



Ronald "Ronnie" Zerkel

November 6, 1946 - September 27, 2024

Ronald "Ronnie" Zerkel, 77 of Mt. Jackson passed away on the morning of Friday, September 27, 2024, at his home. Services will be on Friday, October 4, 2024, at Dellinger Funeral Homes, Mt. Jackson at 2:00 pm. Pastor Steve Wood will officiate. The burial will follow in Grace United Church of Christ Cemetery. The family will receive friends and family on Thursday from 5-7 pm at the funeral home.

Ronnie was born on November 6, 1946, in New Market and was the son of the late James and Lelia Sager-Zerkel. Ronnie graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School in May 1965 and then drafted in 1965. Ronnie was deployed to Saigon to assist with the Vietnam War efforts while working in military intelligence. During his time in country, he experienced the Tet Offensive firsthand. He returned to the US in 1968 after a two-year deployment.

When he returned from Vietnam, he received his Honorable Discharge but continued his hard work by dedicating his time to his town, church, and Zer-Gas/Zerkel's Hardware. Through the years, he supported and enjoyed time with his family and became increasingly involved in bringing awareness to veterans' health and wellness. In 2019 he became the President of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 936. With his utmost dedication, he spread the word and added over 115 members to the chapter with his

signature charisma, and care for others.

During his time with the VVA, he attended every reasonable council meeting, including two national conferences. Despite his illness and the odds against him, he was driven to make it to the Veteran's Tribute at the Shenandoah County Fair on August 27, 2024. When he had some free time, he would go on trips on his motorcycle - once taking 55 days to take the famous Route 66 through each state it ran through.

Through the years Ronnie was involved in a myriad of extra-curricular activities, such as being a member of The Eagles in New Market, a former president of the Mt. Jackson Lions and Moose 979, a former Mason, and a member of the Woodstock American Legion 199 alongside his late father-in-law - Dan Jones. Being an active member of the church, Ronnie spent eight years as a Grace UCC Former Elder Consistory and enjoyed singing in their choir. He was also the Scout Master of Troop 117 in Mt. Jackson.

To those who knew Ronnie, we can agree that he gave his heart to those close to him and gave it all he had to help fellow veterans.

Ronnie is survived by his wife, Micki, five sons, Ryan Zerkel, Justin Koontz, Brian, Bobby, and Blake Rogers; a daughter, Shelby Flick; 10 grandchildren, Kara, Briona, Haylee, Nathan, Davy, Madison, Gabrielle, Miles, Christopher, and Caitlin; three sisters, Harriet Hiner and husband, James Hiner II, MaryAnn Rinker, and Jane Milligan; two brothers, Jack Zerkel and James E. Zerkel II and his wife Vicki; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Italian Touch of Mt. Jackson, especially his two Italian Touch "granddaughters," Hannah and Dara, for their love and support. A heartfelt thank you also goes to his neighbor, Brenda Foley, for her perpetual friendship and dedication to helping Ronnie (the "Brother she never

had") and the family during these trying times.

Pallbearers: Justin Koontz, Rick Hassler, Kara and Briona Flick, Ryan Zerkel, Leo Galindez, Shelby Flick, Buddy Polk, and Bobby Rogers.

Honorary pallbearers: VVA Chapter 936.

In Lieu of flowers, you can donate to the VVA Chapter 936 Scholarship Fund or Independence Fund (a non-profit Veterans organization that greatly assisted Ronnie and the Zerkel Family).

Tribute Wall

NR

“ Love this, you obviously knew my Uncle well

Niece Robin - October 14, 2024 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Ronnie it has been a long journey from those great High School days till now. We had some great times and lots of memories. Soldier you have done well and now we will walk point for you. Condolences for your family and friends as I know you will be dearly missed ole friend! Till Valhalla Ronnie

Earl Cline - October 01, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Rip my Ole Friend and cous. You will be missed...

Steve Sager - September 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Prayers to the Zerkel family. Ronnie was a good guy,neighbor and friend. Rest in Peace...The Miller's

Bucky, Kim and Micah Miller - September 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Ronnie. He was a faithful friend to all those who knew him. Our memories of Ronnie was when he was the Scoutmaster of Pack117. This was when our son was in Cub Scouts and we really enjoyed the meetings and trips we ventured upon. He will be missed by many, however we look forward to the day we will see him again in Heaven. God Bless!

Randy and Anna Ruffner - September 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ You were a great friend and pal in high school and even after that. You will be greatly missed. RIP



Leslie E. Hirsh Huddleston - September 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Words cannot express the loss of Ronnie, he was a real friend that cared so much about Veterans and their families which brought us together as friends as well as comrades with the VVA and Veterans of Foreign Wars. I got the opportunity to be part of us family as well as he was part of mine and I will cherish those memories. Ronnie will certainly be missed, but he will never be forgotten. My sincere condolences go out to his family, friends, and military family. Rest in Peace brother.

Mitchell Rubenstein - September 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ We have truly lost a great friend and love of his fellow man. Otie & Crena Ryman 🙏🙏🙏

Crena Ryman - September 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM

W)

“ Sorry to hear of Ronnie's passing may God bless his family at this time

William (Pye-Yoe) Fadely - September 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ *A well loved man who had a well lived life.
You will be greatly missed!! Judges 16:16and
he decided Proverbs 21:19*



Anonymous - September 30, 2024 at 12:00 AM