



Gordon B. Alley

November 2, 1947 - March 21, 2026

Gordon B. Alley (November 2, 1947 – March 21, 2026) was born in McAllen, Texas and departed this world to spend eternity with God, at the age of 78 years. He was the son of Kenneth L. Alley (born in South Dakota in 1911) and Esther Zeller Alley (born in Iowa in 1917). The three moved from McAllen to Leon Valley in November 1948. He had two younger brothers, Raymond Louis Alley, born 1951, and Craig G Alley, born 1952. Gordon was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Esther Alley, and infant brother Raymond Louis.

Gordon attended Leon Valley Elementary School, Sul Ross Junior High, and graduated from John Marshall High School in 1965 as the valedictorian. Between his high school years, he attended a summer program in science and electronics at the University of Iowa. Gordon was fortunate to receive a Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation scholarship to Rice University, where he graduated with his BA and Master of Electrical Engineering in 1971. While growing up he learned to play piano, then saxophone in high school, and went on to enjoy being part of the Rice Owl band. Gordon excelled academically in science, mathematics and physics. His senior high school science fair project involved transmitting sound through light waves and he came up with a way for his mother to turn lights on and off in a room by touching the door frame. He was a member of MENSA, the international high-IQ organization founded in Oxford England for individuals scoring in the top 2% of standardized

intelligence tests.

After graduation from Rice, Gordon spent his career working as an Electronics Engineer and Computer Systems Analyst for ACECO, a company in San Antonio involved in designing and manufacturing automatic process control systems. His first few years involved designing digital logic circuits. He later became their primary developer and maintainer of software for one of their platforms. For fun, he got SCUBA certified and also enjoyed travel cruises that took him to countries all over the world. Gordon's interest in science and technology stayed with him all of his life. He could program digital equipment using machine language (zeros and ones). He enjoyed participating as a board member and webmaster for the MacApple user group in San Antonio. In huge contrast to his career responsibilities, he really enjoyed theme parks. He had an annual pass to Fiesta Texas in San Antonio starting in the early 90's and would be at the park several days each week, walking the park and attending the shows. He referred to this as his fitness routine. He enjoyed getting to know many of the performers and helped them produce demo videos of their performances. He also got to know the park staff. One of them suggested that he knew the park so well, he should go to work there. So he did. He took a part-time job at Fiesta Texas working just one or two days each weekend and loved it! When he retired from his "real" job at ACECO years ago, he continued working at the park on weekends and even worked there the weekend before he passed away. You'd see him at the parking kiosk, or taking tickets at the entrance, helping with customer relations, or he'd be there on his days off encouraging performers and enjoying the people. Fiesta Texas (now Six Flags) was like his extended family.

Unless you were discussing science, space, technology, astro physics, science fiction, or something at Six Flags, Gordon was a reserved person and often stayed in the background. In his later years, you might catch him taking a nap in the corner while others visited. As friends heard of his passing, the

words used to describe Gordon tell his story; honest, sincere, smart, kind, generous, giving, helpful, respectful, intelligent, fun, forgiving, and a loyal friend.

Gordon is survived by his youngest brother, Craig, Gordon's sister-in-law Karen, nephews Brian (Kristi), Kevin (Savannah), great nieces Taylor and Jordyn, great nephew Parker, and a host of cousins and wonderful friends.

Gordon planned to be cremated and didn't want an elaborate service. A graveside service will be held May 2, 2026, at 10:00am at Mission Park Dominion Cemetery (just northwest of San Antonio) where his ashes will be buried next to his parents. In line with his wishes, the family has requested that in lieu of flowers, you donate to your favorite charity in his memory.

Cemetery Details

Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery Dominion

20900 IH 10 W
San Antonio, TX 78257
(210) 698-5252
<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery Dominion
20900 IH 10 W
San Antonio, TX 78257
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Tribute Wall

KD

“ I lived next door to the Alleys. Gordon was older than me, but he once came over to see my 8th grade math project, a mechanical computer I ordered from Edmund Scientific. I enjoyed showing it to him and he expressed genuine interest. I knew him as a kind and quiet soul. May he rest in peace until our Lord's return.
Kathy Kinman Dowell

Kathy Kinman Dowell - May 06 at 08:40 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gordon B. Alley.



April 15 at 10:21 AM

GI

“ We will always remember Gordon as a kind and sensitive friend.
Gerry & Connie Impelman

gerry & Connie Impelman - April 14 at 04:04 PM

KA

You were family ... thank you for loving him!

Karen Alley - April 15 at 03:30 PM

“ Gordon came to us at ACE-CO in the summer of 1966 as a Summer Intern from Rice University, where he was working on a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering.

He was all fired-up over Texas Instruments new 7400 series integrated logic circuits and quickly convinced us that we should build a mini-computer using these circuits. We started building this and design was completed by the summer of 1967. We used this system on a number of asphalt plant systems to meet Texas Highway Department specifications for printing drayage tickets to document all materials in the asphalt trucks.

About that time, Intel came out with its ancestor to the ubiquitous '86 CPU (in use in computers and servers worldwide to this day). Intel gave us pre-production samples of its 8008 CPU microprocessor and also gave these samples to Datapoint. ACE-CO and Datapoint attempted to steal employees from each other who could work with this new technology. But fortunately they didn't get Gordon.

As ACE-CO continued to develop computers using these CPU's (8008, 8080, 8086 and Z80), Gordon gravitated to the software side of this new technology. Gordon's code was used in ACE-CO products that poured millions of cubic yards of concrete at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta, many casinos in Las Vegas, and many residences and businesses nationwide.

Gordon loved his vacations. In the early years, he took scuba diving vacations to places like Aruba and Bonaire in the Caribbean. Later he discovered cruising and spent many years as consultant videographer on Cruise Consultant cruises.

Once Gordon discovered Fiesta Texas, he loved being at the park and getting to know all the entertainers. He'd spend his weekends and vacations hanging out at Fiesta Texas. Eventually, he went to work for Fiesta Texas part-time during his off-time from ACE-CO.

I appreciated Gordon as a friend and life-time associate, and enjoyed visiting with him, Dan and De Ette Faubel, Tino and Marilyn Costella, Phyllis Lapaglia and Marianne Cox in recent years. He will be missed by all.

George Cox - April 12 at 08:43 PM

KA

Thank you!!! We (Gordon's family) are blessed to know he spent his entire career with your company., and was valued!

Karen Alley - April 15 at 03:29 PM

DE

Beautifully written and so true he was a great guy. He always blessed me and my nephews and nieces at Thanksgiving with free fiesta fiesta Texas tickets he'd give me about 20 of them Thanksgiving my nephew's and nieces just loved it. We had a ball. Thank you, Gordon. You will be missed Dan and De Ette.

de - April 16 at 06:40 PM

CA

“ 24 files added to the album Gordon B. Alley



Craig Alley - April 10 at 05:29 PM

PR

“ I had the pleasure of working with Gordon at Aceco for fourteen years. He was a friend and highly respected by his co-workers. May he rest in peace with our Lord and Savior. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. 🙏🏻🕊️💙✝️

Paula Reed - April 08 at 03:27 PM

MN

“ 1 file added to the album *Gordon B. Alley*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels North - April 08 at 09:16 AM