



## Ronald Leo Mergen

August 25, 1937 - January 13, 2017

### Obituary of Ronald Mergen

Ronald Leo Mergen, age 79, of The Villages, Florida passed away peacefully at Serenades Memory Care Assisted Living on January 13, 2017 following a long struggle with Alzheimer's. He was born on August 25, 1937 in Bloomington, WI to William S. and Lidwina (Recker) Mergen and began working on the family dairy farm at a young age. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and served in the Army during the early years of the Vietnam War. Ron had a great love of the outdoors, and following his return to the States, he became a National Park Ranger working in various national parks in California, Wyoming, and Arizona.

Ron left the National Park Service to return home to help on the family farm and reconnected with the love of his life, Mary Jane. Ron and Mary Jane married on June 1, 1968 and eventually settled in Twin Lakes, WI where they spent the majority of their married life with their daughters, Jodie and Julie. Ron worked for the Department of Defense at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station until his retirement in 1995.

Ron and Mary Jane moved to The Villages in 2003 to enjoy the sunshine in

retirement. Ron enjoyed sports, especially golf and baseball, and was a passionate lifelong Chicago Cubs, Green Bay Packers, and Wisconsin Badgers fan. Also a music lover, Ron sang in his church choirs at St. John's Catholic Church in Twin Lakes and St. Mark the Evangelist in The Villages and also was part of a barbershop quartet. He was also proud of his volunteer role managing the Twin Lakes Food Pantry.

Ron is survived by his wife of 48 years, Mary Jane of The Villages, FL; his daughter Jodie Ploessl of Winter Park, FL; his daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Ted Raupp of Wadsworth, IL; and his grandson Trevor Raupp of Chicago, IL and granddaughter Tori Raupp of Wadsworth, IL. He is also survived by his brother Ernie (Jeanette Nodorft) Mergen and his sisters Geraldine Meyers, Elaine (Tom) Quick, and Phyllis Stevens; and many loving extended family members and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Summerfield, FL.

If desired, to honor his memory in lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)) or Cornerstone Hospice (<https://web.cshospice.org/foundation/giving/>).

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Lady Lake, FL Online condolences may be left at [www.BeyersFuneralHome.com](http://www.BeyersFuneralHome.com)

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ We had such good times together. I will always remember them.

Marge Heaven - February 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ We had such good times together. I will always remember them.###GESTURE###

Marge Heaven - February 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ Mary Jane, Ron's McNamara cousins send you our sincere condolences and sympathy. Bob McNamara Noreen McNamara Welte Pat McNamara John McNamara Mary McNamara Pipal

Noreen McNamara Welte - January 31, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ So sorry to hear of Ron's passing. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Deanna Steinl - January 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Our thoughts and prayers to you, Mary Jane and family. So sorry for your loss.

Darrell & Betty Myers - January 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Sorry to hear of Ron's passing, but know how much better off he is. I enjoyed the visit with him some years ago when Doris and I visited you at the Villages. You have my sympathy, it is never easy to accept. Sincerely, Margie ( Steinl) Patterson

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**Marge Patterson** - January 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

VE

“ Sorry for loss Mary Jane.

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**virginia errthum** - January 18, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Julie, My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. I hope the memories of better days will bring you comfort. Love, Lauren Weir

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**Lauren Weir** - January 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ So very sorry. Remembering all the good times we had together. Our love and prayers to you all.

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**Jerry & Shirley Lenss** - January 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ So very sorry. Remembering all the good times we had together. Our love and prayers to you all.###GESTURE###

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**Jerry & Shirley Lenss** - January 16, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ ###GESTURE###

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**Diane Downs** - January 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

IM

“ *My deepest condolences. You will be in my prayers.*

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**Ilia Matos** - January 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ *My fondest memories of Ron are filled with laughter & joy. My parents, also die-hard Cub fans, built an instant friendship with Ron & Mary Jane, both passionate about watching the Cubs in Spring Training followed by a competitive game of darts at the local pub. Still makes me smile...what a good man!*

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**Heidi Fransway** - January 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ *Mary Jane, Jodie, Julie, and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Ron was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. My prayers and love are with you all. I know how hard it was for you, and I know seeing the one you love fading away still doesn't make your loss any easier. He's free now, no longer suffering. I hope you can find comfort knowing this. Love, and hugs to you all Sheri Ott [Ploess]*

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**Sheri Ott** - January 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *Some of my favorite memories of Uncle Ron are playing cards at the Lucey's on Christmas or later on in AZ when they came to visit Jodie. I also remember him tossing a wiffle ball to my kids in the backyard and enjoying a round of golf with us older kids. Our thoughts and prayers are with Aunt Mary Jane, Jodie, Julie, Ted, Trevor and Tori.*

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**Tracey Clark** - January 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ I have such fond memories of Uncle Ron. What a great Man, husband, father, son, and uncle. I hope all your memories will help you in the coming days and weeks. God bless you all. Love Michele and Dave

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**Michele Schultz** - January 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ronald Leo Mergen*

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**Diane Downs** - January 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ronald Leo Mergen*

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January 15, 2017 at 12:00 AM