



## Antoine J. LeBlanc

November 18, 1929 - January 22, 2018

Antoine Jude LeBlanc, loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and great great grandfather, died on Monday, January 22, 2018. He was 88 years old. Mr. LeBlanc, better known as A.J., lived his entire life in Lafayette where he was born in his grandmother's house on Cameron Street on November 18, 1929. A.J. was a member of St. John's Catholic Parish. He attended Cathedral Elementary and graduated from Cathedral High School where he was a member of the boxing team and the then six man football team.

A.J. was well known throughout Lafayette Parish. Early in his career he became a top automobile salesman winning awards for salesmanship at two of Lafayette's largest automobile dealers. His clients lauded him as an honest upfront salesman upon whom they could depend.

Throughout his life A.J. dutifully and willingly participated in the civic and cultural affairs of his native Lafayette Parish. He was elected to and served as president of the Lafayette Parish Police Jury during the years 1976-1977, but served on the Lafayette Parish Policy Jury from 1975-1985.

After leaving the Auto sales business, A.J. became the executive director of Acadian Village (from 1982-1999) where he helped make the village one of the major tourist attractions in the state of Louisiana. During his leadership at the village he worked diligently to educate people on the history of his beloved south Louisiana Acadians. He was responsible for promoting and staging popular entertainment events enhancing popularity and attendance at the village.

Mr. LeBlanc was a member of CODOFIL, where he actively participated in meeting their goals and objectives, always keeping the Acadian people foremost in his endeavors. He received numerous honors and awards throughout the years including: Louisiana Travel Attraction Employee of the Year Award, and the Distinguished Service Award from the Louisiana Restaurant Association in 1989. He served as president of several

organizations including: CAFA, the La. Fairs and Festivals Association, and the La. Attractions Association.

In 1994, A.J. led a delegation of Lafayette Parish business leaders to the International Congress of Acadians in New Brunswick Canada. While there he participated in the twining of an Acadian village in New Brunswick province with the Acadian Village in Lafayette. The primary purpose of the delegation was to promote tourism for Louisiana and particularly Acadiana.

Spanish King Juan Carlos I, an adherent Spanish historian, knew that the Spanish government had helped to resettle the Acadians in Louisiana and he expressed his desire to meet and speak with a small group of Acadians. At the king's request, on March 31, 2001, A.J. led a group of ten prominent Acadians to a meeting with King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain. A.J. presented a Louisiana Acadian flag to the King while he proudly explained the significance of each symbol and color displayed on the flag.

A.J. enjoyed entertaining people and could often be heard on radio broadcast stations in Acadiana. He also appeared on the Acadian television program Passe Partout where he touted the history of his fun loving Acadians. For his contributions to Acadiana and the Acadians he became an "Acadian Legend" and is warmly referred to as le Ambassadeur. He was also inducted into the Acadian Museum in Erath as a Living Legend, a program that recognizes and honors those individuals who help shape and define our Cajun culture.

A.J.'s collection of professional papers, photographs, newsclippings, music collection, and scrapbooks were all donated to the Edith Garland Dupre' Library at ULL and is available for all to view and enjoy.

He is survived by one daughter: Susan Guilbeau, one son: Jay LeBlanc (Sheryl), grandchildren: Amie Guilbeau, Eric Guilbeau (Jenny), Kylie Anglin (Zack), Lainey LeBlanc, great grandchildren: Emily LeBlanc (Jeremy), Brock Thornton, Isabella Guilbeau, Chloe Guilbeau, Lily Guilbeau, Great Great Grandchildren Max LeBlanc, Alex LeBlanc and his faithful loving friend Dorothy Broussard.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 49 years, Louella Thibodeaux LeBlanc; his parents, Rousseau and Nelias LeBlanc; and his sister, Sophie Leffage.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. John's Cathedral on Friday, January 26, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Inurnment will follow at Lafayette Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mr. LeBlanc's honor to the Alzheimer's Association, [www.alz.org/louisiana](http://www.alz.org/louisiana) .

View the obituary and guestbook online at [www.mourning.com](http://www.mourning.com)

Martin & Castille - DOWNTOWN - 330 St. Landry Street, Lafayette, LA 70506 337-234-2311

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Lafayette Memorial Park Cemetery**

2111 W Pinhook Rd

Lafayette, LA, 70508

**JAN**

**26**

**Memorial Mass**

10:00AM

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Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

515 Cathedral St., Lafayette, LA, US, 70501

# Comments

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“ OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE TO ALL OF THE FAMILY. MAY YOUR CHERISHED MEMORIES HELP YOU THRU THIS DIFFICULT TIME. THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. MAY GOD BLESS YOU.



**SHERIFF RONNY THERIOT, SMSO** - January 31, 2018 at 02:14 PM

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“ SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT THE PASSING OF MR. A.J. HE WAS TRULY A LEGEND. WE HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF HIM WAY BACK FROM ACADIAN VILLAGE. HE WAS LOVED AND MUCH RESPECTED. MAY HE REST IN PEACE AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU.

JOYCE & CURTIS LEBLANC  
BREAUX BRIDGE, LA.



**JOYCE & CURTIS LEBLANC** - January 31, 2018 at 02:06 PM

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“ Uncle Jay, Susan, and Jay,  
As a loved one departs and experiences the peace that comes with reaching the place of eternal rest and joy, our hope is that this peace is felt by each of you remaining here. We remember and pay tribute to Uncle Jay's life of optimism, enthusiasm, goodwill, and contribution to others, and know that a spark of that light continues on in all those whose lives he touched!  
Neysa, Sean, Jordan, Sean M. and Selina Fitzsimmons

**Neysa Fitzsimmons** - January 28, 2018 at 03:18 PM

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Neysa, Sean, Jordan, Sean M. and Selina Fitzsimmons

Neysa Fitzsimmons - January 28, 2018 at 11:28 AM

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“ A.J., I will miss you always but know that you are happy to be with all those members of your family who have gone before you Lots of Love, Irene

Irene Bourg - January 27, 2018 at 02:16 PM

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“ Susie, I just found out about your dear father. You have my sincere condolences. I am so appreciative for all your father has done to share and preserve our beautiful Acadian culture. If I am not mistaken, I have a tiny paperback booklet that he put together explaining the origin and meaning of our French Acadian surnames. May perpetual light shine upon your Mr. A.J.



cheryl broussard perret - January 27, 2018 at 09:09 AM



“ Shine upon "you".

cheryl broussard perret - January 27, 2018 at 09:14 AM

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“ Jay and Susan,  
We are so sorry to hear of your father's passing. He did so many great things for Lafayette and Acadiana. He will be greatly missed.

Tommy Michot - January 26, 2018 at 09:14 PM

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“ A.J. was a vital part of our local community. His presence will be missed, but his efforts leave a beautiful legacy for us all. Fondly, Laurie Jankower James

Laurie James - January 26, 2018 at 08:58 AM

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“ My favorite memory of AJ is not from those tourism years; we were actually competitors a lot of that time! But I do remember the 1970s, and I remember well that few people realized my standard French was supplemented by coaching from my Cajun father-in-law. And I really remember AJ as a member of the last couple of iterations of the Lafayette Parish Police Jury, along with Maxie Girouard, Manning Broussard, and Harold Domingue. They knew the official parish business had to be conducted in English; but that didn't stop their side remarks in French. And I made my own side remarks in English to indicate that I understood them. Wish I'd had a camera in my phone then to get a picture of the looks on their faces.

Nancy Noone Broussard - January 24, 2018 at 05:05 PM

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“ Dear Susie and family,

We are deeply sorry to learn of your Dad's passing. He was such a great man having done much throughout his life to make Lafayette and Acadiana a better place. Clay and I lost our Dad's only five months apart last year. Though we know and believe they are now at peace in a much better place it is still a very difficult time losing your Dad. May you take comfort knowing he is finally reunited with your sweet Mom in his heavenly home. You will all continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. May your many years of cherished memories sustain you and bring much peace to your hearts. God bless! Love, Patti and Clay Justice

Patti and Clay Justice - January 23, 2018 at 11:45 AM



“ Au revoir, Antoine.

You were one of the first people who welcomed me with open arms ( and in French, of course) when I arrived in Louisiana in 1974. You had new ideas to explore and discuss every time we met ! Your charm, ingenuity and friendship will not be forgotten ! Ton ami pour toujours,  
Philippe

Philippe Gustin - January 25, 2018 at 02:39 PM