

Ronald M. Lamansky

1943-2014



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Ronald M. "Ron" Lamansky, St. Joseph, passed away Saturday afternoon, June 7, 2014, in his comfy, brown recliner, surrounded by loving family members in his southside home.

Born September 24, 1943 in Buchanan County, Mo., to Myron J. and Ruby Seever Lamansky, Ron grew up in the south side of St Joseph, and also near DeKalb, Mo., on the Lamansky Peony Farm for several years. As a youngster, he attended the old Spring Garden School, first through the 8th grades, making life-long friendships. He graduated from Benton High School in 1961.

He was Eagle Scout, and was active in sports and lettered in football, basketball and other sports. He thought high school was one of the best times of his life. He attended Maryville College (now NWMSU in Maryville, Mo.) for two years on a football scholarship, until, as he says, he "left part of his knee on a football field in Nebraska during a game," and a second knee injury during a wrestling meet ended his college sports career.

He married Marilyn Jean "Susy" Frye in 1963. They lived in one of his boyhood homes on South 22nd Street before moving to Deer Park East in 1970 with their three children: Stacey, Steve, and Shelly. They were married for 17 years.

Ron's first job was working on the family farm and he took that hard work ethic to local packing houses where he worked until he started at the Gas Service Company. At the Gas Company, he worked as a meter reader for many years and met numerous people on his routes. At one point, if you gave him an address in the city, he could describe the house, often tell you who lived there and of course, where the gas meter was located. One day while working, the movie "Paper Moon" was being filmed and Ron bumped into Ryan O'Neal while he was walking around a corner that had not been properly blocked.

As a regular customer at one of the Pizza Huts on his route, the owner would give him the old records out of the jukebox to take home to his kids.

He also worked at the Belt Bowl, and on his cousin's tobacco farm on weekends while the kids were growing.

After 38 years at the Gas Company, he retired when he decided he didn't want to have to deal with a computer to do the job he had done without one for so many years. He also had accumulated a few months of sick days by that time.

Ron then took up marshalling at Fairview Golf Course and also occasionally worked as a driver for Rupp Funeral Home, and did finally get a computer in his house and managed to use it on occasion.

Ron loved most sports, especially football, basketball, bowling and baseball, whether professional, college or little league. He bowled in leagues for many years and even bowled a couple of 300 games. He passed his love of sports on to his children in two ways: first exposing them to sports by taking them to his own softball games and bowling leagues, and also by coaching their softball and little league teams, basketball teams, and MAKING all three take swimming lessons at the Deer Park Pool for several summers. It apparently worked because not one of them runs, bats or throws like a girl, and they all swim like dolphins.

He also built a few go-carts in the back yard with his son, Steve.

When his daughters were dating age, his favorite past time was scaring potential boyfriends away. He always made the boys come to the door to pick them up for dates, gruffly greeted them and proceeded to ask them questions, staring them down as they nervously fidgeted. When he said to be home by midnight, their dates knew he meant it. They were usually 15 minutes early just to be safe, and expected to know the score of the sporting event they attended or the plot of the movie said to be watched.

Ron briefly tried marriage a couple more times, but it just didn't work out for him; he seemed to do better as a bachelor. But he always thought of his step-daughter, Lynae Sanders, like a daughter even after his marriage to her mother ended.

As a southsider, Ron always preferred shopping South Side businesses, especially eating at Betty's for lunch. He helped support the annual festival and has a stack of South Side festival ball caps to prove it. Since graduating 53 years ago, Ron has supported Benton High School by attending games, supporting teams with needed donations and playing in numerous annual alumni basketball tournaments. He often bragged he and his old teammates could still whip some of the younger teams for many years.

He was a Benton Cardinal through and through, and helped to plan the 53rd class reunion he missed this past Saturday night; passing just a few hours before the picnic.

Ron was preceded in death by his father, Myron; his mother, Ruby and her husband, Andy Johnson; his sister, Debi Filley; brother, Clifford; and nephew, Steven Filley.

He is survived by his children: Stacey (Christopher) McCarthy of Kansas City, Mo.; Steve Lamansky of Homestead, Fla.; and Shelly (Richard) Bell of St Louis, Mo.; seven grandchildren, Andrea Barber, Jarrid Barber, Garrett McMillian, Christopher McCarthy Jr., Jonah McCarthy, Aaron Bell and Emily Bell; brother-in-law, Steve Filley; sister-in-law, Denise Lamansky; his nieces, Nikki (Scott) Keling and Kiersten and Courtney, and Dawn (Greg) Ford and Roman and Caroline; nephew, Todd Lamansky; and his little buddy, Kenny Jameson, as well as numerous cousins.

A visitation is scheduled for 5-8 p.m., Thursday, at the Rupp Funeral Home.

The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Friday, at Rupp, with a reception/open house following at Fairview Golf Course.

He will be cremated as per his wishes and most of his ashes will be scattered at private location so he can look out on his beloved southside. We suspect he must have had some really good times up there.

Donations can be made to the Wesley Center/InterServ in his memory.

The family would like to thank the many doctors who treated our father at Heartland Hospital; the Oncology Clinic and their staff; and the wonderful nurses, staff and tech (tech Julie Ford rocks!) at Heartland Hospital in the Oncology Unit, the 4th floor, and the caring ICU nurses.

Special thanks to his longtime Gas Co. and coffee pal, Steve Whittington, who provided breakfast for the family every day while Ron was in the ICU, and his wife, Joann, for the yummy meals provided, as well as his Fairview golf and card-playing buddies who gave him friendship and also took his lunch money on many occasions.

Thank you to his many friends who showed their love with calls, cards, visits, food and rides; our dad loved you and knew how much you all loved him. We think he was the luckiest man on earth to have such wonderful friends.

Thanks to our mom, Susy, for the meals brought into and shared in ICU, and to Francie Rau in ICU for all the extra help provided, and Brenda Wickham for the great hospice referral, and "Aunt Rita" who kept vigil with us for a couple of nights.

Thank you to Asera Care staff, especially nurse Cindy Hampton, for helping us make our father's last few days comfortable so he could finish his life in his own home and on his own terms which is the way he preferred to do everything in life.

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