



Ronald Edward Freels

August 20, 1937 - June 6, 2014

Ronald Edward Freels, age 76, of Sault Ste. Marie and DeTour Village, Michigan, died Friday, June 6, 2014 in Petoskey, Michigan. He was born August 20, 1937 in Salinas, California, to Edgar and Elizabeth Lucille (Gabriel) Freels.

Ron grew up in California and then entered the United States Coast Guard where he served for over 26 years. During those years, he was stationed many different places including California, Washington, and Vietnam, and in Michigan at DeTour Reef Light, Charlevoix, Sault Ste. Marie and then in St. Ignace, where he was Officer In Charge. He received many honors throughout his military career, including honors for his service in Vietnam. While in DeTour, he met Mary Lou Goetz and they were married in 1966. He retired in 1981 and he and Mary made DeTour their home.

Ron had an unforgettable personality. He was warm hearted and generous, and could brighten anyone's day with his jokes. Although tenderhearted, he maintained a strict role as "The Boss" and was respected for that even after he retired. Ron loved animals, enjoyed solving crossword puzzles and sitting outside in the sunshine. He delighted in playing with his great granddaughter, Brooke. He is missed by family and friends.

Ron is survived by six children, Christina Wood, Sherry Freels Lee, Elaine

Freels, Rhonda Ashmore, Renee Twiss, Richard Freels, and a granddaughter he and Mary raised, Tara Barrette; and many grandchildren.

Ron was preceded in death by his wife, Mary; his parents; and brother, Robert Freels.

A memorial service will be held Friday, July 25 at 1:00 P.M. at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129 in Pickford, Michigan.

Memorial contributions may be made to Disabled American Veterans Chapter 52, P.O. Box 375, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **25.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald Edward Freels*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Ronald Edward Freels*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Ronald Edward Freels*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Great lineman and a great general foreman in houston tx. Lots of fun and lots of work. The man had big shoulers.*

Thanks Ron

By John Root 319 389 9198

Call me if you knew Ron

John Root - April 01, 2021 at 08:53 AM

“ Just read in the CG Retirees newsletter that Ron had crossed the bar. I have such fond memories of him from my service in St Ignace. When he came to the Station as OinC he busted our butts and made us feel like we couldn't do anything right. After a couple of weeks, during quarters that was held at the big table in the mess, he just glared at us for what seemed like an hour. He then stated that the following day we were not to come to work until 9am, because he didn't want us on the way to work when his daughters were heading to school, and that we saw what he could be like if he needed to be. From that point on, the First Class Petty Officers were going to running the Station, and the only thing that he wanted to hear from his boss was what a good job the crew was doing. He would be in the Station in the morning, and maybe staying later if the cook was making a good lunch.

Something that I will never forget - the 44' was up in the Soo for winter layup so on the way back to St. Ignace in the Spring the crew decided to stop at Fred's Bar in Detour and pick up a case of beer. We enjoyed them on the trip, and put all the empties in the anchor locker. When we docked at the station Chief Freels was waiting for us at the dock. He said he wanted to see what type of job we had done on the painting and maintenance while it was in layup. He proceeded below, went directly to the anchor locker, peered inside, and said "looking good". After dogging the hatch, he left the boat and never mentioned the "indiscretion" of my crew.

That was Ron's style. He expected excellence in our duties, but recognized that we had our faults. I carried those lessons the rest of my life.

A couple of years back, I was vacationing in the UP and went to say hello if I could find him. I knew he was in the Detour area. I stopped at the City Hall, and the lady I asked for a phone book told me that Mary had died, and Ron moved to Oregon to be near his daughter. I am surprised that he ended back up the UP, but that place is strong in our hearts.

So many good memories of Ron, and our time together in St. Ignace. Farewell my friend. My condolences to the family.

Dan VanderWerf

Dan VanderWerf - October 31, 2014 at 06:06 PM



I'm Ronalds Granddaughter Tara, and I want to thank you so much for sharing that Memory. It means so much to me, & I will share it with the rest of the family. So much of what you said hit home with me. He was so very strict, but only wanted the best for people he cared about. He was actually living with me in Sault Ste. Marie the last few years & would have loved to have seen you.. We will all see him again though:)

Tara Lynn - December 07, 2014 at 10:07 AM

He was a good Dad, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather. I miss him too. Thanks everyone for sharing such great memories 💕

sherry Freels - December 05, 2021 at 03:05 AM