



Austin Steele

January 20, 1942 - April 13, 2023

Austin Leon Steele, 81, of Benton, Arkansas, passed away on April 13th, 2023. Leon was born on January 20, 1942, to Samuel and Pearl Bolinger Steele at Wharton Creek, Arkansas.

After graduating from Huntsville High School, he attended the University of Arkansas and went on numerous adventures. While working for Winthrop Rockefeller, he met Janie Haley in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and they were married in September of 1967.

In 1968-69 Leon served as a US Army sergeant in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service. Upon returning from Vietnam, he completed his bachelor's degree in Political Science at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and shortly thereafter began the start of a 22-year career at the US Department of Agriculture. In 1972, he and Janie had their only child, Haley.

After retiring from the USDA, Leon pursued his favorite hobbies such as golf and fishing but also followed his strong faith to become a minister for the Community Church of God in Benton, a nondenominational congregation. He was a strong believer in sharing the gospel and serving others throughout his life. He very much loved and was loved by his family.

Leon was predeceased by his parents, Samuel Webster and Pearl Bolinger Steele, and two brothers, Dwight Steele, and Dwayne Steele. He is survived by his wife, Janie Steele; their daughter, Haley Steele, and her fiancé, Richard Henry; one sister, Helen Steele Tait; and one brother and sister-in-law, Samuel Arthur and Lou Steele; as well as numerous beloved nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be 2:00 PM, Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at Steele Cemetery with David Standridge, Cecil Kraft, and Haley Steele officiating. Honorary pallbearers will be Richard Henry, Stacy Tait, Layne Tait, Rocky Steele, Doug Steele, and Cecil Kraft. Services are entrusted to Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory of Huntsville.

Cemetery Details

Steele Cemetery

180 MADISON 2761
Huntsville, AR 72740

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

Steele Cemetery
180 MADISON 2761
Huntsville, AR 72740

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Janie, When I read of Leon's death in the paper this morning I was so sad.I've been thinking about you so much lately and wondering how to contact you. Please have Sandra send me both your email or text addresses. My mom loved Leon. I'm not sure how they got to be friends--somehow thru work. She would mention him from time to time and really though a lot of him. My heart goes out to you, Haley, and Sandra.. I will be praying for you daily.
Your cousin, Joan

Joan Hemingway - April 18, 2023 at 07:11 PM

BM

“ He was a good man, a good friend to our Dad and our family.

Barbara Collins Mitchell - April 17, 2023 at 02:02 PM

CF

“ So sorry about your loss of your brother Leon. Love and prayers for you and your family.

Carol Fishel - April 17, 2023 at 01:31 PM

MH

“ Janie and Haley and all your family we send our Heartfelt Sympathy at the loss of your loved one. We enjoyed many years of friendship and activities with you all in WCG . May you be comforted at this time of sadness and in the days ahead. With prayers and thoughts of you, in Christian Love , Rick and Marinda Holliman

Marinda Holliman - April 17, 2023 at 01:23 PM