funeral Service of Dexter in charge of arrangements.

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# Mary Doretta Hare

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JUNE 29TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Mary Doretta Hare, daughter of the late John Wooley and Rose Holmes Wooley was born on June 25, 1924 in Rockview, Missouri, and died on June 28, 2012 at the Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center in Poplar Bluff at the age of 88.

Mrs. Hare had been a member of the Harvest Assembly Church in Essex since 1959. She was a homemaker and a resident of Essex.

On April 28, 1950 she was united in marriage to James “Sonny” Hare in Piggott, Arkansas. Mr. Hare survives of their home in Essex.

Besides her husband she is survived by one son and daughter in law, Mike Hare and wife Pam of Bloomfield; by two daughters and sons in law, Angela Malloy and husband James of Essex and Regenia Williams and husband Danny of Essex; by nine grandchildren, Kim Sifford and husband Anthony of Dexter, Spencer Hare and wife Molly of Bernie, Tina Williamson, Stacy Pullum and husband Chuck, Rosanna Williams, Matt Malloy and wife Lauren, Eric Williams, Kirsten Williams and Mackenzie Williams all of Essex and by 11 great-grandchildren.

Besides her parents she was preceded in death by four brothers, J.D. Wooley, Harold Wooley, Loren Wooley and Bill Wooley and by three sisters, Gladys Tejada, Mildred Eifert and Doris Tejada.

Friends may call at the Rainey-Mathis Funeral Home in Dexter on Sunday, July 1, 2012 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Funeral services will be conducted on Monday, July 2, 2012 at 1 p.m. in the Rainey-Mathis Funeral Chapel with Rev. James Malloy and Rev. Larie Burdine officiating.

Interment will follow in the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Bloomfield.

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# Paul A. Dees

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JUNE 29TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

Paul A. Dees, son of the late Rev. Phillip Arthur and Josie Gertrude Myers Dees, was born in Perkins, Missouri on July 6, 1937, and passed away at the Heritage Gardens of Senath Nursing Home in Senath on June 27, 2012, at the age of 74.

He had lived all his life in Dexter. He was a member of the Gospel Assembly of God Church and the Bloomfield Masonic Lodge.

Surviving are three sons and spouses, Brad and Samantha Dees, Corey Dees all of Dexter, Kenneth and Donna Dees of Eldorado, Illinois; six grandchildren, Jamie Dees, Alicia Dees, Tayla Dees, Logan Dees, Clair Comfort and Wyatt Comfort; one sister and spouse, Virginia and Billy Summers of Dexter. Other family and friends also survive.

He was preceded in death by one son, Steven Dees, one brother, Tommy Dees, and two sisters, Eunice Busby and Ruth Ann Scott.

Visitation will be held on Monday, July 2, 2012, after 9:30 a.m. at Watkins and Sons Funeral Home in Dexter.

Memorial Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 2, 2012, at the Watkins and Sons Chapel in Dexter, with the Rev. Josh Hester of Dudley and Marion Fields of Dexter, officiating.

Interment will follow at the Missouri Veteran's Cemetery in Bloomfield with full Military Honors.

Watkins and Sons Funeral Service of Dexter in charge of arrangements.

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## Russ Busby

JUNE 28TH 2012 BY UNKNOWN

### Russ Busby

Russ Busby, 49, of Dexter, Mo. died Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at his residence.

Mr. Busby was born June 23, 1963 in Altus, Okla., and attended Calvary Baptist Church in Dexter. Mr. Busby previously owned and operated a drywall and insulation business in Dexter, and was a former rural mail carrier in Doniphan. He was a member of Masonic Lodge 209 in Poplar Bluff, as well as Masonic Lodges in Dexter, Bernie and Naylor where he was serving as Worshipful Master. Mr. Busby was also a member of the Moolah Temple, Three Rivers Shrine Club and AAD Grotto Lodge where he was serving as Chief Monarch. He was an active supporter of the C.M.A. Christian Motorcycle Association, and was President of the Riding Widow Sons Masonic Riding Group. Mr. Busby enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, hunting and fishing.

On Dec. 15, 1987, he married Leslie Clayton in Piggott, Ark. She survives.

Other survivors include a daughter, Erika Cobb of Arkansas; his mother, Elaine (Palmer) Busby of Rancho Palos Verde, Calif.; three grandchildren, Levi Cobb, Noah Cobb and Sophie Cobb; a sister, Barbara Busby of Hawaii; a brother, Ron Busby of Maui, Hawaii; his mother-in-law, Pat Clayton, of Dexter; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends

His father, Leon Busby preceded Mr. Busby in death.

A Masonic Service will begin at 5:45 p.m. Friday at Cotrell Funeral Chapel in Poplar Bluff with visitation following until 8 p.m. The funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday in the funeral chapel with Pastor Danny Collins officiating. Burial will be at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Poplar Bluff.

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