



Ronald Alfred Utz

April 20, 1933 - June 20, 2018

Siskiyou County native, Ronald Alfred “Ron” Utz, passed away at the Madrone Hospice House in Yreka on June 20, 2018. Ron was 85 years old.

Ron was born in Etna to Carl and Viva Utz on April 20, 1933. After graduating from Etna High School in 1951 Ron attended Oregon State College and majored in forestry. After completing two years, he left college and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. During his 3 years in the service, Ron was sent to Korea for eleven months, and was discharged as a Sergeant in 1956. Ron entered the Police School at San Jose State, with a minor in Psychology. He met his wife, Wilma Sprinkle, at San Jose State, and the two were married in 1959. Three months later, Ron joined the San Jose Police Department.

Ron was promoted to Sergeant at SJPD, where he and his partner investigated upwards of 150 murders during a 36 month period. As a lieutenant, Ron spent time as the Commander of Homicide, Internal Affairs, Organized Crime, and Vice Units. He also completed three months of training and education at the FBI National Academy, Quantico, Virginia in 1974.

In 1978, Ron was promoted to Captain. The last five years on the department, he was assigned the responsibility of commanding the Operations and Support Services Division. In Records, he was responsible for the supervision of over 100 ladies.

Ron and Wilma spent several years living in apartments in San Jose, before buying their first home in Morgan Hill. They lived there for 3 years. Upon retirement in 1988, the couple moved to Monterrey County.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Doris. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Wilma; his sisters, Patricia Utz and Juel West; a brother, Jerome Utz; nieces and nephews: Linda Short, Sheryl Towne, Caroline Utz, Sandra Langley, Ron West, and Jerry West; and by several great-nieces and nephews, one great-great-niece; and also by his caregiver and dear friend, Patricia Grieb.

It was Ron's request that no services are to be held.

Tribute Wall

ST

“ When family members got together and began to describe my Uncle Ron, we whole-heartedly agree that he was kind and respectful toward all people. His intellect and humorous demeanor were always quietly present in the room and were often accompanied by an all-knowing smile and a tilted eyebrow. He was stately, well-respected, and enjoyed a long and very honorable police career. He was often seen enjoying the beautiful Scott Valley countryside, where he hiked, hunted, and fished. I feel honored to have such a strong and memorable Uncle and will always strive to be more like him.

Sheryl Towne, Niece
Scott Valley

Sheryl Towne - June 29, 2018 at 05:18 PM

MM

“ During my 30-year career at the San Jose Police Department I never worked for or with a person so incredibly smart, street wise and gracious as Captain Ron Utz. Ron Tannehill and I enjoyed a visit with Captain Utz at the rehab facility in Watsonville during his rehabilitation for his broken arm. I spoke with Captain Utz after he returned home from the rehab facility and he was upbeat as always, and happy to be back home with the love of his life, his wife Wilma. I will remember Captain Utz not only as my boss but as my friend and my mentor. Goodby my friend. Goodby. - Mike Miceli

Mike Miceli - June 28, 2018 at 11:48 PM

KC

“ *A true gentleman, fine Marine, great and respected boss to work for, and in every respect the epitome of citizens who "gave" to our society, our country. Will forever be better with what I learned from this man.*

May his memory be eternal.

Most respectfully submitted ...

Kenn Christie

Kenn Christie - June 28, 2018 at 07:37 PM

BM

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Bill Mattos - June 25, 2018 at 05:56 PM