



Ronald James Calery

March 26, 1935 - October 8, 2020

Ronald James Calery passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on October 8th, 2020. Ron was born in Hamilton, Ontario, on March 26th, 1935.

A graduate of Loretto Catholic Central in Sault Ste. Marie, Ron went on to earn his Bachelor and Master of Social Work degrees from Michigan State University. Prior to attending MSU, he served his country in the United States Marine Corp. Ron began his career in social work in 1964, serving as the branch office director of Catholic Social Services in Sault Ste. Marie, where he became involved in President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. He was the driving force in creating six Community Action Agencies in the Upper Peninsula, setting the model for rural communities, and served on the Board of Directors for the agency while also being involved in many other civic activities. In 1972, Ron joined the Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Agency (CLMCAA) and became its Executive Director. Over the span of his career, Ron was a tireless champion who dedicated his life's work to helping anyone in need. He advocated on behalf of senior citizens, children, Native Americans, veterans, and the homeless. Ron promoted senior and affordable housing development and established programs to address poverty and food insecurity throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Developing the Sewell Avery Center was one of his most fulfilling accomplishments. He was strong in his belief that people deserved a hand up, not a handout in life, and

that all people should have access to equal opportunities. Ron's relentless pursuit of social justice made life better for thousands of seniors and families.

Ron was dedicated to public service. He served as a Sault Ste. Marie City Commissioner, on the boards of statewide and national organizations, and was very active in creating recreational opportunities for youth. Ron was proud of his 32-years of service on the War Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees and really enjoyed his years volunteering as a youth hockey coach.

A lifelong practical joker, Ron made a lasting impression on everyone he met. His quick wit, unique sense of humor and ability to make people laugh will long be remembered by the many people that loved him. Ron's extraordinary life of service inspired all who knew him. He led with integrity, passion and an unwavering (and sometimes unreasonable!) commitment to lifting others up. Ron's legacy will live on through the impact he made for others.

Ron is survived by the love of his life, Reenie Butler Calery. His children were everything to him and his legacy will live on through Michael Calery (Angel Qin), Kathryn Calery Barr (Dan Arteritano), Rob Calery (Tawnya Johnston), Kristen Calery Corbiere (Justin Corbiere), Jennifer Calery (Stephen Werth), and Amy Frazier (Justin Frazier). His grandchildren brought great joy to his life. Blake Barr, Chelsea Sebert (Dakota Sebert), Lindy Calery, Lily Izzard, Kamryn Corbiere, Carter Frazier, Kacie Corbiere, Finn Frazier, Kali Corbiere, Sophia Calery and his great granddaughter Swayzii Sebert. Ron had a special connection with his sister Kathy Calery Sutter and brother-in-law Bill Sutter, as well as his nephews Bill (Alison) and Phil (Zsofia) Sutter and his niece Cynthia Ridley, sister Marilyn Simonini, nieces Valerie Nicholson and Cathy McDonald, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Rick and Nancy Butler, niece Courtney Butler and nephew Sean Butler (Erin). He had lifelong memories of his extended family in Sault, Ontario, including the Vena's, the Peters, the Butkovich's, the Gualazzi's, and the Petroni's. Ron was preceded in death by his parents

George and Phyllis Calery, his brothers George and Bobby Calery and his in-laws Geraldine Bell and Larry Butler.

A service will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sault Ste. Marie, MI, on Friday October 16th at 12:00 p.m. with Father Nick Thompson officiating. Friends may visit at the Church from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made in Ron's honor to Chippewa Luce Mackinac Community Action Agency.

Ron's final wish - Go Spartans and Vote Blue!

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16**. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church
337 Maple St.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Funeral Service

OCT **16**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church
337 Maple St.
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald James Calery*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Ronald James Calery*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Ronald James Calery*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Ron was a very good man serving the people of the UP. He introduced me to the love of my life, Peggy O'Neill and we were married over 50 years.*

James D. Beyers - November 02, 2020 at 06:06 PM



“ *I want Ron to know that I have always voted Blue and will continue to do so while remembering his urging on the topic. I especially appreciated when Ron said to give me as much time off work as I needed when my Mother passed on in 1984. Numerous great hearted deeds he did for us over the years. Together in Heaven, Rick & Joan Hodges*

Rick Hodges - October 31, 2020 at 11:13 PM

TR

“ Unfortunately, I didn't know Ron Calery personally. But what I always knew was that his services and volunteer work made my hometown a better place. Thank you Mr. Calery and condolences to your family.

Tom Root - October 20, 2020 at 07:42 AM

MB

“ Mary Anne Bumstead lit a candle in memory of Ronald James Calery



Mary Anne Bumstead - October 17, 2020 at 04:22 PM

YA

“ Your friends at Michigan Community Action purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ronald James Calery.



Your friends at Michigan Community Action - October 16, 2020 at 09:43 AM

PB

“ *Ron's passing is truly the end of an era. As close neighbors of the Calerys for 30+ years, we have countless memories of Ron's family, particularly since our children grew up together, Robbie and Terri in particular - especially when they found a can of paint and proceeded to paint my house - a different color of course. Ron's contributions to the tri-county area will have a lasting impact. RIP, Ron.*

Pat Brighton & family, Brimley, MI

Pat Brighton - October 15, 2020 at 12:13 PM

DC

“ *David Cook lit a candle in memory of Ronald James Calery*



David Cook - October 14, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald James Calery.*



October 13, 2020 at 11:32 PM

TF

“ *The D'Orazio Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ronald James Calery.*



The D'Orazio Family - October 13, 2020 at 07:45 PM



“ *Bruce Beaudoin lit a candle in memory of Ronald James Calery*



Bruce Beaudoin - October 13, 2020 at 05:56 PM

AN

“ *To Reenie and family, I just wanted to say I'm so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you.*

Angela Carr

Angela - October 13, 2020 at 03:28 PM

JS

“ *Richard and I are very sad to hear of Ron's passing. We enjoyed visiting and the entire Calery clan always made us feel very welcome. We still celebrate 'must go' night. All our love, Jill and Richard Lee*

Jillyn Smith - October 13, 2020 at 03:25 PM

JS

“ I have known Ron, my entire life, he has been a lifelong friend of my mom and dad and the whole family. Loved his great sense of humor and his sense of community. He spent his life making the lives of others better. He was full of life and he will be missed by many.

Jean Stenzel - October 13, 2020 at 02:01 PM

MP

“ I was saddened to read of Ron's passing. Then I thought back to when I met him and got an understanding of what he was all about. Ron lived a life that was all about helping others live a better life. He was still doing that when I saw him last year in Newberry. We can be sad that he is gone but we should all rejoice that he lived here in the U.P. and had such a tremendous impact on our communities. Rest In Peace Ron.

*Mike Prusi
Ishpeming*

Mike Prusi - October 12, 2020 at 03:21 PM