

*In Loving Memory of*



**Andrew Philip Richardson**

*September 21, 1986*

*to*

*November 15, 2021*



*The Winds have welcomed you with softness.  
The Sun has blessed you with its warm hands.  
You have flown so high and so well  
that God has joined you in your laughter  
and set you gently back again  
into the loving arms of Mother Earth.*

*– Balloonist's Prayer*

*Funeral Service for  
Andy Richardson*

11:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 20, 2021

Bloomington, Indiana

**Processional** ..... Gustav Mahler  
*Adagietto* (Symphony No. 5)

**Welcome** ..... Andrew Bowlen

**High Flight**..... John Gillespie Magee, Jr (1941)

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, – and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and  
swung

High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...  
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew –  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

**To Mr. Blanchard, the Celebrated Aeronaut.....**

Philip Freneau (1816), *excerpted*

But *you* ambitious, have design'd  
With silk to soar above mankind: —  
On silk you hang your splendid car  
And mount towards the morning star.

Beyond our view you mean to rise —  
And *this Balloon*, of mighty size,  
Will to the astonish'd eye appear,  
An atom wafted thro' the air.

You have a longing for the skies,  
To leave the fogs that round us rise,  
To haste your flight and speed your wings  
Beyond this world of little things.

**Man Ain't Supposed to Cry.....**Marc Broussard

**Remarks from Loved Ones**

Bill Oliver  
Mike Diekhoff  
Alex Jerden  
Matt Childress  
Jennifer Richardson

*All are now invited to share brief stories of Andy*

**Give 'em Hell .....**Marc Broussard

## **We Remember Them .....**

Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer

If life is sacred, it should not be allowed to perish. True, the body will return to dust from whence it came, but the remembrance of the life should continue. We are not dead until we are forgotten.

At the rising sun and at its going down,  
We remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,  
We remember them.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,  
We remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,  
We remember them.

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the  
autumn,

We remember them.

At the beginning of the year and when it ends,  
We remember them.

For they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength,  
We remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart,  
We remember them.

When we have joy we crave to share,  
We remember them.

When we have decisions that are difficult to make,  
We remember them.

When we have achievements that are based on theirs,  
We remember them.

For as long as we live, they too will live, for they are now  
a part of us,

As we remember them.

**Heavenly Day** .....Patty Griffin

**Closing**.....Andrew Bowlen

**Somewhere Over the Rainbow**..... Eva Cassidy

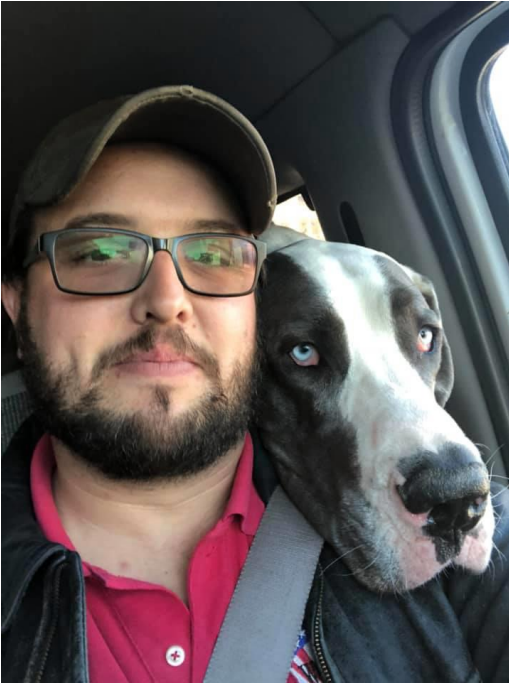
**Processional** ..... Tomaso Albinoni  
arranged by Remo Giazotto  
Adagio in G minor

**Pallbearers**

Bob Childress, Fred Hubbard, Thomas Smith,  
Matt Childress, Alex Jerden, Mike Diekhoff



*Here's to blue skies and soft landings...*



*Andy and Adam Dog*

*Andy with favorite musician and friend, Marc Broussard*





*Young enthusiast*







*Beloved Son, Brother,  
and Friend*



## **Andy's Life Aloft**

Andy's great passion in life was hot air ballooning, and he spent nearly all his time as a young child nurturing an obsession with all things airborne. He integrated himself into the local ballooning community, often whether they liked it or not.

With the help of his Uncle Bob, Andy bought his first hot air balloon when he was 14 years old, a single passenger experimental aircraft. This hot air balloon was so precious to him that he insisted on keeping the basket in the living room - the family decorated it for the holidays.

In the intervening 21 years, Andy turned his passion into a profession, and his company, Adams Balloons, is one of the largest manufacturers of balloons in the United States and well-known for its special shape creations and thermal airships.

His ride company, Bloomington Balloon Rides, fills the skies with balloons most fair-weather nights. His goal was to make hot air ballooning a sport that all could enjoy - from manufacturing affordable and durable hot air balloons for pilots to giving safe yet unforgettable rides to passengers across the country.

Andy was an experienced commercial pilot, test pilot, certified balloon repair man, flight instructor, and mentor to aspiring enthusiasts. He was especially proud of his latest accomplishment, becoming an FAA-certified Designated Pilot Examiner.

Andy participated by invitation in national and international festivals, including as one of two Americans at the Age 30 and Under World Championships in Lithuania in 2012. He provided the balloon for the New Horizons mirrored and lighted balloon art installation, shown across the state of Massachusetts.

Andy was also asked by the Smithsonian Institution to manufacture a balloon for their collection, which now resides in the National Air and Space Museum. He also donated his time to Dream Catcher to construct their ADA-accessible balloon which has successfully given thousands of rides to mobility-challenged individuals.

He was the former president of the Montgolfier Society of Indiana Balloon Club, and an active member of two New Mexico Lighter than Air ballooning clubs: the ABQ Aerostat Ascension Association and the Top Gun Club.

Andy was a gifted storyteller, was tremendously generous and funny, and was very beloved by his family and those who knew him. Andy is preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents.

He is survived by his mother Sue Childress; father Jeff Richardson; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Jessica (Thomas) Smith, and Jennifer Richardson and Fred Hubbard; a niece and nephew; Adam Dog, a 170 lb Great Dane and his partner in crime; and a large extended family and friends network who are profoundly saddened by his passing.



*A Celebration of Life will be held in 2022*

*Share your memories of Andy*

[AndysLifeAloft.com](http://AndysLifeAloft.com)