

## Dr. Charles Andrew Riess

September 4, 1946 - April 20, 2025

Dr. Charles Andrew Riess, 78, passed away on April 20th, 2025 at his home in Falls Church, Virginia. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday June 7, at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Dr, Alexandria, Virginia with Reverend David Crosby officiating. A live stream of the service will be available online for those that cannot attend.

Andy was born September 4, 1946 in Waco, Texas to Harold and Nelda Baker Riess, both of whom preceded him in death. Growing up, he attended Sanger Avenue Elementary and North Junior High in Waco, TX. After graduating from Richfield High School in Waco, TX in 1964, Andy went on to attend Baylor University and received his Bachelors Degree in 1968. He then attended Indiana University to pursue his Master's degree where his studies were interrupted when he volunteered for the United States Army Security Agency as a Linguist. After completing the Army language school in Monterey, CA, Andy was stationed in Berlin, Germany where he used his Russian language skills for the Army during the Cold War. In 1972 he left the Army and went on to complete his Master's degree and eventually received his Ph.D. from Indiana University. Dr. Riess spent the majority of his professional career working for the Fulbright Scholarship Program where he was able to work with international exchange students, a position he found very fulfilling.

As a child, Andy had a ferocious appetite for knowledge and was known for his love of books and education. His service in the United States Army Security Agency as a Linguist gave him the opportunity to learn new

languages and have experiences most only read about, while providing him an avenue to further his education. He ended up learning six different languages over the course of his life. Andy was known for his outgoing personality, sharp wit and his ability to get along with anyone. While he was quite often the smartest guy in the room, he was a humble man and treated everyone with respect and dignity. Andy made friends everywhere he went and held on to those special relationships throughout his life. He remained especially close with his brother Baker his entire life until his passing three years ago.

He is survived by his nephew Kevin Riess, niece-in-law Chauvon Riess and great nephew Jackson Riess of Waco, TX; niece Karen Riess of Abilene TX, great nephew Joshua Gutierrez, great-niece-in-law Lexi Gutierrez and great-great-nephew Silas Gutierrez of Colorado Springs, CO; cousins Maurine Riess, Allison Poe, Lena Poe of Austin, TX and Lauren Cummings of Nashville, TN; cousins Julie Shirar and Martin Kearns of Shelburne Falls, MA; cousins David Shirar, Dallas Shirar and Siona Shirar of Swannanoa, NC. He is also survived by his childhood friend Randy Woods and godson Clayton Woods of San Antonio, TX and many other close friends.

The family wishes to thank all of his friends for all of their support during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been set up in Andy's honor that will support exchange students with Indiana University. Please visit [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search for "Honor Andy Riess: Support Student Scholarships" if you would like to contribute.

# Previous Events

## Gathering

JUN 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Dr  
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516  
(703) 971-7400

## Memorial Service

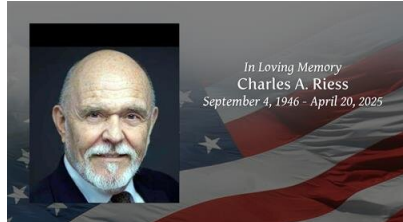
JUN 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel  
5755 Castlewellan Dr  
Alexandria, VA 22315-5516  
(703) 971-7400

# Tribute Wall



“ Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Charles Andrew Riess



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - June 07, 2025 at 10:40 AM



“ Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Charles Andrew Riess



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - May 09, 2025 at 08:41 AM



“ I had been thinking of Andy recently and Google him. I was sorry to see such a funny, brilliant man is gone. I worked with him way back in the 90s and he was wonderful to be around.

*Kathy Moran, FSA, Dept of Education.*

Kathleen Moran - July 26, 2025 at 06:28 PM

MC

“ I had the pleasure of working with Andy during our time together at IIE. He was the consummate professional—deeply knowledgeable, endlessly dedicated, and exceptionally effective in inspiring scholars from institutions across the country to apply to the Fulbright Scholar Program.

*Andy knew the intricacies of every aspect of the Scholar Program, yet what truly set him apart was his ability to connect with academics on a personal level. He conveyed the profound significance of their individual contributions to a program that places global engagement at the heart of higher education.*

*In the office, Andy’s presence was a gift. His energy was infectious, his smile unforgettable, and his intellect unmatched. He was a natural collaborator, always focused on how best to work together, how to build innovative programming, and how to broaden the reach of the Scholar community through thoughtful strategy and inclusive leadership.*

*I learned so much from Andy—about leadership, about teamwork, and most importantly, about friendship. His kindness and generosity left a lasting impression on colleagues, friends, and countless Fulbright scholars and alumni around the world.*

*Andy’s intellectual legacy continues to resonate throughout the Fulbright community and beyond. He will be deeply missed, but his impact endures.*

*Maria de los Angeles Crummett, PhD*

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**Maria de los Angeles Crummett** - June 12, 2025 at 06:22 AM

KE

“ Andy was a wonderful source of support, a mainstay while I was serving as Fulbright Representative and director the Fulbright Office in Moscow in 1993-96. I waited eagerly every morning for his witty and informative faxes and had the pleasure of being his daily correspondent during those wild years of transition, fleeting democratic reform, and development of the Fulbright program in Russia. During my visits to the CIES office in Washington I loved chatting with him, taking in his vast knowledge, laughing with him, and hearing his stories, which could make me laugh to the point of tears. I am grateful to have known him, I feel extraordinarily fortunate to have had him as a colleague, and I will always remember him with fondness and admiration. The Fulbright program was fortunate to have had such an advocate. My deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. May he rest in peace, and may light perpetual shine upon him.

*Karen Evans-Romaine, Professor, University of Wisconsin - Madison*

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**Karen Evans-Romaine** - June 07, 2025 at 12:03 PM

PP

“ I have known Andy for over 20 years and have had many adventures with him. We talked/texted several times a day, spend vacations and holidays together some years, and always told him he had his own room here at our house. I chatted with him the night he passed. I feel such an incredible loss and believe the world has lost a remarkable person. He was best man in our wedding, has spent birthdays and other celebrations together. He loved life, loved his friends and family, was remarkably well read and versed in everything from Martha Stewart cooking to the latest science discoveries. He was a man for all seasons, a friend unlike many others, a confidant with a wonderful sense of humor. Whatever he did, he did with gusto and all the imagination and talent that he possessed. I know his family and friends feel a powerful loss as I do. He will be remembered as the wonderful man he was.

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**Patrick Powell** - May 08, 2025 at 02:54 PM