



Dan Lewis

July 30, 1940 - February 2, 2021

Dan Lewis, longtime Springdale resident, passed February 2 at the age of 80.

Dan was born in Weed, California, and grew up in DeRidder, Louisiana. His parents, Genevieve and Albert, worked in their retail store, the Standard Mercantile Co.

Dan lettered in high school football, basketball and track. A story he shared of when he and two teammates went to steal a watermelon from old man Shirley's field. Mr. Shirley was waiting and shot his shotgun in the air upon their arrival. They ran! Mr. Shirley later brought them each a melon with their names scratched on the side.

Dan spent high school summers working long hours for the Rural Electric Association through dramatic weather conditions. Dan's family was active in the First Methodist Church community. Dan was an Eagle Scout; a highlight was traveling by train to attend the National Boy Scout Convention.

Dan attended Louisiana State University, LSU, and joined Sigma Chi Fraternity making lifelong friendships. Dan earned a B.S. and a Masters of Education from LSU, completed an Administrative Intern Program at Tulane and received his Ed.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi.

After LSU graduation, Dan married his college sweetheart, Dolores. He then served as a teacher, coach, athletic director, administrative intern, and assistant principal in St. Bernard Parish, LA. While there, he and a friend built a fishing camp on Lake Bourgne that you could only reach by boat.

Dan served the Louisiana Department of Education for 25 years. As Director of the Bureau of Experimental Programs he managed federal education money, traveled statewide to school districts, and attended US Department of Education conferences.

Dan and Dolores retired to Springdale to be near their daughter, Leigh, son Dan, Jr. and grandchildren. Summer beach trips, and weekends playing at their grandparents home on Beaver Lake are the grandchildren's most cherished memories. Dan and Dolores became active in the First United Methodist Church, and Dan accepted leadership roles in the Bread of Life ministry, and served on the Board of Directors for the NW AR Food Bank. Wood working was a lifelong hobby of Dan's. He built a workshop at every home and his tool collection was extensive. Many of his friends urged him to sell his products, but he preferred to gift them. Cooking and grilling were other hobbies - his barbecue sauce was

legendary. Grilled chicken, jambalaya, shrimp etouffee, and crayfish boils were crowd favorites.

Dan is survived by his wife Dolores of 58 years, daughter Leigh Lewis Verucchi, son-in-law David Verucchi, three grandchildren Evan, Nicholas and Gabrielle Verucchi. Son Daniel Keith Lewis, Jr., daughter-in-law Krista, three grandchildren Eliza, Eleanor and Noel Lewis, as well as his sister, Kay Lewis Jones.

Memorial contributions may be given in his memory:

First United Methodist Church Bread of Life Ministry

Circle of Life Hospice in Springdale

Online condolences may be left at www.siscofuneral.com

Comments



“OMG!!! Dolores, Leigh, and Danny, I just learned of Dan's passing and am stunned.

Dolores, since we briefly talked in November, just before Thanksgiving, (and I had just tested positive for COVID), you and Dan have been on my heart. I am so sorry.

He was truly one-of-a-kind. He was so much more than a boss to me. He was like a big brother, a father, and my favorite teacher all wrapped into one. I still share with others my first day working for him and Ashley (my daughter) was three months old at that time. Dan told me to always remember that family comes first over the job, and one day, when Ashley would be involved in school activities or sports, that I better make sure to be there no matter what.

I knew then that God had placed me there and that Dan was one-of-a-kind.

Through the 20 years working for him, I felt like a part of your family. Leigh and Danny would come into the office and spend some time when not in school, and later when Danny was old enough to stay home by himself, he had to call and let me know when he was turning the stove on and then again when he had turned it off.....then watching them graduate, get married, and have children of their own.....beautiful memories.

Dolores, you and Dan have created such beautiful memories with each other and for others. You are blessed.

I love you and am here for you.

Clara Olinde

Clara Olinde - March 10, 2021 at 03:45 PM



“Dolores, I'm so sorry to hear of Dan's passing in the newspaper "The St. Bernard Voice" I worked with him in the St. Bernard Parish School System many years ago. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family in the difficult days ahead
Jacqueline Pace, Covington, LA

Jacqueline Pace - February 20, 2021 at 04:48 PM



“ Dear Dolores, I was so sorry to hear about Dan. Please give Leigh and Danny my love. My prayers and thoughts are with all of you. I hope the memories of of all the happy years and times you spent together will give you some comfort. Love, Susan Johnson

Susan Holloway Johnson - February 16, 2021 at 03:44 PM



“ Delores, Leigh and Danny. I'm so sorry for your loss. I worked for Dan or many years at the Dept of Education. He was certainly a great boss and friend. Marcia Little

marcia - February 15, 2021 at 08:29 AM



“ Deloris I am so sorry for your loss! Dan was a great guy and you all had many years together. One time I dreamed I misspent some title money and smoke was coming out of Dan's ears! So glad I woke up!

Betty Kraft - February 14, 2021 at 04:11 PM



“ Delores, I received email from Dean this morning and learned of Dan's passing. I am so sorry to hear this news. We didnt get to know him but Im sure he was a wonderful man. Doug and I send our sincere condolences. We will keep you in our prayers. Billie and Doug Farr

Billie Farr - February 11, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ Bet heaven is enjoying Mr Dan's smiling face at his wonderful crawfish boil. He will be missed. Prayers to his family

Gary Head - February 11, 2021 at 08:31 AM



“ Dan was a good man. I enjoyed seeing him at the church. He always had a smile on his face.

Rhonda Leslie - February 10, 2021 at 05:18 PM