



Ronald L. Bonwell

August 21, 1943 - March 18, 2010

Ronald "Ron" Bonwell, loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend passed away at age 66 on Thursday March 18, 2010. He was surrounded by his loving family and friends. Ron was born in Wenatchee, Washington on August 21, 1943 to Lester and Thelma (Riley) Bonwell. He graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1961. He was an original cast member of the Wenatchee Youth Circus for 2 years performing on the tightrope and also as a clown. He went into the US Navy on February 13, 1962, where his career took him to several ports of of call. During one port of call he met and married Pauline Buduan on August 21, 1965 in Kauai, Hawaii. After which they then had three children in three other ports of call. Ron was a torpedo man on the USS Tunny, the USS Puffer, and then the USS Pollock, He also served as Brigg Runner for the Shore Patrol before retiring February 28, 1983. He was very proud of the 21 years that he served in the US Navy.

Ron and his family moved to East Wenatchee in 1983 where he started his second career at the Chelan Regional Jail as a jailer, then later as a Sergeant. He retired from his second career on October 2006. Ron was very active in the American Legion Post 10 in Wenatchee, He served as Adjutant and Finance Officer for several years. He was also a member of Forty and Eight, and was a member of the Eagles Lodge.

Ron enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He enjoyed camping, fishing and hunting, He especially enjoyed spending time at DAHOBO Inn at Lake Rosevelt, a property developed by him and two friends.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Pauline, his three daughters, Laura Bender (Darin), Darla Racus (Troy) and Rhonda Yenney (Chad). Grandchildren, Ashlee, Adam, Austin and Alex Racus, Emma and Maxwell Yenney and Riley Bender. He is also survived by a brother Dan Bonwell (Judy) and their children, Jason, Kirk, Kayla and their families. We can't forget his loving companion, Suzie, his Shitz zhu.

Service to be held at the American Legion 208 N Wenatchee Ave. Friday March 26, 2010 12:00PM Donations accepted in Ronald Bonwell's name: Forty and Eight Nurses Scholarship C/O The American Legion Post 10.

Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Jones & Jones ~ Betts Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

BV

“ just yesterday I received the obituary of a Chief Missile Technician, who served on the U. S. S. Tunny about the same time as Ron. Ron and I were missile technicians. We joined the Navy together in Spokane and went to boot camp together. We both went to Dan Neck, Virginia to MT-A school.

As we neared graduation we were sold on the idea of submarines by a group that was recruiting for the Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine fleet. Ron convinced me that this was the way to go so we both volunteered for submarine duty. We attended sub school New London together. As we neared graduation our orders came to Regulus surface launching guided missile submarines. Ron went to the Tunny, I went to the Growler. I served briefly on the Tunny with Ron before I went to FBM school back at Dam Neck. I don't recall Ron going there with me. Perhaps he converted to torpedoman. I tried to find him a couple of years ago through the on-line phone book. I thought he might be in Wenatchee, but I was unsuccessful. I should have tried again.

So, accept my condolences and these personal memories of our time in the Navy together.

Bob Vermeers - October 29, 2010 at 04:03 AM

DR

“ Thank you all who posted about my father whom i still called "daddy" I miss him so much and I am sad about all the things he is going to miss out on, but I will over time get used to the fact that he's gone. All the well wishes are so appreciated and the stories are excellent even if they did bring a few tears to my eyes. thank you so much
Darla racus and family!!

darla racus - April 01, 2010 at 02:49 PM

RO

“ *Paula, Laura, Darla, Rhonda, Dan, Judy & Families*
It was truly an honor to be part of the service today. Ron served our Country with pride and devotion and gave his whole heart to the Legion. He will be missed and I will think of him daily as I know you will also. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
Ralph

Ralph Olson - March 26, 2010 at 11:38 PM

ST

“ *Dear Paula and Family..*
My heart is breaking for you. I will miss him so much. I send you my strength.
Susan Tiffany

susan tiffany - March 26, 2010 at 04:24 PM

KB

“ *Dearest Paula, Laura, Darla, Rhonda and families~*
I was so sorry to hear about your husband and father! Your family has been a very important and loved part of my life! I know how difficult it is to lose a father and such an important strength of the family. I will be keeping you all in my prayers. If there is any way that I can ease your pain or help in anyway~ please don't hesitate to call on me!
We love you all! Kim Barnes, Josh and Jessi

Kimberly Barnes - March 26, 2010 at 01:26 PM

BS

“ *Paula, Girls, and Families*
Dan, Judy, and Families

We were so sorry to hear about Ron. He will be missed by those who knew him, from family to friends (who we were priveleged to be) to those he worked with. We'll keep you all in our prayers. Cherish the memories. Much love- Janet and Butch Siler

Butch and Janet Siler - March 26, 2010 at 11:42 AM

ZF

“ *I regret not knowing Ron Bonwell better. We spent holidays together for nearly 7 years and I grew to respect him for the man he was. He always welcomed me and made me feel like a member of the family. I could see that he was a proud father and grandfather. I could see the joy on his face in just having all of his family gathered. Even if he didn't always converse with everyone I could always see how relaxed and at peace he was when the family was together. Maybe it's because he was away serving and protecting our country and freedoms or maybe it was the influence of his mother Thelma Bonwell but I could see that family was important to Ron. Top all of that off with the fact that he had three daughters and a full head of hair and I think anyone would agree that's nothing short of a miracle. Tomorrow I will attend your funeral and I will learn more about your life and character. I'm sorry I didn't take the time to know you better.*

Zechariah Fitzgerald

Zechariah Fitzgerald - March 25, 2010 at 11:35 PM

GK

“ Ron and I were partners at NACU (Naval Absentee Collection Unit) and we named ourselves Rough and Ready. I was ready! We volunteered for every trip, until our wives got tired of all our travel time. At one time the Chief told us we had to bring a note in from our wives if we wanted extra trips. Needless to say we didn't make many Extra Trips! Another time Ron, Paula, myself and my wife (Gloria) flew to Hawaii and spent the week with Paula's family. One day Paula and Gloria went to the post office and or some place to buy something and one of Paula's friend's was so happy to see her and than asked if my wife, who is a year younger than Ron and I, was Paula's mother-in-law! He called her Mom for sometime after that. We loved going up to their place in Seattle. Would go to Ballard Locks and watch boats go through the locks. Enjoyed our camping trips with the family and fun time at the Ballard Eagles.. His mother encluded me in Ron's Navy Retirement party and that has always meant a lot to me. I will miss him. George Kirk

George Kirk - March 25, 2010 at 09:56 PM

“ What was my big brother to me?

Well he was certainly someone that could irritate me on occasion like most big brothers probably do at times. But what he was all the time was someone that I looked up to, admired, and loved very much.

I was born in March 1956 just 5 months before my brother's 13th birthday. I was told he took me everywhere with him. When I got a little older I remember he took me on a few dates with him. He probably had better luck using a cute little boy as bait and it didn't have anything to do with wanting to be with me. But I want to believe he couldn't stand to leave me behind.

I remember when he was in the Wenatchee youth circus, known then as the "Y" circus as a clown, juggler, and walking the tight rope. He used to take me with him all the time and I remember how much I admired him for what he was doing then.

When I was five years old I didn't understand at the time why he was leaving me but that was when he decided to serve our country by joining the US Navy. At my early age I already couldn't imagine being without him. Little did I know that for the next 21 years I would only see him about once a year when he got leave. I still remember our Mom getting off the phone after talking with him long distance and crying for an hour afterward.

When I was nine we went to Hawaii where I found out he was getting married. I now had a sister as well as a brother who to this day I think very much of. In addition to this they had three girls with the oldest being born when I was just 10. I love them all.

I remember how proud I was that my brother was on a submarine and I used to brag to all my friends about him. I could never wait until the next visit.

In 1983 I remember how happy I was. I was attending my brother's Navy retirement ceremony. He was now coming home for good. Ron, Paula and the girls moved only a few blocks from us. We finally could do all the things together I had dreamed about for so long.

I almost had him working as a Carbon Setter at Alcoa after he got out of the service. Something he wasn't overly excited about doing

at 39 but never the less he had an appointment to get his physical when the Chelan County regional Jail called him to work and bailed him out of setting carbons like his Dad and I.

We did everything together after that right up to the end, hunting for Ducks, Elk, Deer, fishing, camping, and boating and so on. Not just him and I but both of our families including our Mom.

I never like to work on my vehicles and didn't want to because it gave me an excuse to go to his place so he could help me and I could spend time with him.

I have always been the little brother. When I was 20 and he was 33 he said wait until you are in your thirties then you might know something. Well that never happened because when I was in my thirties I needed to be in my forties. You get the idea, because even now that I am 54 I was still the little brother. But I was good with it. I did get even once in awhile when people actually would ask him if he was my Dad.

For the 21 years while he was in the US Navy I was sadden for the limited time I was with him. Now I would give anything to just have that.

I will miss the Debates, as his girls put it. Such as Politics, whose gas is it, and where is the creek. If you ever went Elk Hunting with us In Yakima you would know what that means.

My Big brother loved me and I loved him. I will always remember all of our memories together as a little boy and as a man. We were and are a very close family and will continue to be so even without him. As I told my three gown children always cherish your time together because it isn't going to be forever. And if you ever get upset over debates with each other, get over it.

You're Little Brother.

Dan Bonwell - March 25, 2010 at 09:43 PM



“ *I was the youngest and I got away with everything. But I turned out great!*

My father was wonderful and I loved him very much. We will miss him at all the gatherings (there are always plenty) and holidays. I know he is looking upon us now and now knows all the answers. Rest In Peace Daddy. Love, Rhonda

rhonda yenney - March 25, 2010 at 07:01 PM

LB

“ *My dad was a great father and a great husband to my mother. He will be missed by all who knew him. He was a man of few words but when he spoke, we all listened. As the oldest daughter, I got away with nothing and I never tried anything because I never wanted to disappoint my dad. I will miss you daddy, more than you will ever know.*

Laura Bender - March 24, 2010 at 09:46 PM

SA

“ *Please accept our sincere sympathies and heartfelt condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Paula and the entire Bonwell family.*

I will remember Ron for his wonderful sense of humor; I did not walk away from a conversation with him without a smile on my face!

Skip & Sheryl Atkerson

Sheryl & Skip Atkerson - March 24, 2010 at 01:26 PM



“ *Daddy,
You were always the rock of our family. When we had questions we asked you, when we made plans we told you first. I will miss having your opinion weather we wanted it or not, I will miss you terribly, I already do.*
Darla

Darla Racus - March 23, 2010 at 06:58 PM



“ *Grandpa, I love you.*

Ashlee Racus - March 23, 2010 at 05:31 PM



“ *A tribute to my friend and Navy Buddy. Ron and I joined the Navy and entered boot camp together. He was there for me through the homesickness, the fire fighting school, and swimming qualifications. We both choose training, he went submariner and I went surface ships so we parted company at the end of boot camp.*

My memory of Ron was as a good, honest, happy and dedicated Man. We worked together at John's Grandway after graduation from WHS and enjoyed our association there.

We grew up together in band and spent many hours in concert, marching and dance band. Finally advancing to the Wenatchee Youth Circus band for one summer of fun and travel. He was a good friend and there through the growing pains of becoming an adult. I deem him as an important angel in my life.

May God bless Ron's family as they adjust to having him absent from their presence. I look forward to the day we will visit again and rehearse our experiences.

I will think of you often.

Russell K. Port

Russell Port - March 23, 2010 at 01:46 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - March 22, 2010 at 12:17 PM