



## Ray Sanders Cryer

September 3, 1940 - January 1, 2021

Graveside services for Ray Sanders Cryer, of Rusk, will be held at noon Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, at Lone Dove Cemetery in Cherokee County, with retired Army chaplain Col. Sam Hopkins and Rob Arrington officiating.

Cryer, known best for his missionary work in Mexico, Haiti and India, died Jan. 1, 2021.

He was born in Houston, September 3, 1940, the son of Arlene and Raymond Cryer, and active in Scouting, ultimately achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Following graduation from Houston public schools, he served briefly with the U.S. Army, stationed in Korea from 1961-62. Cryer attended the University of Houston, where he received a bachelors degree in psychology, then attended the Warden School of Social Work at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

He worked as a probation officer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; served with programs at Houston's Ripley House in Houston; was a social worker for Galveston County Health Department; and a social worker at Rusk State Hospital, rising through the ranks to become director of the facility's transitional living unit. Cryer also was social worker with TDCJ.

He spent his life doing missionary work alongside his wife, Linda, traveling to Mexico, Haiti and India, providing medical supplies to people in small villages, and branching out to other projects, such as incorporating food-growing programs, road repair and establishing/improving water projects that benefited residents. He established the Cryer Foundation in the 1970s to help fund that work.

His book, "A Village Waits For You," published in 2010, describes his journey in adopting villages. A second book by Cryer is "Man Ark – The Cryer/Ford Chronicles," also was published in 2010.

In recent years, Cryer was recognized as a recipient of The Chapel of Four Chaplains award, a group dedicated to recognizing “ordinary people doing extraordinary things,” according to the website.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Linda Cryer of Rusk, and dear friends, Philip Atencio, the Jorge Cabrera Aké family and David Cabrera.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Good Samaritan of Rusk; H.O.P.E., 595 S. Ragsdale St., Jacksonville TX 75766; or to the East Texas Food Bank, 3201 Robertson Rd., Tyler TX 75701.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home of Rusk.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JAN 8. 12:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Lone Dove Cemetery  
979 Co Rd 1306  
Rusk, TX 75785-3870  
(903) 866-2385

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ray Sanders Cryer*

October 04, 2023 at 11:30 AM

LC

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Linda Cryer - January 09, 2021 at 01:00 PM

LC

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Linda Cryer - January 09, 2021 at 12:55 PM

LC

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Linda Cryer - January 09, 2021 at 12:51 PM

CI

“ *so sorry Linda Ann...he will be missed*

charles ingram - January 09, 2021 at 09:38 AM

NC

“ *Norm and I so regret we did not have the opportunity to get to know Ray. Our thoughts, prayers and love are with you.*

Norm and Susan Cumings - January 07, 2021 at 12:34 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Ray Sanders Cryer.*



January 06, 2021 at 07:09 PM

JI

“ *Ray was my big brother, my heart is broken. I will miss his smile, his laughter, and his and Linda's kindness and support. God be with us all.*

**Jim Coyle and Cathy Ingram** - January 06, 2021 at 09:24 AM

LC

“ *To the most profound, loving, nurturing man who grew up with me and always filled me with knowledge and original ideas. Linda M. Cryer, his first wife.*

**linda M. Cryer** - January 05, 2021 at 04:46 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Ray Sanders Cryer.*



January 05, 2021 at 03:14 PM

KI

“ *Keeping you in prayers during this difficult time. May he Rest In Peace.*



**Kim Ingram** - January 05, 2021 at 01:14 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Ray Sanders Cryer.*



January 05, 2021 at 01:13 PM

CH

“ Ray was always such a great man and so very nice to my children and I. His laugh was so boisterous that you could not help but at least smile.

Christine - January 04, 2021 at 02:22 PM

SW

“ Sandie Wood purchased the European Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Ray Sanders Cryer.



Sandie Wood - January 04, 2021 at 12:21 PM

PP

“ I had the pleasure of working with Ray on Skyview and at TDCJ. He made sure there was never a dull moment. He will most surely be missed. Prayers for Linda.

Pamela Parsons - January 03, 2021 at 11:13 PM

GJ

“ Ray was such a caring person. I will always cherish his friendship. Praying for the family especially for you, Linda.

Glenda Johnson - January 02, 2021 at 08:34 PM

SC

Linda, I am so sorry to hear this. Sending prayers for comfort!

Sherrie Carpenter - January 03, 2021 at 11:01 AM

LB

Prayers

Lydia Beathard - January 03, 2021 at 09:50 PM

CR

Sad to read of the passing of this gentle person. My Mother worked for him at RSH for a short time while she was in Texas, He was so kind to her. Always cherished his and Linda's friendship. Prayers to you Linda for his loss and the journey ahead.

Candace Reneau - January 04, 2021 at 11:16 AM

GM

Linda I know you will miss Ray. Prayers for comfort .  
Glenda Matthews

glenda matthews - January 05, 2021 at 05:52 PM

HC

*Ray was a good friend and good brother in Christ. I always loved talking with him and picking his giant brain for information. He spent most of his life, all day, every day looking for some way to help someone else. The list of people who know him and owe him is incalculable. It's time for all of us to step up our game, for Ray will be missed. Ray, you can rest now. We got this.*

---

**Howard Cox** - January 07, 2021 at 09:20 AM

MH

*Linda, I am a bit late in paying honor to Ray, but my heart is saddened to hear of his passing. I could think of nothing but fond memories as I remember him and his wonderful laughter. I had the pleasure of working with Ray for many years at Rusk State, and he was one of the most caring and unselfish people I have known. God Bless and Keep you, my friend.*

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**Mary Beth Hooper** - January 13, 2021 at 01:20 PM