



## Ronald D. Clay

April 1, 1969 - December 27, 2015

Ronald Derrick Clay, 46, passed away peacefully on December 27, 2015, in Salt Lake City, Utah after a 2 1/2 year fight with cancer. He was born on April 1, 1969 in Centreville, Illinois to Levi and Virginia E. Clay.

“The best things in life are the people you love, the places you’ve seen, and the memories you’ve made along the way.”

Ronald loved life. Everyone who met him was greeted with a big hug and was immediately a life-long friend. His spare time was filled with camping and boating trips with friends and family. Some of his favorite trips were to Goblin Valley, Lava Hot Springs, and most recently to Lake Powell. Ronald loved supporting his sons as they played basketball, football, and baseball. He was passionate about the St. Louis Cardinals and St. Louis Rams. Definitely a fan for life! Ronald enjoyed BBQ’s and was known for grilling the best meat ever! He made enough for an army, and everyone was always invited. Ron was generous, happy, and everyone loved being in his presence. He will be remembered for his laughter and his smile that lit up any room.

Ronald was survived by fiancé Nikol Smith, sons Ronald II and Sean, and siblings Oberlin E. Connors(Douglas): Denver, CO, Marvin Wayne(Annette): Belleville, IL, Frankie R. Moore: St. Louis, MO, Debra J. Shepard(Andre): Branson, MO, Lester D.: Belleville, IL, Lawrence B.: Cahokia, IL, Alvin T.:

Denver, CO, Raymond E.: Clinton, UT, and Priscilla M.: St. Louis, MO.

Ronald was preceded in death by parents Levi and Virginia E. Clay, wife, Bridget Ludy, and brother, Curtis E. Clay.

A celebration of life for Ronald will be held on Wednesday, December 30, 2015, from 12-2pm at Magnolia Grove Reception Center, 1117 South Jordan Parkway, South Jordan, Utah. Ronald will be laid to rest in Illinois. Arrangements are pending.

A special thank you to Doctor Whisenant at IMC Utah Cancer Specialists and Doctor Sharma at Huntsman Cancer Institute and their dedicated staff for their wonderful support the past 2 1/2 years. Thank you to staff and hospice at City Creek Acute Care for the loving care they provided his last 5 days.

Please share memories and condolences at [www.serenityfhs.com](http://www.serenityfhs.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

DEC **30**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Magnolia Grove Reception Center  
1117 S Jordan Pkwy W  
SLC, UT 84101

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald D. Clay*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *Ronald was the baby of the family and I was the oldest of 11 children. Ronald was born April 1 and my aunt Gertrude told my mom to stop playing a April fool joke on her when she sent her a picture of Ronald to California. Madear and I laughed about that. From all the people that I have met they say Ronald was no joke but he was nice and kind and everyone loved him. That makes my heart glad even in this time of sorrow. Thanks Oberlin (the oldest sister)*

**Oberlin Connors** - January 02, 2016 at 05:18 PM



Pamela  
Miller

“ *Pamela Miller lit a candle in memory of Ronald D. Clay*



**Pamela Miller** - January 01, 2016 at 08:09 PM



Maria  
LA

“ *Condolence for the Clay family in their time of breavment. Love Connie*



**Maria LA** - January 01, 2016 at 07:28 PM



“ Zack Zondervon lit a candle in memory of Ronald D. Clay



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**Zack Zondervon** - December 31, 2015 at 10:53 AM



“ Condolences to the Clay family. Ronald was always happy and smiling when I saw him R.I.P Ronald. Kristi (Tinky) Westbrook

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**Kristi Westbrook** - December 30, 2015 at 11:06 PM



“ I will always remember Ron's kindness. He would always be sure to wave every time he saw us as we drove by. His shared his smile and goodness through the neighborhood. There is a void now, but we will try to be that kind, like he was. Sending much love to you Nikol, and the boys.  
You'll be in our prayers.  
Love, Brandon, Julie Ann, Ezra, Sofia, and Paloma Lake

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**Julie Ann Lake** - December 30, 2015 at 12:28 PM

BF

“ Sweet Ron.... Too young & too soon... You will be greatly missed dear one. You are one of those people that lit up a room even if they were strangers. You always have your best & it showed with your valiant fight over the past 2+ years. Your life with Nikol was cut way to short. God bless her & your boys and peace be with you as you see your parents & brother & other loved ones again. I love you dear friend & peace be with Nikol as well.

Forever love,  
Betz

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**Betsy Ford** - December 30, 2015 at 12:20 PM

PL

“ Ron always invited me and Nadia to each and every barbecue and event. I remember especially how much fun we had and new friends we made NYE 2014. He always made us feel so welcome. He will truly be missed!

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**Patrick Lee** - December 30, 2015 at 09:56 AM

JG

“ Ron was one of first neighbors that we met (before the house was even done). He really is a light unto the world. You could feel his positive force and the way you'd instantly smile just seeing him. He greeted us from the start like we were long lost friends. Will miss chatting in the street and his big smile from across the road. The Goldklang kids just smile whenever they think of Ron. He leaves such a huge impression as a warm and amazing person on everyone who was lucky enough to meet him.

*Julie Goldklang (neighbor)*

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**Julie Goldklang** - December 30, 2015 at 09:46 AM

CM

“ There were many awesome memories we shared together, many with others and quite a few together. The one that stands out the most took place earlier this year. In the midst of an incident that has changed my life forever, Ronald Clay, the wonderful gentleman he is, made arrangements from across the country to have me signed out of the hospital after a 4-day stint, picked up, placed in a luxury hotel, and made sure I made it safely to my nearest family member. From my understanding, when he found out what happened to me, he immediately volunteered his services, putting aside anything that was routine to ensure that I was out of harm's way. He checked on me everyday until I made it back to Utah. After arriving, he kept my spirits up with visits, phone calls, text messages and music. He never once asked me what happened, he only cared that I was doing better. He did all of this knowing his own situation was way worse than mine. That is typical of the man I know as Ronald Clay. Gone but never forgotten. I love you! R.I.P my brother!

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**Craig (CJ) Marcelin** - December 30, 2015 at 04:44 AM

GR

“ I remember the day I met Ronald at Ma Dear house, welcomed me with open arms into the Family . Always kept a smile on my face.  
Good Man truly be missed!!Love,  
Gigi Robinson



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**Gigi Robinson** - December 29, 2015 at 09:57 PM

AF

“ I will never forget when he would call asking for the girls to babysit the kids. The boys Lil Ron, Shawn, KB and Kory his twins girls definitely had an amazing man in their lives. He was such a true unconditional person to all. The best part was watching him be a father to all of his children. Who he loved and adored so much. We will miss you tons love you much. Heaven gain another angel 🙏

amy nichols family friend - December 29, 2015 at 09:11 PM



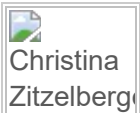
“ I met Ronald and his handsome sons last Thanksgiving 2014 at my brother's house. We were instantly friends. We talked about large families, child rearing, and the old school way of doing things. By the end of the evening he became my brother. The world has definitely lost a great man today. My condolences to the Clay family and to the hearts of those who were impacted by him. RIP my brother.

Sheena Marcelin - December 29, 2015 at 07:20 PM

TB

“ Ronald was a huge part of our family he shared a Great 13 years of his life to me and some of us more! We were one huge happy family! He brought us together always! We all know that he cared so much for his 4 children that he would do ANYTHING to make sure they were taken care of! I Love You

Tiffany Bell - December 29, 2015 at 07:10 PM



“ He will be missed so very much! I love you ron and RIP now. Sincere love out to the Family and boys! Your smile and laughter will never be forgotten!

Christina Zitzelberger - December 29, 2015 at 07:02 PM

 Rena  
Khoury

“ *I'm at Ronald at school as a young child we grew up out here in Cahokia in Centerville he was an amazing funny loving most generous person you would ever know I'm blessed to know him about him and I'm glad I got the opportunity in my life to know such a wonderful person may I send all my condolences to the clay family and may God bless all of you*

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**Rena Khoury** - December 29, 2015 at 07:01 PM

AM

“ *Abe Martinez lit a candle in memory of Ronald D. Clay*



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**Abe Martinez** - December 29, 2015 at 06:56 PM

AM

“ *It's hard to describe the sorrow and pain that is the result of one passing away but it's especially sad when that person has the friendship and respect of so many people. It's a tribute to what he is leaving to us that knew and respected him.*

*Ron worked for me since 2007 and as an employer we had very ( very ) few occasions where we had discussions about his work. Ron was always the first to volunteer anytime the need came up. He was quick to the task never complaining. His great work ethic was and is to be to be admired.*

*I send the sincere thoughts and prayers of all the employees of Intermountain Testing. I know God welcomed Ron with open arms to a life of eternal bliss. God bless Nikol, Ron and Sean.*

*May the Eternal Light Shine Upon Him !!!!*

*Your friend Abe*

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**Abe Martinez** - December 29, 2015 at 06:50 PM

CC

*Have you ever had a friend that you could confide absolutely anything to? Have you ever had a friend that would help you out with absolutely anything you asked? Have you ever had a friend that would give you the shirt off his back or his last dollar? Have you ever had a friend that knew you and your family as well as any of your family members? Have you ever had a friend that had more concern for your well-being than for their own? Ron was all that and more to me and my family and he will be dearly missed by us all. Every good time I could think of had his involvement. Bidding him farewell will be tough for me because a part of me is gone.*

*Rest in peace my brotha. My parents are welcoming you with open arms because you are truly family. I love you.*

*Big "C"*

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**Clement J. Marcelin Jr "Big C"** - December 29, 2015 at 09:20 PM

RM

“ Prayers to the family. May God comfort you.

Roshon Mckay - December 29, 2015 at 05:46 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald D. Clay.



December 29, 2015 at 05:19 PM



“ My sincere condolences to Nikol, the Clay family & close friends. May time and fond memories get you through this difficult time. Love, hugs and prayers,  
Kathryn Barton (Stanka - CHS 1989)

Kathryn Barton - December 29, 2015 at 03:02 PM

CA

“ Thoughts and prayers to the Clay family, Sons, Fiance', and all of the wonderful friends! It is so beautiful to see that Ronald was surrounded by so many loving and affectionate people. That is truly what life is about. May those memories comfort you all!

Cheri Branson (Tony) Allen & family from Centreville, IL

Cheri Branson Allen - December 29, 2015 at 01:24 PM

SL

“ Ron we love and miss you, my friend! Sending love to Nikol, Ronald JR, Sean and the Clay family!

Sara Loftin - December 29, 2015 at 10:30 AM

MR

*He was a Great Uncle to his nephews. Truly missed by The Reeves Family.*

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**Marvin Reeves** - July 05, 2019 at 12:48 PM

S

“ 3 files added to the album *Ronald D. Clay*



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**Serenity Funeral Home** - December 28, 2015 at 09:38 PM