



## Mr. Leonard Downs Reese III

August 31, 1948 - August 23, 2022

Leonard Downs Reese III, of Tatum, TX, a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, passed away on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 in Longview, TX.

Leonard was born August 31, 1948 in Natrona Heights, PA to Ruth Elizabeth McMaster Reese and Leonard Downs Reese, Jr. He moved with his family to Houston, TX in 1960. He married his soulmate, Cynthia Jameson Reese, in 1975 in Tatum, TX. They had two children, Elizabeth Jameson Reese and Leonard Downs Reese IV.

Leonard is survived by his wife of 47 years, Cynthia Jameson Reese; daughter Elizabeth Jameson Reese and husband Daniel Miller of San Francisco; son Leonard Downs Reese IV and wife Tingting Lu, and their son, Kaius Lu Reese, of global residence; sisters Virginia Reese Malobicky and husband Rudy of Pittsburgh, PA, Sally Reese Hecht and husband Sid of Phoenix, AZ, and Barbara Reese Kiser and husband Roy of Plainview, TX; brother George Edward Reese of Houston, TX; multifold nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and great-nieces; plus an extraordinary amount of close friends and even greater number of cherished students.

At the age of 20, Leonard enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. A Corporal, he served as an infantry machine gunner with 2nd Platoon Charlie Co, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division in 1969-1970 during the Vietnam

war. Later in life, Leonard would go on to detail his experience of conflict and its lasting effect on his life in his memoir, "The Nam Within."

Leonard received his Masters of Education from SFA in 1975. He worked at Tatum Independent School District for 36 years, impacting the community as a teacher, counselor, academic coach, and school bus driver (once when picking up schoolchildren following a heavy storm, a broken power line fell on top of his school bus electrifying the vehicle; Leonard kept all the youngsters calm and still in the insulated school bus to avoid electrocution until first responders arrived). Over the decades, "Mr. Reese" touched the lives of generations of students in Tatum, grounding the community as a dependable mentor and role model.

Throughout his life, Leonard always made sure to demonstrate his affection to his family members, making sure they felt cared for. He lived his life thoughtfully, with kindness, and with a deep consideration of others. He raised his children with love and respect, and doted on his grandson with tenderness. More than anything else in life, he loved his wife, Cindy, as was so clearly written in his every look at her.

Funeral services with Military Honors will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 3, 2022, at Tatum United Methodist Church with Pastor Everigester Adams, Jr., Rev. Jamie Brown, and Rev. Dwain Smith officiating.

Honorary pallbearers will be Pat Browning, Doug Kayem, Dr. Doug McMillan, Pat Parks, Terry Stanton, Steven Woodfin, the Marines from 2nd Platoon Charlie Co in '69-70, and the Rum Runners from Memorial High School.

The family would like to specially thank Dr. Rick Earnest, Dr. Pam Fisher, and Paula Bradley for the care they provided to Leonard.

Memorials may be sent to:  
The Tatum Education Foundation,  
The Tatum United Methodist Church,  
The Tatum Cemetery Association,  
or to a charity of your choice.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at [www.crawfordacrim.com](http://www.crawfordacrim.com).

# Previous Events

## Service

SEP 3. 1:00 PM (CT)

Tatum United Methodist Church  
150 Jackson  
Tatum, TX 75691

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ Red – well you’ve walked your last patrol. I imagine you can have all the C-Ration Beans and Weenies you want. Just be careful with the C-4 when you heat them.

All of us in Charlie 2 already miss you. Please say “hello” to Sparky, Brown and the others you have re-grouped with.

Semper Fi,  
S/Sgt. Matt

Getting ready for a night ambush – Oct 1969. Red is center with the M-60 machine gun.



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Rick Materna - September 12, 2022 at 06:14 PM

JM

“ Mr. Reese was one of the most impactful teachers of my school days. Always a great storyteller, he help ignite a passion for history in me, and always showed a level of interest in the growth in his students both in and out of the classroom.

My heart goes out to the Reese family.

- Jessie McGarity



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Jessie McGarity - September 08, 2022 at 02:24 PM

CC

“ Cindy, we were so fortunate to get to know Leonard and you through the Bookstore in Kilgore Book Club. You are both such genuine, caring and talented people. We know Leonard touched a lot of lives for the better and will be greatly missed.  
Tom and Carol Church

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**Carol Church** - September 03, 2022 at 01:31 PM

JM

“ My most sincere condolences and deepest gratitude to the Reese family for the Service and Sacrifices made by this Gentleman-and by his family- for His Nation. i did not have the Privilege and Honor to know Mr. Reese, but his Life Story and the Homage paid Him by his Brothers in Arms and the outstanding photo shared here have touched me deeply.  
again accept my Thanks and know that he Will Be Remembered!

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**joe mitchell** - September 03, 2022 at 09:34 AM

BL

“ When I think of Leonard I immediately think of his radiant smile and glowing energy. What a unique beautiful person. I am so sorry for your loss Cindy...I am sending you and your family all of my love.

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**Britt Lorraine** - September 02, 2022 at 11:09 AM



“ Heaven now welcomes another Peaceful Warrior. What a kind, fun, interesting man. Cindy, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. The world needs more of the likes of Leonard Reese.  
God's Grace and Strength be with you.

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**Daniel Weaver** - September 02, 2022 at 09:04 AM

EL

“ *Mr. Reese was my bus driver from elementary to high school and then my English teacher in high school. He was a good man and I'm thankful he was in my life.*

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**Elizabeth** - August 31, 2022 at 10:50 PM

CA

“ *My wife met Red at a book signing and then got us together. He was big encouragement to me as a fellow vet. His book will always have a treasured spot on my bookshelf when I'm not rereading it. Leonard was the first person I met four years ago after I moved here from Wisconsin. Thanks for all you've done for me and everyone you meet!*

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**Clarence Anderson** - August 31, 2022 at 02:35 PM

RC

“ *So sorry to hear of Mr. Reese's passing. He was a great teacher and friend. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*  
*Love,*  
*James and Robin Conway*

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**Robin Conway** - August 31, 2022 at 01:01 PM

AB

“ *Mr. Reese was a very vocal man who always had the best interest of his students and people in general!! He had a great impact on my life and I know he impacted the lives of my children, he will be missed, but his light will continue to shine as long as we help to shine the light on his legacy!!!!*

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**abigail** - August 31, 2022 at 09:32 AM

MH

“ *Mr Reese was the counselor at THS in the '80s when I was a junior and senior. He was always happy and helpful and there whenever we needed him. He was a man of integrity and I hope his family has peace and comfort in knowing how many lives he touched and I am sorry for their loss, but I know heaven rejoices in gaining a new angel.*

**Mikael Hays** - August 31, 2022 at 07:02 AM

JP

*Leonard was such a fine man and example to all who new him,--adults and students alike... Am so glad that I was privileged to visit with him and Cindy. several months ago. His book showed his devotion to his wifeand family in such a beautiful way. He will be truly missed by all who knew him. Cindy. I LOVE YOU, and feel your loss. Janie Pepper*

**Janie Pepper** - August 31, 2022 at 05:02 PM

SL

“ *Saddened to hear this news! He was an awesome person. Great asset to all the students and parents and Tatum Community!*



**Sherry Liles** - August 30, 2022 at 11:14 PM

PA

“ Leonard was a friend and a gentleman. He taught me much through the months we were together in Roxie's writing and reading group. Although we met in our later and retired lives, I'm thankful that I had the opportunity to meet Leonard and Cindy and to read his book "The Nam Within."  
-Paul Anderson



Paul Anderson - August 30, 2022 at 10:02 PM

JL

“ A great example to me as a young teacher/coach. So sorry to hear this. Praying for the family.

Jeff Lee - August 30, 2022 at 08:42 PM

JP

“ Mr. Reese, I'm not sure there are words for a man such as himself. He was a compassionate teacher with a big, wonderful personality. I pray that Elizabeth and Downs find comfort knowing how many lives he touched, inspired, and warmed. Ms. Reese, may your soul find comfort knowing he is well, and he is filling heaven with his knowledge and humor. What a light we have lost. Thank you for being you always, Mr. Reese!



Jamie (Johnson) Pennywell - August 30, 2022 at 08:40 PM

CH

*What a colleague & friend. As a counselor, he counseled teachers, as well as students. I'll always remember the trials & triumphs we shared as teachers. A truly "great" man, who touched many lives.*

*Charlotte Hansen  
Tatum H.S. teacher  
1981-1989*

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**Charlotte Hansen(Wyatt)** - August 31, 2022 at 12:45 PM

MI

“*Dear mr Reese you were always one of my most beloved teachers I enjoyed your class very much you were always so kind I still remember you would always let me pair up with one my best friends for class work I'm very sad that you are gone but you are not forgotten thank you for everything RIP*

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**miranda** - August 30, 2022 at 07:56 PM

DR

“*Leonard was probably the most gentle kind loving person I know although I wouldn't want to mess with him if he had to protect his wife , child , family member or friend ( if he did I'm sure he would do it in the kindest but most firm way he knew ) .He was in and out and around our family for many years as friend, our children and grandkids teacher and neighbor. His book was a look into his life I wish he hadn't had to live but was proud to do so for us all. Thank you Leonard for everything . ❤️*

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**Debbie Ross** - August 30, 2022 at 07:25 PM

RC

“ I’m so sorry, I’ve just heard the news. Mr. Reese is an inspiration to me even now, two decades after stepping out of his classroom for the last time. The warmth, patience, and guidance he showed to everyone set an example that I use daily in how I treat all those closest to me, especially my children. He has been missed all these years away, he will be missed in perpetuity, but his legacy lives on through everyone his life touched.

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**Robert Cox** - August 30, 2022 at 05:51 PM

OC

To the family our thoughts and prayers 🙏 are with you. Mr. Reese was definitely one of a kind he always had a smile one of the best teachers ever ❤️ he impacted so many lives a good person he was great story teller...

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**Opal Carston** - August 30, 2022 at 11:56 PM

DJ

“ Leonard always put a smile on my face! He was quick to love and shared his inquisitive nature with others. I love how Leonard and Cindy love each other! I will miss him dearly. Love Always and forever. DD Johnson

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**dd johnson** - August 30, 2022 at 05:29 PM

TF

“ Mrs. Reese,

*I am so sorry for your lose! You and your family are in my prayers. You two were my favorite teachers in Tatum. May God wrap his loving arms around you and give you comfort in your time of need. You have to know that your Tatum family is here for you so don't hesitate to reach out to any of us if you need anything. Love you*

*Tina Fields*

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**Tina Fields** - August 30, 2022 at 05:25 PM

Jl

“ Judy I. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Mr. Leonard Downs Reese III.



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**Judy I.** - August 30, 2022 at 05:15 PM

SP

“ I am student of Mr. Reese. I graduated in 2005 with Downs. Mr. Reese mixed history with laughter which I loved. He was a great teacher! Every time we would say it was hot or cold in his class, his response was always, "I know, it feels good huh." Then he would adjust the thermostat right before class ended lol. I will always remember evaporation and precipitation by his hand gestures lol. I was also blessed to have Mrs. Reese as a teacher. I will be praying for your family! Mr. Reese was a good man. ❤️ ~Sherry Pelsia (Bradshaw)



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**Sherry Pelsia** - August 30, 2022 at 04:45 PM

JR

“ I was sad to hear of Mr Reese’s passing. My first year at Tatum he made me laugh daily and I enjoyed the Media class he taught. I soon learned of his friendship with my dad that gave us something to talk about often. You will be missed.

Julie Reid - August 30, 2022 at 04:26 PM

AB

“ I loved talking with Mr. Reese he always made it feel like what you were saying was the most important thing to him at that time. Leonard Reese will be greatly misses. Amy Brown

Amy Brown - August 30, 2022 at 03:43 PM



“ Laurie Morse lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leonard Downs Reese III



Laurie Morse - August 30, 2022 at 12:24 PM



“ Dear Cindy and family, I was so sad to hear of Red's passing. We all loved Red and thought of him as family. I will always remember Red's sense of humor and kindness. His loyalty to family and friends is a tribute to his legacy. We will all miss him but will always will remember him with warm hearts. With love to you all, Laurie Jo (only as Red would call me).

Laurie Morse - August 30, 2022 at 12:22 PM

MM

“ *Our sincerest condolences for the whole family. May Leonard's memory be a blessing and joy for all of you for the decades to come. Chris and Michael Miller*

Michael Miller, M.D. - August 30, 2022 at 11:59 AM

BH

“ *Cindy and family so sorry to see of Leonard's passing he was such a sweet and very smart man. Praying for you and your family*

Brenda Hardage - August 29, 2022 at 07:26 PM

BH

“ *Brenda Hardage lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leonard Downs Reese III*



Brenda Hardage - August 29, 2022 at 07:25 PM

CM

“ *CARLA MOORE lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leonard Downs Reese III*



CARLA MOORE - August 29, 2022 at 10:44 AM

MW

“ When I think of Leonard, I smile. He had the most endearing way with people. He made everyone feel special. He was a kind, compassionate and intelligent. Our lives are better for having had time to spend with him. Many memories I have but one special one. My husband and I had a bookstore in Kilgore and our Daughter was the barista. We had to run to Shreveport, so Vangie was alone for the day to manage sales and coffee. Mr. Reese sat in the front entrance room with a book and stayed til closing. I asked my husband about it and he said "once a marine always a marine." He was noble and honorable always. Cindy, we love you and your children and their families. You will stay in hearts during this time of loss. We will see on Saturday.

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**Mary Paige Woodfin** - August 28, 2022 at 06:22 PM

VS

“ So sorry for the loss of your loved one. Walter always spoke highly of Red Reese. Prayers for all of you. 🙏🙏

Vicky Sparks

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**Vicky Sparks** - August 28, 2022 at 06:10 PM

TP

“ My sincere condolences to Mrs. Reese. I got to know Mr. Reese when I was in Tatum and always remember him as a very nice and knowledgeable teacher.

--Trung and Jennifer Pham

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**Trung Pham** - August 27, 2022 at 08:22 AM

JA

“ From the moment I met you, I saw a tender, loving, man whose kindness I wanted to get to know better. You and Cindy fast became friends of ours, and I will miss you terribly. Much love to Cindy, your children, and all who knew you!

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**Jonna Allen Anderson** - August 25, 2022 at 03:03 PM

BD

“ Heaven gained one of the sweetest people I've ever known. I'm so sorry for your family. Brenda Dartez

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**Brenda Dartez** - August 25, 2022 at 02:19 PM

DT

“ My best goes out to Cindy and rest of family. Red, we went through some rough time back in '69&'70, but we made it home. Gonna miss you my friend. Semper Fi

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**David Thompson** - August 25, 2022 at 10:05 AM

EM

“ Elaine Martin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leonard Downs Reese III



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**Elaine Martin** - August 24, 2022 at 10:36 PM

CL

“ Charlotte Lockridge lit a candle in memory of  
Mr. Leonard Downs Reese III



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**Charlotte Lockridge** - August 24, 2022 at 10:18 PM

SA

“ With Genuine Sympathy.  
Sam & Sonja Adams  
Tatum, Texas



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**sam adams** - August 24, 2022 at 06:48 PM

JR

Leonard will be sorely missed in our Wednesday Veterans group.  
Happy birthday today. We look forward to meeting again at Fiddler's  
Green.

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**Jay Riseden** - August 31, 2022 at 08:59 AM