



Ronald Gene Smith

August 18, 1947 - May 12, 2026

It is with heavy hearts and profound gratitude for a life well-lived that we announce the passing of Ronald Gene Smith, who left this world on May 12, 2026, at the age of 78, after a courageous battle with an illness. Born on August 18, 1947, in Rochester, Pennsylvania, Ron was a beloved son, brother, father, and grandfather whose warmth and kindness left an indelible mark on everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. Ron was the cherished son of the late Nicholas and Mary Smith, and sibling to his late brother, Charles Smith. He is survived by his loving children: Brian, Eric(Trish), Wendy Judkins(Kevin); his brothers Victor, Lenny(Linda), Vern(Judy); and his sisters Barb and Becky. Ron's legacy also includes his treasured six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, who will carry forward his spirit and love of life.

A proud veteran, Ron dedicated four years of his life to serving his country with distinction in the United States Marine Corps from 1964 to 1968. As a sergeant in Vietnam, he was a beacon of courage and resilience, earning numerous commendations, including the Combat Air Medal, Air Medal, and a Purple Heart, a testament to his bravery and dedication.

Ron spent two decades as a dedicated heating and cooling technician, a career in which he honed his skills and earned the trust of many. His entrepreneurial spirit eventually led him to establish his own business, which he successfully ran for 35 years. His work was more than a livelihood; it was a testament to his unwavering commitment serving his community.

In June 2013, fate brought Ron to Casey, Illinois, where he met Ione Redman. Their connection was immediate and profound, leading them to move to Bushnell, Florida, in the fall of 2014. There, they enjoyed the sunshine and warmth, as well as each other's love and laughter, for the remainder of his years. Ione brought immense joy and companionship to Ron's life, a blessing for which his family is eternally grateful.

Ron was affectionately known by many nicknames over the years, but "The Mayor" seemed to capture his essence best. He had a unique ability to make everyone feel special and included, and his magnetic personality drew people to him. Ron loved nothing more than spending time with his family and friends, often sharing stories while scratch off lotto tickets.

Though his absence leaves a void that cannot be filled, Ron's spirit will continue to live on in the hearts and memories of those he touched. His kindness, humor, and unwavering love for his family will forever be cherished.

A celebration of Ron's life will be held in the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL, October 9, 2026, 2pm, where family and friends can gather to honor his memory and share in the joy he brought to their lives. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made in Ron's name to a veteran's organization of your choice, reflecting his lifelong commitment to service and community.

Rest in peace, dear Ron, knowing your love and legacy will endure in the hearts of all who were blessed to know you.