



## Ben Thomas Roberds

March 10, 1982 - April 24, 2019

Ben Thomas Roberds, age 37, of Bentonville, died Wednesday, April 24, 2019 in Fayetteville. He was born March 10, 1982 in Nashville, Tennessee the son of Dr. F. Allen and Marla Samson Roberds.

Ben's life was reflected by his love for his family, friends, career and hobbies.

He started his career in the Rogers City Attorney's Office and then as an Associate Attorney at Jerry B. Dossey, PLC in downtown Bentonville before opening his own private firm on the Bentonville Square. As a long-time advocate and supporter of the alternative courts, Ben was on the board of Arkansas P.E.A.R.L., a non-profit that elevates meaningful rehabilitation in lieu of punitive incarceration.

He is survived by his son Anthony Roberds, his parents Allen and Marla Roberds; his sisters Jennifer Shaff and her husband Louis and Claire Kolberg and her husband Mark, nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts and uncles to whom he brought much joy, love and laughter.

Funeral Service will be held 11:00 A.M. Monday April 29, 2019 at Moore's Chapel. A family interment will be held at West Fork Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Arkansas P.E.A.R.L. 201 S. 20th St, Suite 2, Rogers, AR 72756; <https://www.arpearl.org/donate>

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**West Fork Cemetery**

West Fork, AR, 72774

**APR  
29**

**Service**

11:00AM

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Moore's Chapel

206 West Center St., Fayetteville, AR, US, 72701

# Comments

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“ I just was told of Bens passing I am in shock! He was an awesome man and our attorney! He will be greatly missed. My condolences to the family.

Tina Presley

Dan Hein Homes Realty

Tina - August 07, 2019 at 02:36 PM

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“ Although we only knew Ben a short time, we were honored to be a part of his journey. We would like to thank the family for letting us have a glimpse into the inner workings of your family dynamic, your love for Ben was always evident.

Rebecca Shipman - June 10, 2019 at 12:27 PM

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“ I had the honor to meet Ben years ago while we both were working on a campaign. We met every Wednesday night at my home, a group of about 7-10 people. He would come breezing in and had his legal pad and binder in his hand and dressed sharp as a tack. As the time went on he never failed to make his grand entrance with his quirky jokes and at the end of each night we would all be in stitches. From that time forward he would randomly send me funny photos that just made me bust out laughing during the day. I would see him at different courts and he always gave me the Best Hugs!! I will forever miss his hugs, his funny text and his voice messages asking “Hey, I’m conducting a survey, are you making Ham Sammiches?” Ben was one of a kind, loved by so many people and he made a difference in not only my life but everyone that met him. I will never forget him. To his parents, he talked about you often and he would say They love me, I’m their Favorite Son, then he would wink and say, it’s a good thing I’m their only Son...

you raised a excellent fine Son. God Bless you all. I pray I get the honor of seeing him again in Heaven.

Sissy - May 04, 2019 at 02:54 PM

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“ Ben and I met through drug court. He was always so fun and positive and made me laugh anytime I saw him. When I went to his office to ask for help with a drug court project, not only did he help us that day, but that is when he said yes, we will get a Non profit started and PEARL began. I am so thankful for his willingness to help us with this program. His happy and outgoing personality will be missed. Michelle Barrett



Michelle Barrett - April 29, 2019 at 09:07 AM

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“ Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



April 29, 2019 at 01:04 AM

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“ Ben was referred to me by a past client of his that thought he might be able to help me with my divorce proceedings. I remember Ben walking into his office with such a presence that it actually flustered me and I began to talk a mile a minute. He slowed me down, politely informed me of his fees and I thanked him for his time but knew I couldn't afford him and opted to represent myself. I asked him to look over my filings and asked for edits. He told me he was impressed and provided me great advice and edits. Later, he found me an attorney that could help me and made sure that I was represented, just as if he were representing me.

Ben and I began a friendship that probably saved my life. With his thoughtful and always sage advice, he believed in me more than I believed in myself. I think I might have won some cool points being from El Dorado and having a resemblance to Pam Grier that he made sure to tell his Dad about but we became instant friends. We would sit in his office, blasting rap music with his windows open and drinking Martinis for hours, or hit up different spots in downtown Bentonville, where I determined that he was the “Mayor of Downtown Bentonville”. He was THAT guy.

He became a friend that cared for me, saw something in me that I hadn't seen in myself and he called me out on my bs when I needed to hear it. For that, I knew that I didn't want to let him down.

I only had a little over a year to experience Ben and selfishly, it wasn't enough for me, but I could be one of the unfortunate souls who never had the chance to experience Ben at all.

Ben, I promise to make you proud and I'll always stay trappin'. Rest easy, my friend.

**Shan Smith** - April 28, 2019 at 10:04 PM

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“ The Owens Family purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



**Melinda Owens** - April 28, 2019 at 06:08 PM

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“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Ben was always a pleasure to see when in your office.

Love and thoughts.  
Judy Paynesmith



**Judy Paynesmith** - April 28, 2019 at 05:22 PM

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“ I met Ben when we worked together at the City Attorney's Office. His quick wit and sheer genius kept us entertained and laughing all day. I still have the silly framed proclamation announcing my membership in the "Honorary, Sacred, Loyal Order of the Cleevemolis," created and signed by Ben and another law clerk. It was sheer nonsense inspired by a misspelling in some junk mail. I will now treasure it all the more. I was so stunned and heartbroken to learn of his passing. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family.

**Teresa P.** - April 28, 2019 at 02:16 PM

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“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



April 28, 2019 at 11:50 AM

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“ I knew Ben from Fayetteville High School, and I hadn't seen him in the last 20 years. To hear about his successful career as an attorney doesn't surprise me. He was one of the most charismatic and likeable people I've ever known, and he was the funniest guy in the school. He always wanted everyone to feel welcome and included. He will be greatly missed.

Jonathan Story - April 27, 2019 at 03:54 PM

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“ Our heartfelt condolences go out to Allen and Marla and Ben's entire family.

When Ben was a student at Cooley Law School in Lansing, MI our lives intersected. Ben quickly endeared himself to the Kositchek family and all those who worked at Kositchek's Men's Clothing store in Downtown Lansing. To say Ben made an immediate impression would be an understatement, more accurately Ben made a lasting impression. Appearing for the first time in our store dressed appropriately in a suit and tie, with an air of politeness, sincerity and confidence he secured a position with our store that didn't even exist before he walked in. With his quick wit and way with words Ben brought many smiles to our faces and our customers. He was once overheard offering to shine the shoes of a Priest; "Hello Father, can I save your sole?"

Though his stay in Lansing was brief the bond that we formed was real and lasting. The sadness we feel from Ben's passing is only softened by the knowledge that Ben made our lives and the lives he touched much brighter.

To the Roberds family our thoughts and prayers are with you...THANK YOU FOR SHARING BEN WITH US.

Kositchek Family-Lansing MI

Kositchek's - April 27, 2019 at 03:17 PM

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“ My heart and prayers go up to God on the loss of your son Ben. I believe that God will provide peace, comfort, hope, and love now and in the time to come for you and your family just as He did for me and my family when we unexpectedly loss our daughter at 21.

Your friend and former patient-Norm Wilkerson

Norm Wilkerson - April 27, 2019 at 09:26 AM

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“ Ben will be missed. He always had a great attitude and an infectious smile.

Nancy Martin - April 27, 2019 at 09:12 AM

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“ Ben loved cars ..whenever I would drive up from Cajun country he always wanted to check out my ride, and we'd roll around town ...when I would fly up, he still wanted to know about my wheels. “Uncle Dave,” he would say, “is that roadmaster still running ..how many miles you got now on that old Caddy ”.

Ben was always my designated driver to get me to the airport when I'd fly out early mornings ..at one time he had some kind of road warrior worthy bronco..whatever he was driving he always wanted to show me ..a while back Ben was sporting a small souped up car..He drove us out east of town on a winding back road .. to demonstrate how fast he could get from 0 to 80..I'm clenching to the seat as he is downshifting, then pouring the coal to that dream machine coming out of the curves.. I think somewhere in there Ben and another prized possession went over the edge, then he walked away to call in the tow truck ..I last saw Ben two years ago when Anthony turned three, the little kid imaginary sword fighting any bad guys or bobcats that got in his way .. the southern Arkansas lineage already in place.. We Thank The Good Lord, Merci Bon Dieu, for this beautiful spirit ..Ben Roberds was a fast ride...  
davepierce

davepierce - April 26, 2019 at 10:42 PM

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“ Grace Fielding lit a candle in memory of Ben Thomas Roberds



Grace Fielding - April 26, 2019 at 10:38 PM



“ Love's Embrace Roses – White was purchased for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



April 26, 2019 at 09:38 PM

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“ Carly Clegg & Trent Bawcum purchased the Peaceful Wishes for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



**Carly Clegg & Trent Bawcum** - April 26, 2019 at 05:38 PM

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“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



April 26, 2019 at 05:08 PM

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“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



April 26, 2019 at 05:03 PM

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“ Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



April 26, 2019 at 05:03 PM

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“ I first met Ben when I went to work at Jerry Dossey's office. We went our separate ways when we both left there but kept in touch regularly. He finally convinced me to come work for him. My favorite memory is of him showing off the picture in his office of his dad in his "Planet of the Apes" costume. He was so proud of that picture. Ben will be missed.

**linda brewer** - April 26, 2019 at 01:10 PM

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“ European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



April 26, 2019 at 01:06 PM

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“ We're sorry for the loss of your beloved son, Ben, and for the suffering you're going through at this time. Jane Bryant West Fork

**Jane Bryant** - April 26, 2019 at 12:35 PM

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“ David Scoggins purchased the Sympathy Arrangement In Basket (Large) - Multicolor Pastel Mixed Flowers for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



David Scoggins - April 26, 2019 at 11:40 AM

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“ I am shocked to hear of this! Ben was one of the most positive, polite, caring, and thoughtful individuals I have ever met. I never knew him to have a bad day. He was eternally happy and concerned about others. I don't know why his life was cut short, but I know his life was fuller than most people much older than he was! I know his family must be devastated. Prayers to Doc, Marla, Clare and their families.....Linda B

Linda Bennorth - April 26, 2019 at 09:49 AM

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“ We have lost a good friend and great person with Bens passing. He always had a smile on his face and a great attitude about life. I'll miss our visits in his office and at my farm.

DAVID R SCOGGINS - April 26, 2019 at 09:26 AM

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“ This is a tough one. When we outlive our children, it becomes a knot that can never be untied..  
This is not how it is supposed to be; but God and Fate work in mysterious and often dispassionate ways.  
The heartfelt grief we feel is too overwhelming for us to comprehend and accept -- but accept we must -- our only solace being the knowledge that our loved one is no longer in pain, anguish or suffering. And although the hurt we feel can never go away, it will eventually slowly subside with Time. Through that transition, we who survive to grieve are comforted knowing that nothing can ever take away our memories of years gone by -- the personal moments, the laughter during good times -- and the incredible and unique love that we shared as a family.

Charles Laquidara - April 26, 2019 at 04:04 AM

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“ I remember the first day I met Ben our sophomore year of college in a Psychology 101 class. He came across as a cocky jerk who was kicking another student out of “his” seat. To top it off he was wearing a suit and tie. Who wears a suit and tie to college when sweat pants will suffice? Ben did, almost every day. It was all part of his work ethic which he parlayed into a successful law career. Ben wasn't the smartest kid in school but he by far had the most fire in his belly. After class that first day, we struck up a conversation and he dropped the first of many nuggets of wisdom upon me: “People will never remember what kind of car you drove, your clothes or how much money you make, but they will always remember the way you made them feel.” After that we clicked and spent many days of the rest of our college career together

working out, studying, chasing girls and dreaming of the future. After school was over and life got busy, we somehow managed to keep in touch with regular phone calls. Along with family and career updates, he continued to drop his nuggets of wisdom upon me, which I will forever miss. My utmost condolences to the Roberds family in their time of mourning. The brightest stars truly burn out the fastest.-Luke Pickens

**Luke Pickens** - April 26, 2019 at 03:21 AM



“ Ben was and will always be a brother to me. He was a genius and had the greatest people skills. He was a bright light, an unforgettable person with his wit and charm. Best advice he ever gave me was "you can change your attitude just like changing your shirt." He was wise beyond his years and a very sincere friend. He will be missed.

**Andrew Rostenberg** - April 26, 2019 at 01:36 PM

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“ Carla And Juliana Ruffolo lit a candle in memory of Ben Thomas Roberds



**Carla and Juliana Ruffolo** - April 26, 2019 at 01:04 AM

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“ Ben had a heart of gold even though he was quite the ball buster. He was my attorney and friend and a great support to me during a tough life transition. I loved his smile and his infectious laugh. My husband, Austin, and I had the uncomfortable experience of evicting a tenant from our rental property. Ben had some very creative ways of making this process as easy as it could be for us . It came time to inspect the property to make sure the tenant had moved out, and Austin and I were a bit scared of what we might find. Ben offered to go down to the property with us and act as our “body guard.” Thankfully, there was no altercation, but if there had been, Ben was there to get us through it.

I'll miss running into Ben at the Neighborhood Market getting groceries, catching him at Onyx enjoying a cold brew or having a drink at Scotch and Soda. He always brightened my day with his smile and sarcasm. Condolences to Ben's family and friends. May he Rest In Peace.



Hannah Cheeseman - April 25, 2019 at 11:30 PM

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“ Ben represented us when we went through the adoption proceedings for my husband to adopt my oldest daughter. The process was emotional, stressful, and frustrating at times. We were his first adoption case. You would think him explaining that to us would make us nervous, but it was actually the opposite. We didn't need some attorney blowing smoke, we needed honest and real. He was both of those things. He was our voice and he was a strong and powerful one. He would text me and take time to explain things to me to reassure me. Anyone that knows me knows I'm a bag of emotions. I held it together during the proceeding. Afterwards, Ben sent us to the lobby while he finished some things. As soon as we hit the lobby, I wrapped my arms around my husband's neck and lost it. All of the time and work had finally paid off. The years of stress and sadness for our girl finally over. Ben rounded the corner and saw us and he just stopped. He stood there, still, just waiting until I got it all out. I walked over to thank him again and he wiped a tear from his eye. We are forever grateful for all he did for us.

Megan Vanatta - April 25, 2019 at 10:53 PM

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“ Cherished Memories - All White was purchased for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



April 25, 2019 at 10:04 PM

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“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I knew Ben through the courts, he was one of my favorite attorneys and amazing individual. Ben always had a smile and a kind word, always always asked about my son. Even though I have not seen him in awhile, he will be missed.

Mechelle Myers - April 25, 2019 at 06:14 PM

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“ Sympathy Arrangement In Basket (Large) - Multicolor Bright Mixed Flowers was purchased for the family of Ben Thomas Roberds.



April 25, 2019 at 04:31 PM