



Ronald Ralph Stearns

July 30, 1944 - February 4, 2026

Ron Stearns of Orlando, Florida, passed away peacefully on February 4, 2026. Ron was born on July 30, 1944, in Magnolia, Arkansas, to Ralph and Louise Stearns of Monticello, Arkansas. Ron was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Eleanor Stearns Musick, and his cousin Charles “Charlie” Stearns. Ron’s greatest joy in life was his son, Michael Scott Stearns (wife Erin), and granddaughters, Kendall and Courtney Stearns, of Orlando, Florida. Ron is also survived by his nephews, Joe Musick and Jim Musick, of Louisiana. “Papa Ron” was a constant and cherished presence in their lives, and he supported them in all their endeavors, dedicating his time and energy to his family above all else.

Ron’s pursuit of knowledge first led him to the University of Arkansas. He graduated from the University of Arkansas at Monticello, then received a master’s degree in School Psychology from Rollins College. He was certified as a school psychologist at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and did further study at the University of Kansas. Ron served with distinction in Orange County Public Schools as a teacher, school psychologist, and coordinator for specific learning disabilities services, facilitating research-based teacher training. He cared greatly about individuals with special needs, wanting them to reach their full potential in their families and communities. Ron also pursued work in the private sector and operated an orchid nursery.

A passionate sports enthusiast, Ron was a devoted fan of the Florida Gators and the Orlando Magic, sharing his love of sports with his son, Scott, and many friends. He also found immense joy in travel, meeting new friends, and live music. Service to others was a core value, which he exemplified through his involvement with Kiwanis. Ron will be remembered for his unwavering love and devotion to his family and friends. His warmth, support, and the lasting impact he had on those around him will be deeply missed.

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Erin, Scott and family, so sorry for the loss of Papa Ron. You all are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Love Sharon and Gary

sharon huggins - February 15 at 08:39 AM

RS

“ He was my best friend for 45 years. He was also my psychologist and my confidant who knew me better than anyone else in my life. He helped so many other people as a caregiver to include women in emotional crisis and GI's with PTSD. He was loved by all who knew him. I will miss him but also rejoice in the wonderful times we had together. More than anyone, he loved you, Scott. He spoke often of the success and dramas in your life. He was so proud of you and the family you made. Stay strong... as your Dad always did. Rick

Rick Sickles - February 13 at 09:18 AM

RS

Ron was a good friend and mentor during my years of service in exceptional education in Orange County Public Schools. When the category of Specific Learning Disabilities became a part of Exceptional Student Education, Ron was selected to ordinate this new program - to recruit and train teachers for very school in the district. I was one of those teachers, and he always supported and encouraged me. I am so sorry for Scott and family for their loss. My entire family will miss this very special man.

Rebecca Sickles - February 16 at 12:15 AM

PM

“ Scott, Erin, Kendall & Courtney please know you are all in our hearts and prayers. We are going to miss holidays with Papa Ron especially, he loved you all so much.

Paige Mahnken - February 11 at 08:12 PM