



## Andrew Meredith Sisson

October 29, 1953 - October 6, 2025

Andrew Sisson, 71, of Blacksburg, Virginia died peacefully Monday, October 6, 2025, guided by angels and surrounded by loved ones while in palliative care at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He was born in Ashland, VA, the middle child of Ruth (McCue) and Russell Sisson. He attended Patrick Henry High School and Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg. He remained in Blacksburg for the rest of his career. While at Virginia Tech he discovered a group of volunteers who organized the RAFT, a crisis intervention center. He volunteered there, and in doing so found a group of lifelong friends. He became the Supervisor of the Crisis Intervention Unit and eventually the Director of the RAFT. When RAFT later merged with the New River Valley Community Services Board he became the Director of Substance Abuse Services in the New River Valley. He later worked as a trainer for the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program in the New River Valley. During his career he studied Administration at Lesley College in Boston, MA and Psychodrama with Ann Hale, at the Blue Ridge Human Relations Institute in Roanoke. Andrew's interest in theology inspired him to co-lead the Blacksburg Metaphysical Chapel for several years. He served on many boards of local organizations. He also used sign language to interpret for those with hearing challenges in their legal or medical appointments. For more than 45 years Andrew helped thousands of people understand themselves and learn how to improve their lives. He did this with compassion, a fierce sense of humor, a non-judgmental attitude, and a willingness to challenge people when

necessary while advocating for the dignity and rights of those often marginalized in society. After he retired in 2020, he volunteered for the Montgomery County Election Board and Served as co-captain in the McCoy district for several years.

Andrew loved cooking and was well known for preparing delicious food for family and friends. He enjoyed horseback riding, and African drumming. For 25 years he was a member of the Backyard Stonecarvers. He discovered his love for carving rocks after attending a workshop held by the late artist and sculpturer Darcy Meeker of Blacksburg.

He was predeceased by his father Andrew Russell Sisson, his mother Ruth (McCue) Sisson and his brother Edwin Sisson and mother-in-law Helen Wager. He is survived by his wife Kathleen Wager, his sister Kelly Sisson Henson and brother-in-law John Henson, sister-in-law Susan Wager, nephew Chris Gottlieb, sister-in-law Margaret Scully, niece Andrea Scully Knepper (Jacob), great nephew Alex Carr, and great niece Rose Carr.

The family wishes to thank Scott Boerth, MD, Lewis Gale Physicians, Terrance May, MD, Carilion Clinic Cardiology, DeEtta Ray, DNP and nurses at Carilion New River Valley Heart Failure Clinic, and Dr. Paul LaFlam, Blue Ridge Nephrology Associates for their compassionate care, knowledge, and expertise.

A Celebration of Life will be held November 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1301 Gladewood Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Carilion Clinic Foundation, noting the Cardiology Dept. at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital or the Carilion New River Valley Heart Failure Clinic as recipients, or the American Civil Liberties Union.



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV **15**. 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
1301 Gladewood Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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# Tribute Wall

BP

“ Andrew was such a good, kind and patient human being. I met him while we worked the elections in McCoy, VA where I served as the chief and Andrew served as the co-chief. It was delightful working beside Andrew, hearing his stories and getting to know him. To his family - please accept my sincere condolences. Rest in peace Andrew!!

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**Belinda Pauley** - November 10, 2025 at 02:32 PM

HO

“ Hiromi O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew Meredith Sisson.

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**Hiromi O.** - October 27, 2025 at 06:37 PM

BM

“ Andy was a blessing to all. His life was built around helping and caring for others. Regardless of where you stood in life, he had the love and care to help you make a difference. So many times his words encouraged me. You will be missed Andy!

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**Betty MacLachlan** - October 14, 2025 at 04:56 PM

PS

“ Andy was chosen family and was a significant and positive presence throughout my life. He became our adopted uncle once we arrived in Virginia, and was a father figure to me. He will be deeply missed. My heart and prayers of peace go out to Kathy.

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**Parris Stafford** - October 13, 2025 at 09:09 PM