



Andrew Eric Waits

September 29, 1960 - January 23, 2018

Andrew Eric Waits was born on September 29th, 1960 in Tulare, CA to parents Gary Waits and Norma Jean Hayes. He graduated from Tulare Union High School, later studied Criminology at Fresno State and graduated from the police academy before accepting a position at the Fresno County Sheriff's Department. He ultimately left the Sheriff's Department due to health reasons. Following multiple career opportunities, including long-haul truck driving and warehouse operations at Electric Motor Shop, he retired by 2012.

Andrew, better known as Andy, is survived by his wife Rebecca Waits of 18 years; his step-daughter Stephanie Cervantes, her husband Lennon; his granddaughters Lilyan, Lynore, and Lockheart; his mother Norma Waits; his sisters Rachel Meisner and husband Dennis, Charlotte Archer and husband Stephen; his ten nieces and nephews, Monica Meisner, Shawn and David Archer, Callie Wilson, Brittany Archer, Mallory Mitchell, Emily and Alex Wilson, Rhett Meisner and Christopher Archer.

Andy was a big man with a gentle heart. He married his childhood friend, Rebecca Montero, on October 16th, 1999; the two had met in Kindergarten at Pixley Elementary School. An active family man, he attended many if not all annual reunions of both the Waits and Mendoza families. He enjoyed spending time with his nieces and nephews camping in the mountains, game nights with his wife's family, and spending time at his mama's house with she

and her twin sister Emma, watching old time cowboy movies and playing games online.

Throughout his life, Andy had varied interests in social activities. His early life was consumed by his involvement in the Boy Scouts of America, an interest he shared with his father. He became involved in music as well at this time, and his love for playing the trumpet remained with him throughout his life. He shared his love of music with his nieces and nephews, most of whom played instruments throughout their school years. Known for his flawless performance of Taps, Andy was often requested to play at funerals and events requiring Military honors throughout the Central Valley. While in high school, Andy was also selected to participate in Boys State, a prestigious recognition from the American Legion Organization. In his later years, Andy's interest in family history led him to become involved in the local Civil War Reenactment Society, a pastime that meant a great deal to him. Rising to the rank of First Sergeant, he again encouraged his entire family to participate as much as possible. From the theme of his wedding to Rebecca, the many reenactments events, the balls and memorials, his passion for the society was evident in all aspects of his life, and deeply included his family. In his final years, Andy joined the Visalia Mighty Oaks Chorus group participating in numerous local Barbershop themed performances throughout the year.

His family and friends will always remember Andy as a man of deep, quiet faith, who led a humble life. A giving man of many talents, he lived his life on his terms, committed and loyal to those whose paths he crossed. He will be missed. Visitation will be held at 4 pm till 7 pm on February 6, 2018 at Salser and Dillard Funeral Chapel. A Graveside service will be held at 12 noon on February 7, 2018 at Grabtree Cemetery, 33164 Globe Dr., Springville CA 93265. A Celebration of Life will be held at 3 pm on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at Tulare United Methodist Church.

Previous Events

Graveside

FEB 7. 12:00 PM (PT)

Crabtree Cemetery
Globe Dr.
Springville, CA 93265

Funeral

FEB 7. 3:00 PM (PT)

Tulare United Methodist Church
228 W. Kern Ave
Tulare, CA 93274

Tribute Wall



“ Growing up, I spent a lot of time at the Waits' house in Pixley. Best friends with his youngest sister, I got to know Andy as the big brother figure. He was present in many of my younger life then adult life. He was kind and quiet. He is missed.

Tamara Morton - July 21, 2025 at 02:25 PM



“ I, being retired now was thinking about people I worked with in the past who had an impact on me and Andy came to mind. Andy was on already with the Fresno County S.D. when I was hired. I could always count on Andy to give me sound, reliable advice. Even though my condolences are late, they are sincere.

Dan Williams

Dan Williams - July 25, 2023 at 04:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Andrew Eric Waits.



February 07, 2018 at 11:17 PM

SB

“ *Sherry Barajas lit a candle in memory of Andrew Eric Waits*



Sherry Barajas - February 07, 2018 at 05:27 PM

RH

“ *My deepest condolences to Becky and the entire Waits Family. I have known Andy all my life. He was a good man, with a great heart. He will be missed.*
Randy Howard

Randy Howard - February 07, 2018 at 10:40 AM

MM

“ *Melonie Meisner-Lizak purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Andrew Eric Waits.*



Melonie Meisner-Lizak - February 06, 2018 at 10:40 AM

FL

“ *From The Granada's, Ronnie, Terrie, Mike & Letty purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Andrew Eric Waits.*



From The Granada's, Ronnie, Terrie, Mike & Letty - February 04, 2018 at 05:10 PM

MD

“ ‘Andy’, as we all called him, was probably the tallest lead trumpet player that I ever had over the years teaching the Tulare Union HS band. A great student who always did a terrific job of playing his part on trumpet. The entire Waits family was involved for a number of years by taking in all of the marching and concert events that the band participated in - mom and dad always supported their kids during their time as Redskin Band members! Andy was a dedicated student who always gave his gifted talent and support to the TUHS band program. I'll always remember him, and I know for a fact that many of his friends and relatives will surely miss his friendly and charismatic personality. RIP Andy.

*Mr. Bill Ingram
Music Educator
Tulare*

Mr. Bill Ingram, Dir. - February 04, 2018 at 11:14 AM

RW

Thank you Mr. Ingram for the kind words. Sincerely, Rebecca (Montero) Waits.

Rebecca (Montero) Waits - February 07, 2018 at 02:28 AM

EB

“ Andy was a good man. Please accept my condolences.

Ed Burckhardt

Ed Burckhardt - February 04, 2018 at 12:27 AM

CJ

“ I went through my whole elementary school time with Andy. He grew into a giant guy but was always so nice. He was in band with me also, and I remember that we were in honor band in the 7th grade. He was really good on that trumpet. I can't believe that he's gone on already. My prayers go out to Becky and his mom, Norma, and family. He was a great, warm and friendly man.

Carla Smith Johnson - February 04, 2018 at 12:15 AM

RW

Thank you Carla. We appreciate your prayers.

Rebecca (Montero) Waits - February 07, 2018 at 02:29 AM

KW

“ Doesn't seem that long ago we were in high school! I remember such a wonderful smile. My thoughts, love and prayers to Becky and all Andy's family.

Karleen Wooters-Lyons - February 03, 2018 at 06:20 PM

RW

I am so sorry I only said a quick "Hi" and hug. Thank you for coming. I know Andy appreciates it.

Rebecca (Montero) Waits - February 07, 2018 at 02:31 AM

TW

“ I can remember the numerous lunch hours we spent in the band room to audition for 1st chair trumpet. Although Andy won most of the time it was always a friendly rivalry. Now he has to battle it out with the likes of Maynard Ferguson! Good luck Maynard! Rest peacefully Andy and may your family be blessed.

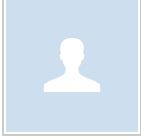


Tom Warren - February 02, 2018 at 11:27 PM

RW

Thank you Tom. You are a dear sweet friend.

Rebecca (Montero) Waits - February 07, 2018 at 02:33 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Andrew Eric Waits.*



February 02, 2018 at 09:43 AM

MM

“ *Merl McHenry sent a virtual gift in memory of Andrew Eric Waits*



Merl McHenry - January 29, 2018 at 05:57 PM