



Ronald Earl Ashley

September 11, 1949 - July 3, 2021

Ronald Earl Ashley of Leland, North Carolina, passed away peacefully at the Lower Cape Fear Lifecare Center in Wilmington, North Carolina, on July 3, 2021. Ron, as he was known by friends, or Ronnie, as he was known by family, was born in Greenville, South Carolina, on September 11, 1949. He was predeceased by his father, Earl Dendy Ashley, and his mother, Doris Moon Ashley, both of whom are buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Dendy earned a purple heart for his service in World War II. Ron was also predeceased by two sisters, Anne Ashley Trudell and Lynn Ashley Duncan. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sue Gosnell Ashley; two daughters, Jennifer Ashley Hurt (Mike) and Elizabeth Ashley Lumpkin (Bryan); six grandchildren, Brandon Hurt, Lauren Hurt, Ryan Hurt, Zach Lumpkin, Olivia Lumpkin and Charlotte Lumpkin; and a brother Sam Ashley.

Ron served as an Air Cargo Specialist in the Air Force Reserves from January 1969 to January 1975. The majority of his work career centered around commercial apparel sales. He retired in 2013 from a management position with a locally owned uniform company where he worked with national grocery store chains. You probably would have seen some of his work at Harris Teeter, Wegmans, Shoppers' Warehouse and the like. He loved helping people learn what they needed even before they knew it. He always wanted to look his best. The day he went into the hospital the last time, he needed to be sure his shirt matched his shorts.

He loved everything about family, and especially making meals for them. He was the grill master who always wanted to hear how much they loved his cooking. He also enjoyed a great round of golf, especially if it was followed by his favorite cocktail! He always had a smile on his face and greeted everyone with a welcoming handshake or a hug. His love of life kept him going throughout the past 3 years as he struggled first with MDS (myelodysplastic syndrome) and then a massive heart attack in 2019. After being saved by CPR by two local heroes at a car repair shop, we had two more years with him as he continued to fight his MDS which finally came to be more than his body could handle.

There will be an intimate family celebration of his life at his favorite time of the year, Thanksgiving, at his favorite place, Outer Banks of North Carolina, where his ashes will be spread. There will also be an informal celebration of life in Leland, North Carolina, in the very near future. Details will follow. The family has asked that any memorials be made in the form of blood donations (which became his life source) and in taking a CPR course (which saved his life two years ago).

Tribute Wall

JD

“ So sorry to hear of Ron's passing. I just found out today. We worked together at Bardusch and after he retired with a grocery chain. My deepest condolences to his family.

Jim Divers - January 11, 2022 at 11:45 PM

SM

“ I am so sorry for your loss and pray for peace for all of you. His life was one well-lived with a legacy of a beautiful family. Sending you love. Sooky

Sooky McFadden - July 09, 2021 at 04:01 PM

CB

“ Sue - As you know, I started on this journey about 17 months ago. I was told to take my time on this journey but do not camp here - there is light ahead - keep moving and share your feelings. I will check with you later. Many hugs, Carol

Carol Barefoot - July 08, 2021 at 04:08 PM

EK

“ In Loving Memory of Ronald Earl Ashley, Our thoughts and prayers are with you. A Sympathy Gift of 10 Memorial Trees has been Planted In Loving Memory of Ronald Earl Ashley courtesy of Elizabeth Kirby.

Elizabeth Kirby - July 08, 2021 at 12:38 PM

SL

“ *What a wonderful tribute to a wonderful father, grandfather, husband, friend and so much more! I know Ron will be missed by all!*❤️

Steve, Kelly, Marley & Camryn Lumpkin - July 08, 2021 at 11:43 AM

RP

“ *We lost one of the good ones, my condolences to Sue and the family, you have such wonderful memories to help you thru this grief, my prayers and love to the family. May his memory be eternal.*

Ruth Pappamihiel - July 08, 2021 at 10:45 AM

KB

“ *Jennifer, we are so sorry for your extreme loss and sorry that we never got to meet such a special sounding man. Our best to you and your family. Al and Karen Barlow*

KAREN BARLOW - July 08, 2021 at 08:34 AM

RC

“ *Ron and I were neighbors and became best of friends. He always had a kind word and will be missed by all that had the pleasure to know him. We watched his girls grow up and become fine young ladies and love Sue. We will miss our friend and know he is in heaven cooking on the grill. God bless the Ashley family you are in our prayers.*

Richard T Chance Doris B Chance - July 08, 2021 at 08:00 AM

SR

“ *Miss you Ronnie*

Stephen Ray - July 07, 2021 at 08:24 PM

TA

“ Love you guys and hate that Ronnie's gone from here but know you're comforted and excited to see him again.

Todd Anders - July 07, 2021 at 07:22 PM

QS

“ We knew each other on a different level. Ron went from being a customer of mine too being a really good friend, that me and his family got to enjoy for a few extra years here on earth together. God bless you, and your sweet family.

QUENTON ALAN STANLEY - July 07, 2021 at 05:36 PM

JD

“ The memory of you will last forever. RIP

Joe Duncan - July 07, 2021 at 04:23 PM

DC

“ Elizabeth and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Sending you prayers and hugs through this difficult time. Thinking of you all.

Dustin and Katie Cook - July 07, 2021 at 04:16 PM