



## Rodger Steve Matthijetz

September 17, 1945 - June 26, 2016

Graveside services for Rodger Matthijetz, 70, of Ledbetter, Texas, are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 1, 2016 at the Ledbetter Cemetery in Ledbetter with Rev. Jeremy Walloch officiating. Visitation will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Friday, July 1, 2016 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings. The family will be present for visitation Thursday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Rodger Steve Matthijetz was born on September 17, 1945 in Houston, Texas to Wilbert Henry Matthijetz and Ruby Lee (Stephan) Matthijetz. He grew up in Houston and graduated from Lamar High School. He was united in marriage to Janet Muckleroy on January 25, 1969 in Houston. Rodger received his Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science Degrees from Sam Houston State University. He was employed as a middle school science teacher with La Grange I.S.D. for 38 years. He was a member of the Fayette County Farm Bureau, the Texas State Teachers Association and Round Top Sons of Hermann Lodge. Rodger was also a longtime member of the Ledbetter V.F.D. and made beans for the Ledbetter Firemen's Feast and the Ledbetter Homecoming for many years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and gardening. Rodger could usually be found tinkering on projects around the house or searching for items that he could repurpose from garage and estate sales. He passed away the evening of Sunday, June 26, 2016 at St. David's Medical

Center in Austin.

Rodger was preceded in death by his father, Wilbert "Whip" Matthijetz.

He is survived by his wife, Jan Matthijetz of Ledbetter; his two daughters, Cindy Matthijetz of Ledbetter and Wendi Matthijetz of Round Top; his mother and step-father, Ruby Lee & Tom Lowery of Ledbetter; his uncle, Hugo Matthijetz of La Grange; four aunts, Edna Kessel of La Grange, Laura Matthijetz of Winchester, Lillie Dillard of La Grange and Marie Kilian of La Grange and his brother-in-law, Jack & Vera Muckleroy of Marion.

Serving as pallbearers will be Harley Goerlitz, Roger Goerlitz, Billy Goerlitz, Justin Pesch, Ricky Lancaster and Ronnie Woelfel. Honorary pallbearers will be Phil Parker, Kevin Woelfel and Rodney Read.

Memorials may be made to the Ledbetter Vounteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 213, Ledbetter, Texas 78946 or the charity of one's choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Ledbetter Cemetery

600 Prospect Road  
Ledbetter, TX 78946

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 30.** 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin St.  
Giddings, TX 78942  
(979) 542-3113  
phillipsluckey@yahoo.com  
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

## Family Present for Visitation

**JUN 30.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin St.  
Giddings, TX 78942  
(979) 542-3113  
phillipsluckey@yahoo.com  
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## Visitation

JUL 1. 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM (CT)

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## Graveside Service

JUL 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ledbetter Cemetery  
600 Prospect Road  
Ledbetter, TX 78946

# Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rodger Steve Matthijetz*



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**Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home** - June 29, 2016 at 03:13 PM

AB

“ Jan, Cindy, and Wendi...My condolences to you and your family on the sudden loss of Rodger. Rodger and I were friends back in the late 50's and early 60's. In addition to attending the same church, we spent numerous weekends together with our respective families either going to Surfside Beach or barbecuing at home. (As mentioned previously by my sister, Dorothy, our respective families were longtime friends and we spent considerable time together over the years.) Rodger and I especially loved gigging bullfrogs - we spent many a Friday night visiting various golf course ponds and drainage ditches in SW Houston looking for frogs. One summer alone, we caught over 200 frogs. Sadly, after starting my own career and family, we lost touch for many years. Fortunately, over a year ago, Rodger contacted me and we started catching up. We would call each other periodically and talk endlessly about family, fishing, and hunting. We would briefly discuss fishing and hunting but, family was the primary topic of discussion. Rodger always would give me a status of you and your family, including his mom and her ongoing battle with Alzheimer's. Roger definitely loved and cared for his family. I will truly miss these phone calls. I pray that God bless you and your family during this trying time and give you the peace in knowing that Rodger is with his Lord.

*Albert Behrend, Friendswood, TX*

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**Albert Behrend** - July 02, 2016 at 07:47 AM

FW


“*Jan, Wendi and Cindy. When I moved to La Grange in 1977 I discovered an excellent faculty. Roger was one of those excellent teachers! He inspired students with his high expectations and humor. We were blessed to have both of our children have Junior high science with Roger. We remember searching high and low for insects for his famous insect collection as well and brainstorming as to the best box for the collection.*

*You have my sincere condolences. He blessed so many lives with his positive influence*

*.Fred Weaver*

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**Fred Weaver** - June 30, 2016 at 10:35 AM

 Becky  
Matthijetz-  
Weise

“*Rodger Steve was a man that didn't like change. Look at all the pictures of his hairstyle and you'll know what I mean. This was a good thing because it meant he was always the same when he saw you - kind, genuinely interested in hearing how you were, sharing stories of his outdoor adventures, laughing together, reminiscing about old times, and the list goes on.*

*A hard life - yes. A hard worker - yes. He definitely learned as much from the school of hard knocks as he did from his formal education. He never ever let anything show others when his heart was weighted with the cares of the world. Instead, he found a way to take it all in stride. Rodger was a man who touched a thousand lives and his influence was so authentic that it will remain in the hearts of all those he taught, cared for and loved.*

*RIP my cousin Rodger. Love, Becky & Tim Weise*

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**Becky Matthijetz-Weise** - June 30, 2016 at 07:19 AM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Rodger Steve Matthijetz.



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June 29, 2016 at 05:44 PM



“ Jan, Wendi & Cindy...My deepest sympathies to you and your family on the sudden passing of Rodger. He and I attended elementary school together; graduated high school together; we were confirmed together at Memorial Lutheran Church. Our families were longtime friends who fished, frogged, barbecued and spent hours of fun together. Although our lives went in separate directions for many years, I would think of him from time to time. Rodger contacted me and my brother, Albert, a year or more ago and we had been talking off and on since. Rodger spoke so fondly of his family and it was obvious that he was a wonderful husband and father. He cared and helped so many. I am saddened that we did not get together as we had talked about. My prayers and thoughts are with you. May God comfort you as you mourn his loss. I know Rodger is in heaven rejoicing with his heavenly Father.

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**Dorothy Behrend Peterson** - June 29, 2016 at 04:41 PM



“ Dorothy Behrend Peterson lit a candle in memory of Rodger Steve Matthijetz

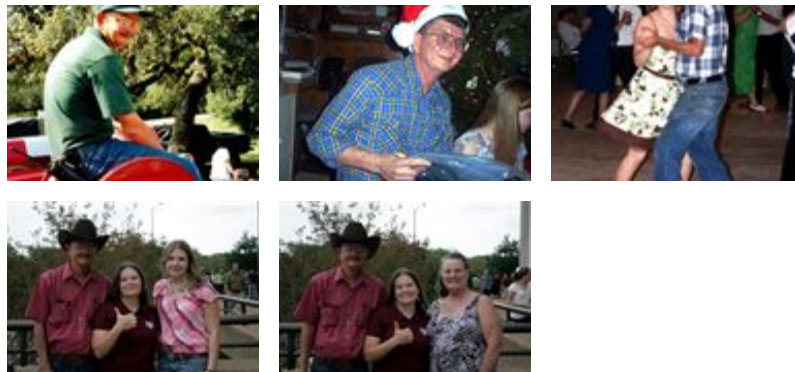


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**Dorothy Behrend Peterson** - June 29, 2016 at 04:19 PM



“ 87 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home** - June 29, 2016 at 02:55 PM

LA

“ We are so sorry to hear of the passing of your husband and father. He was a wonderful science teacher and I remember when I was in 7th grade doing the insect collection. If you had an insect that you could not identify he could tell you what it was. Those memories came back to me when I was helping my kids Justin and Katie with their collections. So many times I told my kids about him and they would ask me " Mom what kind of bug is this" and if I did not know I told them Mr. Matthijetz could tell me.



*May all of your wonderful memories you shared bring you peace and comfort during this time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Wayne, Linda, Justin and Katie Anders*

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**Linda Anders** - June 29, 2016 at 10:42 AM

DP

*My deepest sympathies to your family in the sudden passing of Rodger. Rodger & I went to elementary and graduated high school together. We attended Memorial Lutheran Church and took catechism together. Our families were longtime friends and spent many hours of fun together. Rodger and I had been talking off and on for the past year or more. I am deeply saddened, but I know he is in heaven rejoicing. Prayers are with you, Jan, Cindy & Wendi. He spoke so fondly of you all! It was obvious he was a great husband and father! Prayers and thoughts are with you. Dorothy Behrend Peterson.*

**Dorothy Behrend Peterson** - June 29, 2016 at 04:16 PM

JL

*Jan, Cindy and Wendi,*

*I was honored to know Rodger Steve Matthijetz, your husband and father for many years. I have never met a human being in my life that lived all the virtues of the Bible towards his family, friends and neighbors and community as Rodger. His kindness and instant enthusiasm to help others was boundless and admirable, and very awesome to behold as he walked his way of Life upon this Earth. I will miss him greatly! My prayers are with you in this time of great sorrow.*

*Roger is now forever young in our Father's house in Heaven. As the angels sang with joy at Bethlehem, then I am sure that God has also given a most beautiful voice to Rodger Steve Matthijetz to sing with joy in the Choir of Heaven.*

*Well done Rodger Steve Matthijetz, you good and faithful child of God.*

**Jacqueline Lyons** - June 29, 2016 at 05:50 PM



“ *Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rodger Steve Matthijetz.*



June 28, 2016 at 05:17 PM

GB

“ So sorry for your loss. Mr. Matthijetz was Steven'ss favorite teacher. He was always so nice and kind to everyone. Prayers for his family and I ask God to put his loving arms around you all and give you peace. God Bless

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**Gayla and Steve Bassett** - June 28, 2016 at 03:45 PM

TB

“ My heart is with Mr. Matthijetz family at this time. I was very lucky to have him and Mrs. Matthijetz as my teachers. He will be missed.

*Tiffany Baxley*

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**Tiffany Baxley** - June 28, 2016 at 02:24 PM

JM

*Sorry this is late Tiffany but I'm just now getting around to reading all the comments about Rogers funeral. I remember those days very well and I still have some of your work that I've kept*

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**jan matthijetz** - July 22, 2016 at 07:49 PM

VO

“ Roger was wonderful person to talk to and work with. We always talk about fishing and where we went. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Virginia Olenick** - June 28, 2016 at 02:19 PM

NF

“ Rodger was one of my first playmates in Ledbetter, TX when he came to visit his grandparents who lived next door to us. My brother Charles and I looked up to him. We thought he was cool----at 5 years old. Rodger and I were reconnected when we went to Blinn and rode the Blinn bus to Brenham. I still thought he was cool and a good guy. I am so sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers,  
Nancy Rauch Fuelberg

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**Nancy E. Fuelberg** - June 28, 2016 at 12:53 PM

JM

Nancy I'm sorry I never met you but Rodger talked about y'all in the first years that we were married. Are you any kin to Otis and Idabel? I worked with Idabel at the state school in Brenham for five years.

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**jan matthijetz** - July 22, 2016 at 08:00 PM

MC

“ Jan ,Cindy, and Wendi - Know that we are thinking of you and that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Rodger was a wonderful teacher and co-worker. He was always friendly and had something nice to say. Allison and Courtney loved having him for a Science Teacher - He made learning Science fun and interesting - especially the "Bug Collection". I know that he will be dearly missed, and I know you have a lot of wonderful and special memories as a Husband, Dad, Teacher and Friend! May he rest in peace.- John and Martha Creech and Family

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**Martha Creech** - June 28, 2016 at 09:40 AM

JL

“ Rodger was a great conversationalist and let you know he enjoyed the time spent with you. We spent many hours comparing the educational system of Alabama and Texas...especially, the retirement compensation. One could tell he was a child of God because of his care and concern for others. He will be missed when we visit the area again. RIP, Rodger. You have toiled diligently for your family and others.

Jan, Cindi and Wendi, be assured that Rodger is in a better place and have comfort knowing that he is at peace.

Love to all of you.

Jim and JoAnn Lowery

Arab, AL

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**JoAnn Lowery** - June 28, 2016 at 09:19 AM

KS

“ Rodger was in his first year of teaching when i was in middle school, and then both of my daughters had him as their science teacher. He taught well, and had fun doing it. And his love for his girls was amazing! He was a great person all around and he will be missed by so many! Jan, Cindy and Wendi- you all are in our prayers!

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**Kathy Simek** - June 28, 2016 at 07:03 AM

LC

“ He was a great teacher and cared for his students. He made the lessons so interesting learning came easy. Prayers of comfort for the family. May God's peace be with you.



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**Lisa Michael Coonrod** - June 27, 2016 at 08:23 PM

DS

“ *Dolores Ahlschlager Schulze lit a candle in memory of Rodger Steve Matthijetz*



**Dolores Ahlschlager Schulze** - June 27, 2016 at 06:49 PM

DS

*Rodger was a wonderful teacher and co- worker. I worked with Rodger at La Grange ISD for 18 years. I worked in the cafeteria and we all knew when he came into the cafeteria what he wanted, he got almost the same thing every time he came in ....always said hello to everyone. Never knew him not to talk to you and most of the time he made your day ....he always thought of the kids I know he will be teaching up in heaven and God has another great man and you all have and always have a guardian angel to watch over you .....he may be gone in body but he will always be with each and everyone of you ....treasure the memories that you shared with him I know I will. He was and always will be a wonderful and treasured friend....Shine Bright my friend til we meet again ....Dance with angels my friend....RIP my friend....God Bless you all...!!*

**Dolores Ahlschlager Schulze** - June 27, 2016 at 06:56 PM

JG

“ *Joan Gersch lit a candle in memory of Rodger Steve Matthijetz*



**Joan Gersch** - June 27, 2016 at 10:42 AM

JG

*Rodger was a wonderful Science teacher and he will be miss by lots of people. Rodger touch the life of lots of people he was one of my daughters favorite customers at Tractor Supply. Prayers to Jan, Cindy, Wendi and the rest of his family. God Bless all of you.*

**Joan Gersch** - June 27, 2016 at 10:49 AM