



Ronald Thomas

December 5, 1944 - August 6, 2019

Ronald Thomas, of Sterling Heights, passed away Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at the age of 74. He was born December 5, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan to Norwood and Mary (nee Lenahan) Thomas.

Ron was a United State Army Veteran proudly serving his country during the Vietnam Era. He retired from General Dynamics after working over 30 years.

Ron was a long member of St. Raymond Church and School in Detroit. He served on the Festival Committee and was very active with the Dad's Club. He and his wife Stephanie were very familiar faces around St. Raymond's for many years. Once their family moved to Sterling Heights he became active at St. Malachy Church in Sterling Heights.

Ron was a true Irishman. He was very proud of his Irish heritage and celebrated every year with a grand celebration for St. Patrick's Day with his family and friends. A shot or two of Tullamore Dew will definitely be consumed in Ron's honor.

Ron was a pretty crafty guy. He enjoyed woodworking, drawing, painting and just putzing around. Ron and Stephanie also enjoyed traveling around the state. One of their favorite destinations was just north to Frankenmuth. It was a standing tradition to spend birthdays and anniversaries together in Frankenmuth.

With all of Ron's activities and hobbies his true joy and focus was his family. This coming October, Ron and Stephanie would have celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. To this union brought two daughters that Ron adored and dedicated his life to protect. From attending sporting events when the girls were younger to the challenges of growing up to become successful adults Ron was always there to guide and support them no matter what. He would always say how much "His Three Girls" meant to him.

As the family grew Ron had more to love. Not only did he gain two sons he also was blessed with 4 grandchildren that became the center of his life. There was no greater joy

for Ron than to spend time and make memories with his grandchildren. Ron enjoyed life and being around family and friends. For all of those who were blessed to be a part of Ron's life, he will truly be missed. His legacy will honorably be carried on with all of those who knew him and loved him.

Ron is survived by his beloved and devoted wife Stephanie of almost 50 years. Loving dad of Laina (Lou) Tallerico and Pam (Jeff) Praet. Adored Papa of Abigail Praet, Joey Tallerico, Stephanie Tallerico and Aidan Praet. Dear brother of Sharon De La Garza. Ron is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Visitation Thursday 2-8 p.m. with a Scripture Service 7 p.m. at the Wasik Funeral Home, Inc, 11470 Thirteen Mile Road (west of Hoover) Warren. Instate Friday 10:30 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass 11 a.m. at St. Malachy Catholic Church, 14115 Fourteen Mile (east of Schoenherr) Sterling Heights. Interment Resurrection Cemetery.

Cemetery

Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Rd

Clinton Township, MI, 48038

Events

AUG **Visitation** 02:00PM - 08:00PM

8

Wasik Funeral Home-Warren Chapel
11470 E 13 Mile Rd, Warren, MI, US, 48093

AUG **Scripture Service** 07:00PM

8

Wasik Funeral Home-Warren Chapel
11470 E 13 Mile Rd, Warren, MI, US, 48093

AUG **Instate at Church** 10:30AM - 11:00AM

9

St. Malachy
14115 Fourteen Mile Rd, Sterling Heights, Mi, US

AUG **Funeral Mass** 11:00AM

9

St. Malachy
14115 Fourteen Mile Rd, Sterling Heights, Mi, US

Comments



“ Ron was one of the first people to greet me into the drafting family when I hired into the Chrysler Defense drafting department in August of 1997. Who would have known back then that we would be working together in the same department and literally working together side by side for the next 30+ years? Sometimes you spend more time with a co-worker than you do with family, and I can honestly say it was a pleasure working with Ron for all those years every day. My thoughts and prayers go out to Ron and his family.
Sincerely,
Andy Zaloga

Andy Zaloga - August 08 at 07:07 PM



“ I worked with Ron at General Dynamics and also knew him through my son-in laws father Bob Ochalek. We had some good times playing cards and tipping a few. My prayers go out to his family

Joe Campbell

Joseph Campbell - August 08 at 03:25 PM



“ Ronnie,
My BEST friend
My co worker
My hang out partner
My fellow Irishmen
My traveling companion
My drinking buddy
My inspiration
My hero

You have meant so much to us.
My family and I will miss you greatly.

Slàn Tamall

RICK BRADY - August 08 at 01:37 PM



“ It is so apparent, from reading some of these tributes, that Ron was loved and respected in all walks of his life. I worked with Ron at General Dynamics for many, many years. He was always a kind and helpful friend to one and all. A favorite memory that I have about Ron at work was seeing him wear his Santa shirt every year at Christmas time. He always brought in his homemade salsa when we had our holiday "pig-out" table, and he also gave me some good recipes for Irish dishes. His St. Pat's parties sounded like the best place to be on March 17!! Speaking of parties, my husband and I attended a couple Halloween parties along with Ron and Stephanie, at their house as well as another GD friend is no longer with us, Mike Johnson. One of the best costumes I ever saw there was Ron's head popping out of the center of a table as a centerpiece!! He loved scaring a passer-by!! I am sending a prayer for comfort and healing to Stephanie and all of Ron's beloved family and friends. He was one of a kind, for sure.



Karen Parsell - August 08 at 12:29 PM



“ Ron, I am proud to have known you for most of my life. I learned quickly you were a man, husband, and father of love, honor, and respect. Upon learning you were a veteran of the Vietnam War and then worked at General Dynamics, the company that made the very combat vehicles that I rode in, I knew you were a patriot that loved his country. You exemplified what a man should be and whether you knew it or not, I looked up to you.

I vividly remember having a couple shots of Wild Turkey with you at your retirement party. You always knew how to have a good time.

I also remember giving you a coin of the Stryker unit I served with after I got back from Iraq in 2008. It meant a lot for me that you had it.

You will be missed dearly and thank you for being a great friend to me and my parents.

See you on the high ground.

Matt Wernert

Matt Wernert - August 08 at 09:30 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald Thomas.



August 08 at 09:30 AM



“ 60 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - August 08 at 09:23 AM



“ We love you Ron and were blessed to call you our dear friend.
Annette and Steve Wernert

Annette and Steve Wernert - August 08 at 08:56 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ronald Thomas.



August 08 at 08:41 AM



“ I sat down to write my thoughts and I didn't know where to start. You could fill a book with what he meant to you or with the things that he taught you, helped you with or with the list of people who thought of him as a friend. So the challenge is to describe him best without many words. I came up with TRUE.

Here is what I learned about Ron:

He was a TRUE husband to his wife. He loved her passionately. TRUE love if I ever

saw it.

He was TRULY, unconditionally loved his daughters and his son in laws (tested and proven!)

He was TRULY a wise, jolly grandfather to his grandchildren.

He was TRULY a loving brother.

He was TRULY a supportive uncle.

He was a TRUE friend.

He was a TRUE hero.

He was TRULY kind.

He was TRULY talented.

He was a TRUE craftsman and jack of all trades...seemed like he could fix anything.

He was TRULY selfless and gave of his time often and generously.

He was TRULY patient...we often said he was going straight up on the express for his patients!

He was a TRUE Irishman...smile and remember him fondly for this!

My point is he was TRULY genuine in everything he did. Whatever I write here won't do him justice but if you knew him I'm sure you could say he was TRULY (fill in the blank) to you. When you saw him, no matter how long or brief the time was since the last time, he was TRULY happy to see you and he made you feel that in his hug, his handshake, his smile. He was TRULY a role model for me.

He was TRULY loved by all who really knew him...and really think about how many people you could HONESTLY say that about.

He will by TRULY missed by all.

It's all TRUE, just like he was.

This is my eulogy for Ron. I wrote it here because there is NO WAY I could get through saying this out loud without turning to a blubbering mess. I'm honored to have known him, been loved by him and to have called him DAD.

Jeff Praet - August 08 at 08:17 AM



“ Very well said Jeff. You nailed it spot on. Ron was a one of a kind friend and mentor.

Pat McGinnis - August 08 at 09:18 AM



“ yes, I realize its flawed...like me. It should say:

He TRULY loved his daughters and son in laws unconditionally

I changed the wording a couple times and that line slipped by me before I pasted it here.

and yes I realize is should be patience...LOL.

I've been kicking myself because I'm not able to edit this!

-Jeff



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ronald Thomas.



August 08 at 07:48 AM



“ 15 files added to the tribute wall



Rita Brady - August 08 at 01:20 AM



“ It's so hard so put into words what Ron means to me. A friendship that spans 20 + years of memories, moments, laughter, celebrations, traditions, & god the fun we had!! He loved unconditionally, gave selflessly without reservation. I remember the time he called & said hey Stephanie & I are gonna go to Ireland, wanna come? So our lil 4some headed across the Pond! Ron & Rick showed the Irish how to party & we made fast & lasting friends with The Fogarty's. Yeah you read that right we've got people in Limerick! He gave the toast at my daughters wedding, my Grands Kensi & Julia love their Uncle Ronnie. Julia will tell you "My Uncle Ronnie loves me". He supported Rick & I through my bout with Cancer. When I had good news to share Ron & Stefie first call & in difficult times on speed dial. Sent those 2 on a number of candle runs to St. Malachy's. Me & mine are forever better for having had this Quintessential man in our lives. The loss we feel is crushing & takes my breath away. God must have needed a very special Angel to have called Ron Thomas home. The last words I ever said to my friend was "I Love You"! I thank God for giving me that opportunity & memory to keep in my heart. In his honor we will carry on the traditions & share with others the value of being selfless just as he did with us. Grief is the price we pay for Love.



Rita Brady - August 08 at 01:14 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ronald Thomas.



August 07 at 10:19 PM



“ I met Ron and Stephanie when my son became engaged to his daughter Laina. Ronnie as Stephanie called him won me over as a friend right away with his easy going ways and his love of his family. over the years as our friendship grew I loved him and Stephanie and considered them family because our families did so much together. I am going to miss him!!! Condolences to Stephanie, Lou and Laina Pam and Jeff and the Grandchildren.

Skip Tallerico - August 07 at 08:11 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



David Holston - August 07 at 08:04 PM



“ Ron was a Amazing friend and neighbor. I will miss him everyday. He always said they where lucky to have us as neighbors but the reality of it is We where the lucky ones. He always made my day better. He was a Awesome man.

David - August 07 at 08:11 PM



“ Papa was truly the greatest grandpa I could ever ask for. I'll miss all the laughs and smiles but I am forever grateful for a man like him to be in my life. Watch over me Papa, I love you



Joey Tallerico - August 07 at 06:48 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald Thomas.



August 07 at 05:20 PM



“ Sending my deepest sympathy to you Laina and your entire family. My heart hurts for all of you. You are in prayers. May God hold you all close during this very hard time.

Felicia Steil - August 07 at 05:01 PM



“ One of my earliest memories of my uncle is, when me, Nancy and Vicky stayed with my aunt and uncle when Cheryl was born. He did a puppet show for us. I was only 4-1/2 and that memory always will be with me. I will truly miss you Uncle Ronnie. You were always there for my mom and sister's after my dad passed away. Love, Suzy



Suzy Pawlowski - August 07 at 04:49 PM



“ Rest in peace my friend. You will truly be missed .



Tom Torrento - August 07 at 04:48 PM



“ Great neighbor and better friend. He always made me and my family feel like part of his family. Holidays, gatherings like Halloween and St. Patty's Day were always special and always looked forward to them. Ron was the best ...going to miss sitting out on the porch with him and our conversations that always came up about whatever. Mark Ches



Mark Ches - August 07 at 04:35 PM