



## Andrew Jackson Cottingham Jr.

May 1, 1937 - July 25, 2021

Andrew Jackson Cottingham, Jr. M.D., U.S. Army Green Beret and Vietnam War veteran, joined his lord on July 25, 2021, in San Antonio, Texas. Andy, as he was known to many, was born on May 1, 1937, in Bennettsville, South Carolina, to Andrew Jackson Cottingham, Sr. and Ruby Maie Gibson and was raised in Laurinburg, North Carolina.

Andy is survived by his wife of 30 years, Lynda; five sons and their wives, Andrew and Laura, Charlie and Kris, Sinclair and Martha, Brent and Melissa, and Ian; 11 grandchildren, Emily, Elinor, Erica, Estelle, Megan, Andrew, Isabelle, Foster, Maci, Ava and Sterling; one great-grandchild, Grace; sister, Ruby; and brother, John and his wife, Anita.

Andy was a proud, lifelong Blue Devil, playing football for Duke University before receiving his medical degree at Duke University School of Medicine in 1964. Prior to completing his residencies at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and his fellowship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Andy joined the U.S. Army as a Green Beret, serving a one-year deployment in Vietnam.

As a devoted active-duty soldier for 20 years, Andy spent time around the world, living in nine cities and three countries before settling down in San Antonio. Prior to founding his practice, South Texas Eye Institute, in 1988, Andy served as the medical director at Omni Eye Center in Louisiana and the chairman of the Ophthalmology Department at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center, where he was also director of residency training and a consultant to the surgeon general. After retirement in 2008, Andy worked part-time for the

San Antonio Eye Specialists and began locum tenens work with the Indian Health Services, working on Indian Reservations in Montana, Arizona and New Mexico for five years.

Andy was a supportive and loving husband, father, grandfather and recent great grandfather. He enjoyed traveling with his wife, Lynda, and learning the rich history every place had to offer. Andy was a passionate sailor, fisherman, trumpet player, astronomer, golfer, cyclist, photographer, tennis player and an avid collector of many "things." He found great joy in sharing his many hobbies with friends and family. In fact, every person who met him would say that they walked away with added knowledge and appreciation of something new.

Andy was also a published writer and a lover of poetry, often reading his favorites during lunchtime to his office staff and writing his own poems for his wife every birthday and Christmas. Before passing away, Andy was in the process of writing his autobiography, titled "The Luckiest Man."

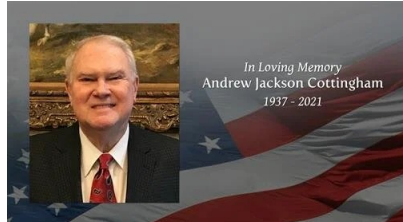
His kind and courageous spirit will be missed by many but will live on through his proudest accomplishment, his family. In honor of Andy, please consider donating to <https://heroes.vfw.org/> to show your support for America's veterans, service members and their families.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, August 29, 2021, from 5:00pm-7:00pm at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. Graveside Services will be on Monday, August 30, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery with U.S. Army Honors.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Tribute Video in memory of Andrew Jackson Cottingham Jr.*



---

**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - August 27, 2021 at 02:43 PM

KS

*My name is Kary Saleeby. I've been doing some family research and I believe my grandmother (Mary Belle) was a sister of your husband's father which, if true, would make my mother your late husband's first cousin. As part of my research I happened to find your late husband's obituary and thought I would try to contact you. If you see this and my assumptions above are correct, could you please send me at e-mail at [kesaleeby@yahoo.com](mailto:kesaleeby@yahoo.com) so we can establish contact? Thanks very much.*

---

**Kary E Saleeby** - September 17, 2022 at 04:11 PM

PS

“ *Dr Cottingham was my Dr at Fitzsimmons Army hospital in Aurora Colorado. I was a 18 Air Force recruit in Technical school and he took care of my damaged eye so well. Here 45 years later I always reference the fact how Dr Cottingham was there for me and I remember how nice he was to me. My condolences. Just the fact I remember his name out of all my experiences in life 45 years later tells a lot about who Dr. Cottingham was.*

---

**Paul Suda** - November 15, 2023 at 08:22 PM

LA

“ Dr Cottingham performed many surgeries on my son while he was chief of the ophthalmology department at Fitzsimmons. Once even traveling to Ft Carson to do a glaucoma procedure. He was a very generous and caring man. I believe he was instrumental in my son’s interest in the medical profession. He’s an RN at a prestigious hospital in St Louis Mo. Proud for my son to have been one of his patients. Prayers and comforting thoughts for your family.  
Lorrie Altman, mom to Steve

Lorrie Altman - May 01, 2022 at 03:58 AM

LC

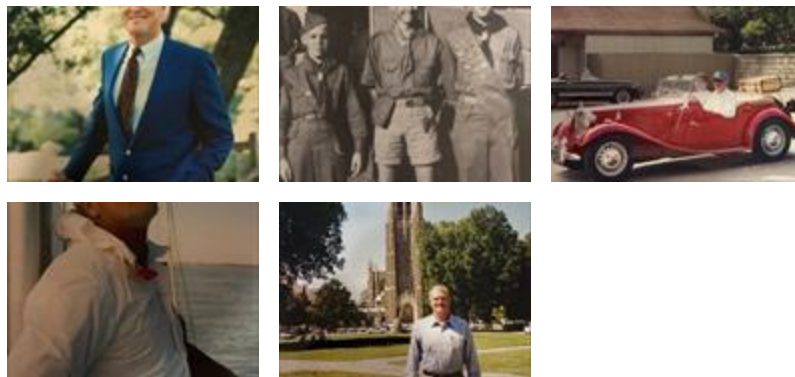
“ 2 files added to the album Photo Gallery



Lynda Cottingham - August 27, 2021 at 04:29 PM

LC

“ 18 files added to the album Photo Gallery



Lynda Cottingham - August 26, 2021 at 06:50 PM

MS

*I have heard so many amazing stories about Andy...my dad has considered him a mentor and one of the greatest men he has ever known. He treated me in Germany after I flew into a concrete wall...so thankful for him, his service, and his friendship and guidance with my father. We are all thinking of you and wishing you peace. - Megan Shorb-Mayer*

**Megan ShorbMayer** - August 26, 2021 at 07:55 PM

JL

*I'm the little scout in the picture, I've known him well since. One of the finest, hard working, ethical, and loyal individuals I've had the pleasure to know. We will all miss him! Thank you Lynda for caring for him. J. Thom Love*

**james thomas love** - August 27, 2021 at 12:37 PM

SS

*I first met Andy in Heidelberg in 1971 and was his first real partner in ophthalmology. We stayed close for 50 years. He was a great ophthalmologist, teacher, inspiration and friend I will sorely miss him and will say goodbye Monday in San Antonio Stan Shorb*

**stan shorb** - August 27, 2021 at 01:37 PM

RN

*Andy was a fascinating man and a good friend who I will miss greatly. Randy Nunns*

**Randy Nunns** - August 29, 2021 at 10:50 PM

JO

*I worked with Andy in a professional manner. He was one of the few Doctors who really cared about his patients. Andy enjoy that big cataract in the sky my friend.*

**John** - February 21, 2025 at 03:50 PM