



Ronald Henry Witort

December 4, 1934 - September 13, 2020

Ronald Robertus Henry Witort died on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at Memorial Medical Center in Modesto, age 85, following a brief illness due to heart disease. Before he passed away, Ron expressed to his wife, Beverly, how much he loved her, how much he loved his family, and how much he loved his life.

Where would our world be without the facilitators? People who know how to ask the right questions; who, without wanting for themselves, help us develop our ideas, anchor us in knowledge, and lift us up in faith. Thus, we grow into our own shoes and strike off on our own adventures, instead of following in the long and worn path of others.

Ron Witort wore many titles in his 85 years of life: son, brother, friend, beloved husband and father, adored grandfather and great-grandfather, athlete, golfer, veteran, intellectual, leader, mentor, and educator. But in every role, he was a facilitator.

These words describe the life of a man who devoted himself to his family and to the betterment of society through education. Ron felt strongly that education and a lifetime love of learning was a light to be kindled, reaching the darkest places within ourselves and our culture.

Ronald Robertus Henry Witort was born December 4, 1934 to Walter and Charlotte Witort of Franklin Park, Illinois. Known to his family and friends as “Ronnie”, he spent his childhood involved in school, athletics, and getting into mischief with neighborhood friends. With the encouragement and support of his half-brother Ray, he attended high school at Culver Military Academy in Indiana. Ron loved athletic competition and participated in Culver’s baseball, basketball, and football programs.

After graduating in 1952, he attended Stanford University where he met his life-long love and partner, Beverly Simpson. Also in college, he met another life-long love - the game of golf, which he played consistently (and well) his entire life. He earned his BA in Social Studies at Stanford, then enlisted in the Air Force, becoming a navigator in bomber refueling tankers while stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Missouri. During his service, he and Beverly were married in Long Beach, California on November 23, 1957.

Ron and Beverly’s family began with the birth of their first child, Christopher, in 1958. Daughters, Laurie and Carrie, were born in 1960 and 1962 respectively, followed by their son, Timothy, in 1965. Also born during this time was Ron’s interest in teaching. He earned his teaching credential in California and began his teaching career in the Mountain View school system.

Ron was involved in developing creative, new teaching methods across the U.S. and in Canada. Over the next two decades, his family was “on the move” as his positions in school administration, supervision, and championing the introduction of computers in the classroom took them to Massachusetts, Quebec, Washington state, and, ultimately, back to California. Between moves, the Witort family became a close-knit group, enjoying camping, sports, owning many pet dogs and cats, and inventing odd and elaborate family traditions, including the “fiberi-substi” club.

Late in his career, Ron returned to the classroom as a middle school teacher in Winton, California. After “retiring” from this position in 2002, he worked on and off in the teaching credential program at California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock, California - assisting and facilitating the next generation of educators.

Those closest to Ron would likely describe him as: an avid golfer, a bookworm, a master at telling rambling, epic stories of questionable historical accuracy, affectionate bestower of various nicknames to family members (i.e., Baj, Chris-tee-four, Nicodemus, Rose, Tink, and so many others), proud of his Polish heritage, the slowest-known singer of “Happy Birthday”, and above all - a deeply loving and loved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Will we always remember and cherish his smile, his laughter, his hugs, and tender words of encouragement and affection? As was his phrase, ‘Yea, verily, yea!’

We, who survive him, will hold him in our hearts and minds always: his wife, Beverly “B-Jo” Witort; his children and their spouses: Chris and Diane Witort, Laurie and Loren Leonard, Carrie and Richard Holgate, Tim and Darlisa Witort; his grandchildren: Daniel Shaw, Kimberly Witort and Kayne Pedrini, Crystal Edwards and Daniel Garces, Tony Olson and Ashley Hollis, Matthew Witort, Brian Edwards, Danielle and Stephan Mahler, Nicholas Edwards and Ashliegh Poh, Rachel Witort, and Ben Witort; his great-grandchildren: Karah Rose Garcia-Edwards, Olivia Isabelle Mahler, and Ivy Reid Mahler; his older, half-sister sister, Emily Holquist; his brother in law and sister in law: Fred and Ann Simpson; his nieces and nephews: Kathy Phipps, Steve Holquist, Greg Holquist, Julie Simpson, and Victoria (Vickie) Simpson and Dana Schuller; and his cousin: Arthur Savoy.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Charlotte Witort; his half-brothers, the actor, Ray (Witort) Davis and Wallace Salton; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Matthew and Mary Simpson.

The funeral service will be held at 10:00 am on Friday, September 25, 2020 at Turlock Funeral Home, located at 425 N. Soderquist Rd. Turlock, California. Interment will follow at Turlock Memorial Park. Because Ron accepted everyone in his life as they were, please dress comfortably and come as you are. The family requests that you wear a face mask to protect everyone attending. Masks will be available for those who need them.

In lieu of flowers, the family appreciates live plants, and/or cards and sentiments that include your favorite memories of Ron.

Cemetery Details

Turlock Memorial Park

575 N. Soderquist Rd.
Turlock, CA 95380
(209) 632-9111
<http://turlockmemorialpark.com>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Turlock Funeral Home
425 North Soderquist Road
Turlock, CA 95381
(209) 632-9111
<https://turlockfuneralhome.com>

Interment

SEP **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Turlock Memorial Park
575 N Soderquist Rd
Turlock, CA 95380-3749
(209) 632-9111

Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald Henry Witort*

January 28, 2023 at 09:01 AM



“ *I'll be forever grateful for all of the help Ron gave me with technology in the office at Crookham School! Sending my condolences to Ron's family.*

Jackie Nugent - September 20, 2020 at 06:41 PM