



## Mr. Ronald Dean Erwin

August 5, 1949 - April 28, 2023

Ronald Dean Erwin, beloved husband, father, brother and friend went to be with our Lord April 28th 2023. He was born 08/05/1949 to Marvin Claude Erwin and Maye Louise Chatham Erwin in Topeka Kansas. He was raised in Topeka and was fortunate to have his grandparents live close by in Hoyt Kansas on a farm. Ron loved spending summers there with his grandparents on their farm along with his siblings Marcia, Berlene and Doug. In 1962 Ronald moved, along with his Mother, Father and family, Marcia Kay Erwin, Berlene Ann Erwin and Douglas Alan Erwin to Satellite Beach, Florida as the Apollo era was ramping up. Ron started work as a butcher at Publix and then landed a job at the Space center in Transportation. Then he answered the calling to protect his country and joined the US Navy in 1968. He spent 1968 through 1972 in the Navy stationed on the USS Okinawa, spending many months off the coast of Vietnam. While in the Navy his ship assisted in the retrieval of Apollo 15. During those years he was blessed with Marvin Patrick Erwin 1970 and Audra Dawn Erwin 1971. After being Honorably discharge from the Navy, he came home to Satellite Beach and went back to work with Boeing. He settled in Melbourne and soon was blessed with Ronald Andrew Erwin 1975 and John Alan Erwin 1979. Ronald started the Melbourne soccer league and helped maintain the fields for the children to enjoy. Ronald was an avid boater and had taught most of his family to ski. He was beautiful on skis and fun to watch. Ronald also enjoyed bowling and was excellent at it. Ronald was employed at Kennedy Space Center for 41 years. Ronald met Cindy in

1985 and formed a bowling league just so she would bowl with him. They ended up married in 1987. Cindy had a daughter Karen Yvette Ruschak which he raised as his own. They had a wonderful marriage even with all Ron's medical needs of the last 20 years. Ron was blessed with the gift of a lung donation in 2013 and was able to travel the US in their RV and meet every one of his grandchildren post lung transplant, Kyler Broughton, Melody Erwin, Brayden Erwin, Reed Erwin, Skye Erwin and Ivy Erwin. He was the happiest when surrounded by his grandchildren.

Ronald is survived by his loving wife Cindy, his Siblings Marcia, Berlene (Bill), Douglas (Pam) and children Patrick, Drew (Jacqueline), Audra, John (Cristina), and grandchildren, Kyler, Melody, Brayden, Reed, Skye & Ivy.

Service will be held on May 15, 2023 at Calvary Chapel 3500 N. Courtenay Merritt Island at noon. Interment will be at The Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims, FL @ 2:30. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the local dog rescue.

# Cemetery Details

## Cape Canaveral National Cemetery

5525 US-1  
Mims, FL 32754  
(321) 383-2638

# Previous Events

## Service

MAY **15**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Calvary Chapel Merritt Island  
3500 N. Courtenay Parkway  
Merritt Island , FL 32953  
(321) 453-6779

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ We knew Ron when he was in high school dating our older sister, Sunni. He was good-natured and full of energy. He restored a 1956 Chevy which was the fad in the 60s and was excited to paint it cherry red. He would bring Sunni home from a date and her youngest siblings would hide behind the curtain to see if he kissed her goodnight. He put up with all the little kid’s silliness. Ron loved Alma’s Pizza and a couple of times while I was in high school we doubled dated with them. We rode in his Chevy. They married in a small ceremony at Cocoa Beach Community Church. They had four beautiful children, three sons and a daughter.

When Ron got out of the Navy he bought a boat and a Chevy El Camino to pull the boat. We had great fun with him waterskiing on the River. We all enjoyed it and every time he had to wash down the boat after a full day on the river. We tried to help, but he did most of the work. Sunni got him involved in little league soccer and he spent weekends painting the soccer fields and refereeing the games. His young sons played soccer and he would enjoy talking about their games.

His union went on strike and he was out of work for a while. Cleve Gardner gave him a job at his cabinet shop. Ron always like learning how to make things and working with his hands. I was fixing up my parents house and Ron wanted to see if he could make cabinets. He offered that if I buy the material, he would make new kitchen cabinets for me. We demolished the kitchen and he made and installed the cabinets he made. He was proud of his work and I was pleased to have a new kitchen. The cabinets are still in the house today.

Ron was devoted to his family, loved his mother and was always there when she needed him. She was a very kind and gentle person. She was a librarian at DeLaura Junior High and kept an eye on her grandchildren who attended there. He loved his sisters and his brother. He was a great brother-in-law, down-to-earth, honest and never tried to act superior to anyone.

*We were all fortunate to have him in our lives and will always remember him and the good times we had together as a family.*

**Joy Hess** - May 15, 2023 at 01:53 PM

RR

“ *Ron was a good soccer coach and cub scout leader: kids loved him. He was a good friend to my father and family. He was helpful to everyone. He loved many and was loved by many more. God bless his kids and loved ones in their loss and may comfort come as you celebrate and live his legacy.* ”

**Robbie Riddle** - May 07, 2023 at 07:34 PM

MD

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Mr Erwin but I know his daughter Audra and he has a beautiful legacy. My condolences and prayers are with you all in your time of grief.* ”

**Marie DeFile** - May 06, 2023 at 11:04 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Ronald Dean Erwin.* ”



May 04, 2023 at 04:05 PM

JH

“ Ron and I shared Logistics careers from 1971 to 2011, ending with us both being the second shift managers at KSC. Ron and I always worked well together and supported each other and the Space Program to our best abilities. I will always have fond memories of him and his friendship and will miss him always.

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**James Henry** - May 04, 2023 at 12:04 PM

AE

“ It's a pain like I've never known  
From a little child  
To an adult full grown  
  
A father is the Head  
Even when you're out chasing your tail  
  
So it's okay to weep  
Go ahead and wail  
  
This loss is big  
And his love is greater  
He's with us now  
And we'll see him later

~Audra Erwin  
Rest easy daddy.  
Forever & Always your little girl. 💕💕

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**Audra Erwin** - May 04, 2023 at 08:03 AM

DV

*I knew Ron and his family when we lived in Satellite Beach from 1962 to 1963. My mother, two brothers and my sister Tina lived next door on Glenwood Avenue while my father was deployed to Greenland on a hardship tour with the Army. Ron was very interested in rocketry. he would order "rocket engines" for his small rockets and we would walk across A1A to the beach (it was undeveloped then) where he would set up his gantry and then fire off the rocket.*

*It has been many years since then. Ron joined the Navy and I enlisted in the Army. I was sorry to learn of Ron's passing when I tried to find him on the internet. Rest in peace, my friend. David Vroom*

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**David Vroom** - June 17, 2025 at 07:26 AM

CE

*I just saw your post. It was nice to read as I never heard about his small rockets. He was indeed the best gentleman I ever met. I wish ya'll could have reconnected before he passed. He would have loved that. Thanks for sharing, Cindy Erwin*

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**Cindy Erwin** - June 26, 2025 at 09:50 PM