

## Alan Nelson's Speech for Andrews Funeral (January 6, 2007)

**To the Community and all of our Friends** – You have lost one of your own. Andrew will always be your Hometown Hero. The people of this community and beyond have shown us so much love and support during all of this and for that we thank you. You don't know how much it has meant to all of us, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

**To all of Andrew's Friends** - You've lost a great friend. Remember all of the great times you had together and all the crazy things you did, like surfing on a couch being dragged behind Cody's truck down the gravel road. As you all move on with your life and eventually marry and have kids of your own, you're going to read books to them and tell them stories as they grow up about Super Hero's like Batman and Superman. And now, you will also have a story that you can share with them about a "Real Super Hero". Andrew will always be with each and every one of you. And Tami and I want you to know that our home is always open for any of you to come by at anytime and talk and reminisce.

**To the Rewerts Family** – You have lost a Son-in-Law and a Brother-in-Law. I'm so sorry that you only had Andrew in your life for a few short years. But in those few years, you seen Andrew grow from a boy to the man we all know and love today, and I know that Andrew will always be in your hearts. And Joe, as you are preparing to leave for the Military, please know that you will always be in our prayer. Thank you for being a part of our lives.

**To all of Andrews Aunts, Uncles and Cousins** – You've lost an awesome Nephew and Cousin. Remember all the great times we all had playing games at family gatherings, and at Lake Powell jumping from the cliffs. Cherish those memories forever. We have such a close knit family, and without all of your love and support, I don't think that we would have made it through this. We love you all, and we thank you in advance for being there for us in the days, weeks, months and years that lie ahead of us.

**To the Stinnett Family** – You've lost a Son & Brother too. Maybe he wasn't you real Son or Brother, but we know you loved Andrew just as much as we did. We love you guys so much and were so happy that you got to be a part of Andrew's life. Andrew loved you like he loved his own family. Part of the reason that Andrew turned out to be the Honorable young man that we all know today, is because of the influence you had on him and the example you set for him, and for that we will always love you.

**To all of Andrews Grandparents** – You lost a beautiful Grandson. Thank you all for teaching us to teach him. He is the man he is today because of what you taught us, and the examples you set. Please know that Andrew will always be with you. When your legs or your back or your hip is hurting and you can barely make it up the

steps, know that Andrew is right there next to you, holding your hand along the way. And Larry, every time you mow a lawn, know that Andrew is right there next to you on his little tractor, because that's right where he'd want to be. You all had a major part in who Andrew is today, and you can be proud of that. I know that we are.

**To Andrews Sisters, Jessica and Stephanie** – You've lost an incredible brother. Always keep Andrew close to your heart, and he will always be with you. Before you do or say something you may regret later, ask yourself WWAT (What Would Andrew Think) and then do the right thing, because you know that he would want you to. We love you so much and I'm so sorry that your brother was taken from us so early, but please know that he is in a better place now, and we WILL see him in Heaven someday.

**To Andrews Wife Kristi** – You have lost an amazing husband. There are no words that I can say that will take away your hurt and your pain. Only time will heal your sorrow that your feeling now. You are our Sons wife, our Daughter-in-law, we love you Kristi just as we do our own daughters. You will always be our Daughter-in-Law no matter what, and you are always welcome in our home. We will always be here for you. We love you Kristi.

**To Andrews Mother, my Wife Tami** – We have lost our first born child, our only Son. I feel the pain in your heart. Thank you to our special friends Jim and Joy and Tami's Cousin Heather for introducing Tami and I to the Lord. Because of our faith in God, we KNOW that Andrew is in Heaven dancing with the Angels, and one day, we will all be reunited and will celebrate once again with each other. Andrew will always be with us, it won't be easy, but we WILL make it thru this. I love you Tami and I will always be here for you.

**To everyone, everywhere** – When a tragedy like this happens, there is always some good that comes from it too. Something like this happens and it causes us to reflect on our own lives and realize how short life really is. We all get so caught up in our busy lives that sometimes we forget to tell the people closest to us how we feel. We all have to be more forgiving, because you never know when you may not see that person ever again. Don't be afraid to say "I Love You" to your family, and your friends, because it may be the last thing you have a chance to say to them as they walk out the door and get in the car. Tragedies like this can bring old friends and neighbors back together again and I thank God that he has brought people back into our lives that for one reason or another had been left out for awhile. I wrote a poem a few years ago for my 25 year Class Reunion website that I do for the Class of 79, and I think when I was originally writing this, that God knew it was going to also be for Andrew too. I have modified it a bit to fit this situation and I would like to close by reading it for you now...