



Ronald Richard Schnier

June 16, 1936 - March 14, 2022

Ronald R. Schnier

Oshkosh resident Ronald Richard Schnier, age 85, left this world on March 14, 2022 at Edenbrook Care Center to join his wife Suzi in Heaven, after a brave battle with cancer.

Ron was born on June 16, 1936, the eldest of four sons, to the late Gerald R. and Delora (Breitbarth) Schnier of Thurston, Nebraska. Ron grew up on a farm and attended a small public school in Thurston, graduating in 1954 from a class of only seven. From there, he entered the University of Nebraska, which at that time had an enrollment of about 7,000. He never forgot the challenge of adjusting to leaving his home for such a new experience. That experience later influenced his choice of career as a counselor to help college students.

He graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1958, with a degree that prepared him for teaching German and English at the high-school level. His first teaching opportunity was at Valentine, Nebraska, where he met Susan (Suzi) Darting, a Registered Nurse also in her first career position. They were married on June 13, 1959 and enjoyed 55 loving years together until she passed away in 2014. The Lord blessed Ron and Suzi with two wonderful sons, Randall and Russell.

Ron's career in education next led him to eastern Iowa, where he taught at Center Point for three years. While he was there, he also enrolled in the University of Iowa. In 1963, he qualified for a federally-funded program to prepare school counselors at the University of Wyoming-Laramie. He obtained his Masters degree in 1964 and was encouraged by his advisors to continue further. He went on to earn his Ph.D in Counseling Psychology in 1967.

Ron's next position was at Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico. In 1968, he was hired as a Counseling Psychologist at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, where he served at the Counseling Center. He was an active member of the faculty until his retirement in 1998 as a full professor.

Ron loved his work in education and enjoyed those he worked with at the Counseling Center.

Ron was a creative woodworker. He handcrafted furniture, toys and even a full-size floor loom for his wife Suzi to weave cloth, which she used to make items by sewing. He also built a number of scale-model homes, which doubled as dollhouses. His last house was a scale model of the home where Suzi grew up in Iowa. He also made many items for his church, Calvary Lutheran in Oshkosh, and for the Kappa Sigma fraternity at UW-Oshkosh. Ron enjoyed fishing in Wyoming, in local lakes in Wisconsin, and in Canada. He especially loved a number of fly-in fishing trips to northern Canada with friends. He and Suzi also fished in Ontario at lakes they drove their motor home to. Ron and Suzi loved to travel together, especially in the Rocky Mountain area. They had various trailers and motor homes they used to travel in Wisconsin, the Midwest, and further West. They also made a wonderful trip to Hawaii to celebrate an anniversary.

Ron was a key person in establishing a local chapter of the Kappa Sigma fraternity while at UW-O. He also served the Lion's Club, Boy Scouting, and The Gideons in their Christian work. He was a charter and active member of Calvary Lutheran Church, where he was active in leadership, teaching and sponsorship of Red Cross blood drives. In his later years after Suzi's passing, he volunteered at Aurora Hospital, leading a bereavement support group and as a counselor in their at-home hospice program.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Larry, in 1997; and his wife Suzi in 2014. He is survived by his brothers, Dale of Nocona, TX and Bud (Cookie) of Fleming Island, FL; sister-in-law Tanice of Norfolk, NE; his sons, Randy (Connie) of Rochester, MN and Russell of Menominee, MI; four grandchildren, Jeff (Alicia) Schnier and Rebecca (Tim) Condon of Rochester, Alex Schnier-Hansen of St. Catharines, ON, and Trevor Schnier of Menominee; and three great-grandchildren, Kinleigh and Teagan Schnier, and Theodore Condon, all of Rochester; many nieces and nephews; and special friend Clarice Armacher of Oshkosh.

The family would like to thank Edenbrook of Oshkosh and Aurora Visiting Nurse-Hospice of Oshkosh for Ron's support and care.

A public memorial service for Ron will be held Saturday, May 7, 2022 at Calvary Lutheran Church, 2580 W. 9th Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54904 with Pastor Doug Holtz officiating, with visitation from 1:00 to 2:00 pm and the service beginning at 2:00 pm. Ron and Suzi's remains will be buried together at Lake View Memorial Park in Oshkosh in a private ceremony at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Oshkosh Area Humane

Society.

Tribute Wall

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“ I came to know Ron and his family when I became friends with his son, Rusty, during our K-12 years. I love the photo of Ron with his cherished Irish setter, as I fondly recall playing with his dog during my frequent visits to his home. I also recall how Ron became a very positive guiding force for me, during my childhood, and then when I was a student at UW-Oshkosh. I shall always cherish those memories and value the time I spent with him and his beautiful family.

My sincerest condolences,

David Sabaj-Stahl

David Sabaj Stahl - July 28 at 11:19 AM

TH

“ Ron and Suzi will remain in my memories as among my dearest and most treasured friends since we first met each other in 1968. They were each knowledgeable, multi-talented, compassionate, salt-of-earth people. I have been richly privileged to have known them all these years.



Ron was a valued colleague and friend for over 30 years at UW-Oshkosh. Over his tenure at the University, he literally provided individual guidance and attention to thousands of students who sought his help in making academic, career, and personal choices. Students in his classes gave him high ratings on evaluations. He served the University on a variety of faculty committees. And he won an Outstanding Service Award in recognition.

Ron's obituary describes how the experience of leaving his farm home in Thurston, Nebraska, and entering the University of Nebraska as a freshman affected his career choices and dedication to service. In his office at UW-O, he had a replica of a Norman Rockwell painting showing a farm boy sitting on his suitcase, with his father standing at his side, while they waited for the bus to take him off to college. That was Ron, and he never forgot the feelings of that boy!

To Randy and Rusty, and all of their families, my condolences in your loss. I know Ron strongly believed that he and Suzi would now be together again.

Ken Hocking

THOMAS K HOCKING - May 05 at 05:25 PM

DV

“ *The Oshkosh Area Humane Society would like to express its condolences to Randy and Russell and all of Ron's family. We are sorry for your loss.*

We are also very grateful to Ron for all of his support through the years to the Humane Society, and for now giving his memorial gifts to the Humane Society also. Thank you.

Our condolences to each of you at this most difficult time.

David VanderLinden - May 04 at 01:05 PM