



## Judge Jay T. Finch

June 19, 1946 - May 30, 2022

Judge Jay T. Finch, 75, Cave Springs

Judge Two Birds departed this mortal plane to be with his “Wheaties,” Beth, on Memorial Day. His life started in a military pup tent in Naturita, Colorado where his family worked in uranium mines. His childhood was volatile, moving constantly, in and out of foster care and church homes. He would have graduated high school in Grants, New Mexico but walked out in protest when his English teacher singled him out for a uniquely challenging senior paper. She underestimated her talented student’s stubbornness.

The Vietnam War seemed a better alternative to life as a miner, so he enlisted and served in Army intelligence from 1965-1969. The G.I. Bill made college possible for him. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Police Science and a master’s degree in Public Administration from New Mexico State. He married, became a Chief of Police, picked up the nickname “Two Birds” from a Navajo elder, and adopted his baby girl, Charlotte. Years later he met the love of his life, Beth, while their departments were investigating a homicide.

In his late thirties he enrolled in Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. Beth returned to her career in nursing and supported him through law school and the early years of his new career as an attorney. Their first son, Lucas, was born in Cleveland. Then they moved to Texas

where he passed the bar and Nathan was born.

Needing to be closer to family, they moved to Beth's family farm outside of Springdale, Arkansas. He and Beth became active members of First Baptist Church in Springdale, leading bible studies and mission trips. His growing family was complete after adopting David in 1995.

Jay served Benton County as a public defender, deputy prosecutor, and circuit court judge for over twenty years. As a judge, he created the first juvenile drug treatment court in Arkansas. He was a proud supporter of the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Jay spent a lifetime protecting and serving the most vulnerable in our society.

He found peace in the great outdoors and family dinners. Above all else, Jay loved spending time with Beth. She was his light, his motor, his compass, and his warmth. We are happy to know he has been returned to the one he loves.

Jay is survived by his brothers, Tom and Bruce; sister, Becky; daughter, Charlotte Finch and partner Nico; sons, David Finch, Lucas Finch, Nathan Finch and partner Barbara, as well as a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We will miss his wit and wisdom. Friends and family are invited to attend a wake for Jay on Friday, June 3rd from 5-7 p.m. at Sisco Funeral Chapel in Springdale. The memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 4th at 10 a.m. at Cross Church in Springdale, followed by a procession to White Oak Cemetery in Fayetteville for a brief burial service.

In lieu of sending flowers, the family encourages donations in support of the Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.com](http://www.alz.com)).



# Cemetery Details

## White Oak Cemetery

14510 White Oak Road  
Fayetteville, AR 72704

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel  
705 West Meadow  
Springdale, AR 72764  
(479) 751-4577  
siscofuneralchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.siscofuneral.com>

## Funeral Service

JUN 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

Cross Church - Springdale  
1709 Johnson Road  
Springdale, AR 72762

# Tribute Wall



“ Judge Jay T. Finch

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ Charlotte, Lucas, Nathan & David; sending condolences from the Vigil family in Las Cruces, NM. Your dad spoke so highly of you all that I had to remind myself the only one I knew personally was Charlotte as a toddler.

Jay, was a friend of 57 years, beginning in Grants, NM. I will miss our FB banter and his unique sense of humor. I am proud of our letters while I was attending NMSU and Jay was in Vietnam; he was always grateful. And, yes, Jay, you were right, I would not have liked being a police officer. RIP Jay, with your beloved Beth at your side.



Viola Vigil Holley - June 02, 2022 at 10:16 PM



As a former DHS Supervisor & Adoption Specialist in this area, Judge Finch made it possible to really care about children ! He placed many abused & neglected children into new Forever Families through adoption ! He was the best Judge I worked with & was always friendly ! His smile was the best ! May he rest in peace for doing a great job here on earth ! Debbie Phillips Matney, MSW

Debbie Matney - June 03, 2022 at 09:13 AM



“ Martha Wozniczka purchased the <https://www.siscofuneral.com/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518>; Memorial Trees for the family of Judge Jay T. Finch.

Martha Wozniczka - June 02, 2022 at 09:58 PM

LN

“ Jay spent time in our home while he worked on Governor Mike Huckabee’s state government efficiency team. During those evening discussions we always enjoyed his views on the world events. On my 50th birthday Beth and Jay decorated my front door and yard early that morning without waking us. As I leave for work what a surprise. As most can say that have enjoyed his homemade cherry pie. Jay will be missed.

Larry Nance - June 02, 2022 at 08:20 PM

MV

Jay Terry Finch was my friend. JT and I date back to early schooling thru Grants High School and NM State University in Las Cruces. Jay, myself and Chuck Sphar comprised the Grants Nerd Triumvirate, and lived on the edge, pushing limits and crossing frontiers with joyful abandon. There were fights and flights and all manner of stupid (in retrospect) tricks; like drag racing down 2 lane Route 66 in our parents cars and jumping off Bluewater Dam at night, after a beer or three, unable to see if there was actually water at the bottom on a dare. It's a minor miracle we made it out of adolescence, much less that we all straightened out long enough to build successful careers in Law, Medicine and Computer Science, exceeding the expectations of our teachers, peers and parents by far. Einstein and the Laws of Physics maintain that matter can neither be created nor destroyed; only changed in form.. I like to think that by that definition his ~13 billion year old atoms are still actively a part of our ?expanding universe. I can't wait to see to what form he will contribute; a sunrise, a flower in bloom, a bad joke, a red hued sunset, or even an atomic explosion. It was a good ride, and I will miss him. Death is the Final Frontier, the last big mystery. I wonder.....

Mike Vigil - June 03, 2022 at 01:38 PM