



Ronald Power

February 12, 1939 - October 25, 2024

RONALD POWER

Ronald William Power, age 85, of Gravois Mills, passed away Friday, October 25, 2024, at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Columbia, MO. He was born February 12, 1939, a son of the late Robert and Nellie (Caywood) Power.

On April 25, 1959, in Jasper, AR, he was united in marriage to Joan Elaine Spencer. They celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary this year.

Ron started gunsmithing at a very young age, over 40 years ago. He worked for a gun shop in Kansas City in 1957 doing all types of repair and customizing on rifles, shotguns, and pistols. He Started Power Custom in 1959. During this same time he worked for Armco Steel full-time. He retired from Armco Steel in 1988 with 30 years. Ron has attended several gunsmith seminars given by all the major US manufactures. He served in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Marksmanship Unit as a pistol team member and national Match Weapons Armorer. For Several years he taught gunsmithing seminars at all of NRA Gunsmithing Schools in the USA including Trinidad State Junior College, Montgomery Community College, Ruger Police Armorer School, and as a Police Firearms Instructor. He was President of the Missouri State Rifle and Pistol Association for 5 years. Ron has been a serious pistol

competitor and is an avid big and small game hunter and fisherman.

Ron was one of the first to build heavy barreled PPC revolvers and refine their accuracy. He specialized in alterations to stainless steel revolvers made by Smith and Wesson and Ruger. Ron has designed and patented many tools and accessories for the firearms industry. He holds the record for the most gunsmithing magazine articles nationally than any other gunsmith in history. He also enjoyed working around the farm and spending time with family and friends.

He was a member of First Christian Church in Versailles. He also was a Charter Member of the American Pistolsmiths Guild and the received the 1986 Pistolsmith of the Year Award and was inducted in the Handgun Hunters Hall of Fame. In 1991 he received the N.R.A Professional Public Service Award. He also received these awards from the Outstanding American Handgunner:

1992 Top-10 Outstanding American Handgunner Award

1996 Top-6 Outstanding American Handgunner Award

1998 Top-4 Outstanding American Handgunner Award

1999 Top-3 Outstanding American Handgunner Award

He was presented with the lifetime achievement award from the American Pistolsmiths Guild in 2021.

He was a life member of the Missouri Sport Shooting Association, Kansas Rifle & Pistol Association, Handgun Hunter International, American Trap Association, Safari Club, American Hangunners Club 100, Police Marksman Association, & Varmint Hunters Association.

He is survived by his wife, Joan; children, Randall Power and wife Angele and

Rhonda Power Garcia and husband Carlos; four grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents he was, preceded in death by his sister, Maisie Power Karnes.

Services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, November 8, 2024 at Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles with Pastor Jeff Spielman officiating. Burial with military honors will follow in Versailles Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1:00-2:00 p.m., Friday November 8, 2024 at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to First Christian Church of Versailles.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles.

Cemetery Details

Versailles Cemetery

550 Clay Road
Versailles, MO 65084

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Service

NOV 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Tribute Wall

RP

“ I’m very sorry to hear of your loss. He was just one of the best of the best of what I call the golden age of gun smiths. Add to that he was just one of the nicest people I have known. I had the good fortune to get to know Ron. I’m a nobody from nowhere in Missouri. I talked to Ron on the phone and out of nowhere he invited me to visit. I knew who he was, I could not believe I was going to get to meet a legend. I remember every story he told me and share them with anyone who will listen. I’m very, very sad, god bless the power family, Roger price

roger price - January 23 at 09:00 AM

CR

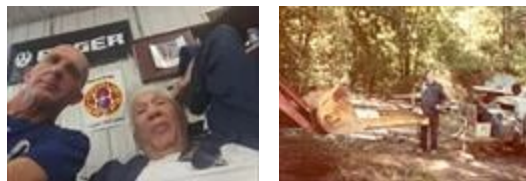
“ Friend, mentor, confidant, Brother in Christ. I know where he is but I do feel a great loss. I am truly blessed as are many others that knew him. There has never been anyone who I enjoyed spending time with as much as Ron.



Chuck Ray - November 10, 2024 at 09:07 PM

OD

“ Owen Dessauer



Owen Dessauer - November 07, 2024 at 07:59 PM

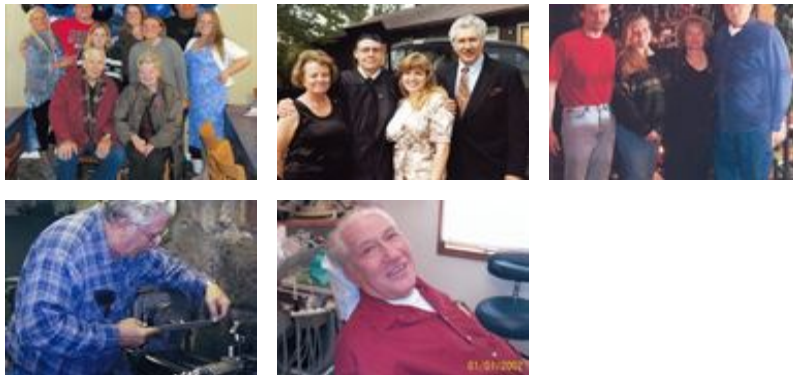
OD

My family and I met Ron in 2019 after becoming his next door neighbor in what I learned was the house he helped build even before building his own house next door. I found and remember well the day I showed him old photos we found left in the house of the construction stages of this house now about 40 years ago. And with Ron Power craftsmanship, this house was built like Fort Knox! The main support beam is a massive steel beam, which he told me was from where he used to work before building Power Custom. We will always have a piece of him in our home. He was the best neighbor anyone could ask for, and we went on to build a great friendship. Fondly remembering how he frequently called me "Young Man" (because I'm not exactly). I worked with him a few times, and let me tell you, what a hard worker! I'll always remember how Ron did everything BIG, and how he was a kind and giving person. My family and I are all thankful to have known him and will cherish some fond memories. Even our youngest son said he remembers him "driving his big tractor" here. He would always wave to him, and Ron would wave back. He'll always be missed but never forgotten.

Owen Dessauer - November 07, 2024 at 08:01 PM



“ 15 files added to the album Life Tributes



Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes - November 07, 2024 at 02:25 PM

DJ

“ Ron’s expertise in firearms and his warm response to anyone that needed help was unmatched in the industry, always willing to step up and offer assistance. His love of country and family was unwavering. America has lost a great Patriot. Godspeed Brother.... Thoughts and prayers for family and friends. You will be greatly missed by all.



David Jones - November 07, 2024 at 05:53 AM

TP

“ I first met Ron in 1970 when I was running the Bullet Hole for the Hodgsons. Ron was competing in our NRA sanctioned matches. He stood head and shoulders above all the competition. In conversation with him I soon found that the man was an absolute genius when it come to firearms. I arraigned to have him do all the gunsmithing for the range. At the time he was working full time at ARMCO Steel & at Troost Gun Shop with Herb Binsbacher.

Ron took me under his wing and began a life long training session. He had an incredible understanding of what needed to be improved with any firearm. The testament is that he created stocks for Bishop and Fajen, innovated competition pistol design for Ruger and Smith & Wesson.. He went on to create most of the great gunsmith tools for Brownell, as well as training neophytes in more formal setting in gunsmithing classes for the NRA and several colleges..

He also was a frontiersman in every sense of the word. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and collector of Indian relics.

To say that he was a devout Christian is an understatement. His faith was always at the forefront of his life. He stood for honesty and decency.

You will know who he is when you see that house he built, which utilizes native stone he quarried, and all wood paneling in every room from 6 or 7 different species.

The best word to describe Ron Power is MAGNUM in every sense of the word. I don't believe there was anything he could not achieve when he put his mind to it.

Words cannot express how much he will be missed. The one bright spot is that Randall will carry on the legacy. He is just a younger version of his father. Linda and I pray that God will comfort Joan, Randall and the family. Absent from the body is present with the LORD.

I truly cherish his friendship.

Terry Paul

Terry Paul - November 01, 2024 at 08:47 PM

NL

“ *Nathan Lofland lit a candle in memory of Ronald Power*



Nathan Lofland - October 31, 2024 at 03:59 PM

JW

“ *I sit here tonight with a shattered heart. The man that was my mentor, the man that saw something in me that made me into his lifelong project has died. Ron Power of Power Custom and now Grandmasters has passed on. He inspected my submission to the American Pistolsmiths Guild, a S&W 686 revolver in 1988. He called me and said, almost verbatim, “Son I see you are quite a machinist but you are missing a lot of things about how to make firearms dependable”. He invited me to his yearly seminar and told me, “If you attend my seminar I will make you one of the top Pistolsmiths in this country”. Ron was one of the top Pistolsmiths at that time and was to his death. He had that faith in me. Ron followed my career and we would see each other every year at the NRA convention and the SHOT Show. Ron was a conservative man and I was a flaming Comet headed for oblivion at times. He would pull me a side and say, “Son you need to dial it back a little if you want to live to be an old man”. I heeded his warnings and I have lived to be an old man, a bit scraped and scarred but still living. I want to thank him for his friendship and concern for his fellow man and for concentrating on me when I was flaming out. I love you Ron and I will carry our memories to my grave. This brief writing does not do justice to our friendship and how Ron contributed to my success and I will forever be in his debit.*

Jack Weigand - October 31, 2024 at 11:56 AM

AH

Yup, you knew him. I can tell by the way you describe his persona. He was such a smart man in many ways. I think the most important was at reading people. The old saying comes to mind, "you die twice, the first time and the last time your name is remembered." It's going to be a long time before the name of Ron Power is not remembered!

Art Hodel - October 31, 2024 at 07:32 PM

OF

My family and I met Ron in 2019 after becoming his next door neighbor in what I learned was the house he helped build even before building his own house next door. I found and remember well the day I showed him old photos we found left in the house of the construction stages of this house now about 40 years ago. And with Ron Power craftsmanship, this house was built like Fort Knox! The main support beam is a massive steel beam, which he told me was from where he used to work before building Power Custom. We will always have a piece of him in our home. He was the best neighbor anyone could ask for, and we went on to build a great friendship. Fondly remembering how he frequently called me "Young Man" (because I'm not exactly). I worked with him a few times, and let me tell you, what a hard worker! I'll always remember how Ron did everything BIG, and how he was a kind and giving person. My family and I are all thankful to have known him and will cherish some fond memories. Even our youngest son said he remembers him "driving his big tractor" here. He would always wave to him, and Ron would wave back. He'll always be missed but never forgotten.

Owen Dessauer & Family - November 07, 2024 at 07:56 PM

DW

“ Ron was a gentleman's gentleman. He was in many ways larger than life. He was definitely a "been there done that" kind of guy. He indeed had many great stories to share. A pioneer in our industry, and that's an understatement! He was an innovator, designer, and inventor. Our industry has lost a living legend. My condolences to Randall and Joan and the rest of the family. Rest In Peace my friend.

Dave Williams - October 30, 2024 at 03:24 PM

AH

“ Ron and I have have been friends for over thirty years as members of the American Pistolsmiths Guild. He was one of the finest men my wife, Kathleen, and I have ever known. Ron had a beautiful head of gray hair that my wife swooned over so she named him "Hollywood hair." We both loved Run as he has now returned to the hands of God.

Alex Hamilton - October 30, 2024 at 10:37 AM

JG

“ I only have one memory of Ron that I will never forget. He made a Ruger Blackhawk for Hank Williams Jr. And Ron took me and Randall to his hotel room at the Barney Allis Plaza to meet him. He signed the sleeve of my jean jacket and we got backstage passes to the concert he put on later that night. The Georgia Satellites opened and I remember Ron saying..."These guys ain't very country." or something to that effect. Rest Well, Ron.

Jason Gill - October 29, 2024 at 09:33 PM

RK

“ Joan, Rhonda & Randall - words simply can't convey how deeply sorry I am about Ronnie's passing. I have known your family my whole life and have wonderful memories of our families together that span 60+ years. Ronnie was a smart, extremely talented man who loved God, loved life and loved making others laugh. His absence from this life will certainly leave a void, but his presence in Heaven will be joyful! God bless him and may God bless your family. I pray your treasured memories of Ronnie will bring you peace, comfort and strength. Much love to you all.

Ruth (Binsbacher) Kolb - October 29, 2024 at 09:17 PM

MH

“ I am Michelle, the best friend of Rhonda. I have so many memories of Ron teaching me to skin, squirrels and hunt, which I was not very good at. I am so thankful two weeks ago. I got to share many memories and spend a lot of time with him and the family. He will be greatly missed and was one of a kind. Prayers to the family.

michelle henderson - October 29, 2024 at 09:17 PM

DM

“ David Mccollom lit a candle in memory of Ronald Power



david mccollom - October 28, 2024 at 05:33 PM

SB

“ Joan, Randell and Rhonda I am so sorry for your loss. Sending my regrets that I can't make it to his service. I will be in Morocco on a mission trip November 5-15 but will be praying for you all on the 8th to feel God ms peace and love. Sharon (McCormick) Banks. Tena will represent the McCirmicks. 🙏🙏🙏

Sharon Banks - October 28, 2024 at 05:16 PM

BH

“ Brent Harms lit a candle in memory of Ronald Power



Brent Harms - October 28, 2024 at 04:13 PM

SA

“ *Ronald was the oldest cousin and I was the youngest. I enjoyed listening to his stories. And he always had lots to tell. He will be missed. Condolences for Joan and the kids. Love you Ronald.*

Sue Avis - October 28, 2024 at 09:33 AM