



Ray Dennis Lau

August 10, 1946 - April 16, 2017

Funeral services for Ray Dennis Lau will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 20, 2017, at the Town and Country Christian Church with Pastor Paul Cole officiating. Interment will be 2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20, 2017, at the Canton IOOF Cemetery under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.

Ray Dennis Lau, son of the late Alvin and Viola Eleanora (Steigman) Lau, was born August 10, 1946, at Clinton, Oklahoma, and passed away April 16, 2017, at Alva, Oklahoma, at the age of 70 years, 8 months, and 5 days.

After Ray graduated from Clinton High School, he obtained his Bachelor of Education and his Master of Education Degree in English from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He then began his teaching career at Anadarko where he taught English for 3 years.

On May 25, 1968, he was united in marriage to Cherie Ann Garriott at the Canton Christian Church in Canton, Oklahoma. Ray and Cherie taught school at Anadarko until 1970 when they moved to Drummond. At this time, Ray became Librarian and English teacher while Cherie taught 2nd Grade.

Shortly after their marriage, Ray was drafted into the Army and was honorably discharged in 1968 after a hip ailment.

During the summers of 1969-1971, Ray attended library school at Emporia State University in Kansas, and two weeks later joined the faculty at Southwestern, serving as Cataloging Librarian and Instructor of Library Education.

Two sons were born to the couple, Marc Garriott in 1972 and Justin Ray in 1976.

In May, 1974, they moved to Alva, where Ray was appointed Library Director and Head of the Library Science Department at Northwestern. Ray enjoyed every single day of his career at NWOSU.

Ray served the Oklahoma Library Association in various capacities and the Northwestern community as Director of Libraries during a career spanning 29 years. As a member of the OLA, he served as chair of the Sequoyah Children's Book Award Committee from 1974-78 and as the association's treasurer from 1981-1983. He was elected to the Council of the American Library Association in 1984 and received the Distinguished Service Award as Councilor for the ALA in 1988.

During his career, Lau also served two terms on both the Advisory Board to the OU School of Library in Information Studies and the Governor's Conference on Libraries. He was honored with the OLS's Special Meritorious Service Award in 2003. In 2007, Ray, as well as Miss Duvall and Miss Gorman, were selected as recipients of the Oklahoma 100 Library Legends.

As a child, Ray was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church at Clinton and was later immersed at the Canton Christian Church. After moving to Alva, he and Cherie became Charter Members of the Town and Country Christian Church where he was a former Elder, Sunday School Teacher, VBS teacher, and wrote his own communion meditations. His other hobbies were genealogy,

antiques, and traveling.

Ray is survived by his wife, Cherie, of Alva; two children, Marc Garriott Lau and wife, Melissa, of Oklahoma City, and Justin Ray Lau and wife, Shawna, of Alva; three siblings, his twin, Ross Danny Lau and wife, Linda, of Clinton, Janie Branstetter and husband, Brian, of Duncan, and Alvin Lau, Jr. and wife, Dana, of Owasso; two grandchildren, Addison Nicole Lau and Nolan Ray Lau; other relatives and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Town and Country Christian Church or the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Canton IOOF Cemetery

South of Canton
Canton, OK

Previous Events

Service

APR **20**. 10:30 PM (CT)

Town and Country Christian Church
829 Church
Alva, OK 73717

Tribute Wall



“ *Denny was one of my best friends in Clinton grade school ("Southwest"?). We got up to all sorts of mischief. Diane Blevins*

Diane Hotz-Blevins - September 10, 2024 at 10:02 PM



“ *Ray Dennis Lau*

January 30, 2023 at 03:38 AM



“ *Mr. Lau was my advisor, professor and boss at the NWOSU Library. He was so helpful, encouraged me not to quit college, taught me to be proud of my accomplishments. I am proud to be a Library Science graduate of 1988. He was a wonderful, supportive man in my life. Prayers to all of his family.*

Karen (Putnam) Outhier - April 19, 2017 at 09:45 PM



“ *It is an honor to call Ray a friend and I grieve his loss. Ray always had a smile on his face and a kind word of encouragement and friendship whenever I would see him at the NWOSU library. I sincerely believe he affected many students and faculty members with his grace and kindness. I am a better person because of my encounters and work with Ray.*

Larry Justice - April 19, 2017 at 02:58 PM

AC

“ *My sincere condolences to your family. Mr. Lau was one of the two people that hired me at Northwestern. I will be forever grateful for that. He was a kind man and I appreciated his guidance.*

Again, my sympathies to your family.

Angelia Case

Angelia Case - April 19, 2017 at 02:55 PM

MK

“ *Mr. Lau was a true friend and mentor, and I will always cherish the long visits we had. He was such a kind person with immense knowledge and wisdom. I am still in awe of his meticulous attention to detail and grateful for the gentle guidance he provided me early in my career. He will be missed, but he leaves behind a great legacy in the lives of those he touched. My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Lau, Marc, Justin and their families.*

Mike Knedler - April 18, 2017 at 08:40 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray Dennis Lau.*



April 18, 2017 at 06:08 PM

NS

“ *New Hope UMC Staff purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ray Dennis Lau.*



New Hope UMC Staff - April 18, 2017 at 04:46 PM

SI

“ *Cheri and Family, I'm so sorry thoughts and prayers are with you during this most trying time.*

Sue Ingraham - April 18, 2017 at 06:04 AM

CF

“ *Ray Lau was my advisor teacher and my colleague. I graduated from NWOSU in 1986 with a Library Science degree. He was my mentor and he advised me well. I owe most of my 30 years of being a high school librarian to his guidance. I am thankful that our paths crossed.*



Carrie Fleharty - April 17, 2017 at 09:27 PM

CS

“ *My wife, Flora Jean who was a cousin to Dennis, used to tell me how she took care of Dennis and Danny when they were babies. I think she stayed with their parents to give her Aunt Viola and their Mother a helping hand. Bet she had her hands full too. Grew up to be mighty fine fellows and know he will be missed. God bless his family, as He has done in the past.*
Cecil Snider

Cecil Snider - April 17, 2017 at 01:30 PM