

## Dr. Chantrey A. Fritts Jr.

April 9, 1931 - August 9, 2016

Chantrey Alfred Fritts, Jr., was 85 years old when he went home to be with the Lord on the evening of August 9, 2016. He was a 41 year resident of Abilene, Texas, spending the final few years of his life in Lubbock. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Aynsley.

Born on April 9, 1931, in Sterling, Colorado, just one year before The Great Depression, Chantrey was the son of Edna Violet Smith and Chantrey Alfred Fritts, Sr.

Chantrey Junior, as he was affectionately referred to by all the relatives, was a studious, hard-working young man with aptitude in music. As a little boy, he would travel with his daddy on the campaign trail, sometimes entertaining his father's audiences by performing piano solos. Chantrey's home was Denver, Colorado, from 1933 until 1967. He loved studying the history of his home state, even working summers in the Colorado State Museum. He enjoyed the city of Denver, attending concerts and operas, touring the zoo and natural history museum, as well as picnicking in Washington Park, which was just a mile from his home church Logan Street Church of Christ, where his family was involved each week with fellowship and worship.

At the age of ten, Chantrey's parents adopted a baby girl named Nancy Ann from The Colorado State Children's Home in Denver. Chantrey enjoyed babysitting his little sister and claimed to be her greatest "advocate" as they grew up.

Chantrey attended the Denver public schools. He graduated from South Denver High School in 1949. In his own words, Chantrey declared that "the memory of World War II was clearly stamped in my mind." He headed off to college in Abilene, Texas, to attend Abilene Christian College, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1953. Chantrey earned his M.A. from The University of Denver in 1954. In 1967, he earned his doctor's degree in education (Ed. D.) also from The University of Denver.

At the age of 23, in the fall of 1954, Chantrey met the love of his life in the university class at South Denver Church of Christ. Aynsley Lillian Ruth Pennock was a beautiful young 17-year-old from Canada whose family moved to Denver and attended that same church. Aynsley was a freshman at The University of Denver, and Chantrey was an English teacher at Byers Junior High.

In Chantrey's own words, he said what attracted him to Aynsley was her "wonderful, special optimism that always saw the best in people and in experiences they shared."

Chantrey said Aynsley had great insight, was very intelligent, and very wise. He proposed to her in his 1949 black Ford, after leaving the movie theater having just seen the movie "The Last Time I Saw Paris." Chantrey and Aynsley were married on June 11, 1955 at South Denver Church of Christ. Dad said Aynsley looked very young, beautiful, and radiant. He said he was proud to be her husband and eager to face the future with her by his side.

Continuing his career in education in the Denver Public School System both as a teacher and an administrator, Chantrey also fulfilled military duty in the U.S. Army Reserve, acquired professional degrees and certifications at The University of Denver, and preached on occasion at Idaho Springs Church of Christ.

On January 25, 1958, Deborah Ruth was born to Chantrey and Aynsley. Three years later on April 28, 1961, Jennifer Sue was born. Just six years later, they moved their young family to Abilene, Texas, where Chantrey served as a professor for 41 years at his alma mater Abilene Christian University until 2008. Chantrey taught hundreds of college students over the years, supervised student teachers in the public schools, chaired the College of Education, and faithfully served as an elder at Hillcrest Church of Christ. Known as a real trend-setter with his fashionable dress, Chantrey was popular with his students, constantly cheering them along through the challenges of the teaching profession. Many students and families were blessed to enjoy the hospitality of the Fritts home, while Aynsley cooked gourmet recipes and Chantrey laughed and visited with their guests. In 2007, Aynsley was diagnosed with lung cancer. Chantrey and Aynsley moved to Lubbock in 2008, where Aynsley received cancer treatment. Chantrey tenderly cared for Aynsley during that time, rejoicing on that day when she was officially declared "cancer-free." The tables turned over these past 3 years, as Aynsley faithfully cared for Chantrey to the very end. He demonstrated courageous faith in his battle with Alzheimers, a disease that he had always feared. His ongoing request during these final months was to "go home." Tuesday evening his desire became reality as he joined that "great cloud of witnesses".

Chantrey was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Nancy Vourexes.

Those left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Aynsley Pennock Fritts, three daughters, Debbie Paxton and husband Jeff of Lubbock and Jennifer Carpenter and husband Curtis of Austin and Toga Broom and husband Adam of Paragould, Arkansas, six grandchildren, Jennifer Paxton, Adrienne Plekenpol and husband Chris, Jeff Paxton, Jr. and wife Rachel, Elizabeth Day and husband Bryan, Aynsley Broom and Manaia Broom; three great grandchildren, Austin Plekenpol, Jett Plekenpol, and Leanna Day; two nieces, Becky Hawley of Loveland, CO and Peggy Vourexes of Denver, CO and a nephew, Mark Vourexes of Denver, CO.

Memorials are suggested to the Jeremiah's Hope Ministry @ [jeremiahshope.org](http://jeremiahshope.org).



# Cemetery

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## Resthaven Memorial Park

5740 19th St  
Lubbock, TX,

# Events

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**AUG** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**12**

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Lake Ridge Chapel and Memorial Designers  
6025 82nd Street, Lubbock, TX, US, 79424

**AUG** **Celebration** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**13**

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Monterey Church of Christ  
6111 82nd Street, Lubbock, TX, US

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Lake Ridge Chapel and Memorial Designers** - August 11, 2016 at 04:20 PM

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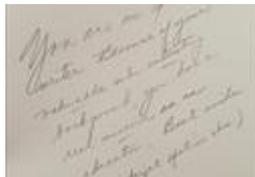
“ Nicki and I wish to express our love to Aynsley and the girls at this time of loss for them. Chantrey was just one of life's sweetest men who blessed anyone he met. We treasured his friendship from the first time we met him in of all places, Canyon, Texas, only later to grow in our relationship at ACC. We almost moved to Denver to preach at his home congregation because of his encouragement. What wonderful memories we have of being in his and Aynsley's beautiful adorned home. We loved them in a special way and hardly ever got to see them in latter years. Yearn for the day of endless fellowship! May the Lord continue to bless this wonderful family!  
Larry and Nicki Suttle

**larry suttle** - August 16, 2016 at 02:35 PM

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“ The ACU family lost one of its best education teachers this last week. Dr. Fritts was a special man who believed in me and encouraged me to strive to be the best I could be. I am grateful and blessed to have had his influence in my life.



**Caleb Henderson** - August 14, 2016 at 07:54 PM

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“ Dear Mrs. Fritts and Family,  
I so remember the days at ACU as a student of Dr. Fritts. He was always a favorite Professor of mine. The times in his Education classes were always fun and full of learning. I remember his help with the Letters I had to write to the Texas Pardon and Parole when my Father was killed. He was so supportive and even wrote a letter himself. Without his support as a Teacher, Christian and Friend I don't think I would have been able to get through my Fathers death.  
My name at the time I attended Hillcrest Church Of Christ was Deborah Tobey and

my Father was Hubert Otha Tobey. The Bible Hillcrest gave me my Senior year at Wylie High School was very special. It helped me through much of life. God Bless you and your Family and May he give you the Comfort and Peace you need.

**Deborah Tobey-Duncan** - August 14, 2016 at 03:55 PM

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“ We admired Chantrey and enjoyed our association with him. May God bless and encourage Aynsley and the children.  
Love in Christ,  
Everett and Nancy Ferguson

**Everett Ferguson** - August 13, 2016 at 01:32 PM

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“ Dear Aynsley, Debbie, Jenny, and family, I give you my prayers for peace, love, comfort, and healing. Chantrey was such a kind and special man and I am blessed to have known him. Please know how grateful I am for the kindness and love your family has shown me. Blessings, Amy Hutchinson McBride

**Amy McBride** - August 13, 2016 at 11:35 AM

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**Amy McBride** - August 13, 2016 at 11:34 AM

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“ Dawn Perrin purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dr. Chantrey A. Fritts Jr..



**Dawn Perrin** - August 11, 2016 at 08:17 PM

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“ Dear Debbie and family,  
We are sorry for your loss. Your loss is his gain. He was always such a gentleman.  
Blessings on all of you.  
Love,  
David and Amy

**David/Amy Baldrige** - August 11, 2016 at 11:33 AM