



Chester "Chet" LeRoy Force

March 5, 1935 - August 11, 2024

ADRIAN- Chester "Chet" LeRoy Force, age 89, of Adrian, Michigan passed away Sunday afternoon, August 11, 2024, at Lynwood Manor.

Chet was born on March 5, 1935, in Melvindale, MI, the youngest of Chester C. and Clarecy I. (Merritt) Force's children.

Chet proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for 10 years.

Chet always had a love of music and played his guitar whenever he could. It was during his time stationed in Germany, that Chet had the opportunity to meet and play guitar with the country singer, Johnny Cash. When Chet was transferred back to Amarillo, Texas, opportunity came knocking again, and he played with Bob Wills and Roger Miller. Many in Adrian will remember Chet from his time playing guitar at the Holiday Inn in the 1980's with Alice Mackey. After the military, Chet went to work in the computer world as a Data Processing Director for the Lenawee Intermediate School District (LISD). He retired from the LISD after many years of dedicated service. Chet had a strong desire to learn and try new things throughout his life. He took flying lessons and eventually went together with a friend and purchased their own airplane.

In 1994, Chet married the love of his life, Arlene (Pate) Bates. They have been blessed with 30 years together and embraced being snowbirds in Florida for many winters.

In addition to his wife, Arlene, Chet is survived by his daughter, Theresia Thornton of Maumee, OH; stepsons, Charles (Michelle) Bates of Devils Lake

and Timothy (Toni) Bates of Valparaiso, IN; step daughter-in-law, Dawn Bates of Melbourne, FL; 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Bob Force and Eloise Stoops; and stepson, Steve Bates.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, August 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian; with a period of visitation from 11:00 a.m. until the service begins. A graveside service with military honors will take place at 3:00 p.m. at Oak Grove Cemetery in Morenci, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Oak Grove

12440 Lime Creek Highway (M156)
Morenci, MI 49256

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Memorial Service

AUG **16**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Graveside Service

AUG **16**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Oak Grove
12440 Lime Creek Highway (M156)
Morenci, MI 49256

Tribute Wall

RB

“ Just came across this and was not aware of Chet's passing. Worked with Chet for many years, he gave me my start in computer programming when no one else would give me a job because I did not have prior on the job experience. Him giving me that job changed my life. Wished I had known he was back in the Adrian area, world have liked to see him one more time.

Randy Brandeberry - March 27, 2025 at 08:10 PM

LV

“ Chet and I worked together at the LISD for many years. I was there for 30 years. He was an awesome person and guitar player. Rest in peace my dear friend. God bless you. Laura VanSickle

Laura VanSickle - August 15, 2024 at 08:51 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chester "Chet" LeRoy Force.



August 13, 2024 at 08:41 PM

MK

“ Michael & Maria Kyser planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester "Chet" LeRoy Force.

Michael & Maria Kyser - August 13, 2024 at 08:41 PM