



Ronald E Ries

May 7, 1945 - March 23, 2024

Ronald E. Ries, 78, passed away on March 23, 2024, at Samaritan Hospital. Ronald was a modest and private man whose last wishes included a request that no services be held. Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel of Memories.

Ronald was born on May 7, 1945, in Long Beach, California, the son of the late Darrell and Mary Ellen Ries. His family moved to Moses Lake in 1949. He graduated from Moses Lake High School in 1963. He met his future wife, Janet N. Ries, while attending college to whom he was married in 1965, in Ephrata. In 1967, Ronald graduated from Central Washington University with a B.A. in Business and Accounting and enlisted in the Air Force.

In the service, Ronald received flight training at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona and pilot-instructor training in Panama City, Florida. From 1969 to 1972, Ronald was assigned to Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas, where he served as a flight instructor. He was honorably discharged from the service in 1972, after which he enrolled in the Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane. While attending law school, he was hired as a pilot by Delta Airlines, enabling him to continue to pursue his passion for aviation. From 1973 to 1977, he lived in Houston, Texas, before returning to Moses Lake. He retired from Delta in 2000. In retirement, he enjoyed flying gliders and tow aircraft in Ephrata, riding motorcycles, watching his grandchildren's athletic pursuits, Gonzaga basketball and golf.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Janet, his son, Christopher Ries, his daughter

Kimberly Ries Ashley, his son-in-law Justin Ashley, and his grandchildren, Peyton Ries, Savannah Ashley, Everett Ashley and Sydney Ries. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother, Harry Ries.

Ronald is remembered by his family as a good and humble gentleman who prioritized providing for and protecting his loved ones. He taught his children commonsense and a strong understanding of right and wrong and instilled in them and his grandchildren a love of baseball and softball. Above all else, he was thankful for and loved his wife. Ronald will be dearly missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name are suggested to the Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation, 1031 W. Broadway Ave., Moses Lake, WA 98837.

Tribute Wall

SB

“ I flew in the Navy and after my service wanted to continue flying as a civilian, but my landings were unsafe (controlled crash). I went to Montgomery field in Conroe TX where I met Ron. He was an incredibly outstanding pilot and trainer, confident but reserved. He could talk an entire set of landing instruction and convey the concept clearly in very few words. He taught me to land as smooth as silk in bumpy weather, crosswinds, short fields etc. Ive never met a better pilot or more genuine friend. From Roy Rogers..." Happy trails to Ron, until we meet again" Steve Buschardt

Stephen Buschardt - August 31, 2025 at 01:58 PM

RM

“ Ron was a classmate and good friend. We worked in airfreight together while reassigned to the ramp after the initial oil embargo. Always friendly and quick with a smile he was a pleasure to be around. The last time that I saw him was when I was doing a LVS charter and had the minimum legal rest time. He woke me up and said that he had something to show me. It was his (early) retirement ID! It seemed like a good idea so I followed suit about 6 months later. Ron Mahan

Ron Mahan - March 31, 2024 at 12:15 PM

VN

“ Janet and family, our deepest condolences to you all, many happy memories and thoughts on baseball days to raising the kids and living in sleepy Moses Lake. Ron was a kind and thoughtful person who will be greatly missed. Vern & Barb Sandmann

Vern Sandmann. n - March 30, 2024 at 09:25 PM

AW

“ *Early days at Delta helping each other in Houston. Good memories
RIP Ron Art and Helen Williams*

Art Williams - March 30, 2024 at 06:34 AM

JC

“ *Jan..So sorry to hear of Ron's passing. Cheri and I send our
sincerest condolences to you and the family. We were classmates
at Delta in 73, "roommate's" for a couple of months in New Orleans
plus fellow Ramp Rats in 74. So many memories of a truly great guy
and lifelong friend. Words cannot express the depth of our sadness
of Ron's passing!*



Jim and Cheri - March 29, 2024 at 10:40 PM

GR

“ *Janet and family. I am very sorry to read of Ron's passing. We went
through many stormy nights together while at Delta. You can be
very proud of his accomplishments and professionalism. R.I.P. Ron
Gary Ritter....1965-2003*

Gary Ritter - March 29, 2024 at 04:38 PM

WM

“ I knew Ron while employed at Delta. As is the case of most friendships in the airline industry our friendship was one where we ran into each other once in a while in an airport or a pilot lounge. I think we did a simulator check ride together. He was a good guy and I am sorry to know of his death. For the family, just know that Ron was one of the people that you want to remember and admire.
Captain Wayne Merrill,
almost the same age, retired in 2004
May his flight West be one of the best.

Wayne Merrill - March 29, 2024 at 03:57 PM