

Ronald Kersbergen

October 10, 1947 – May 11, 2024

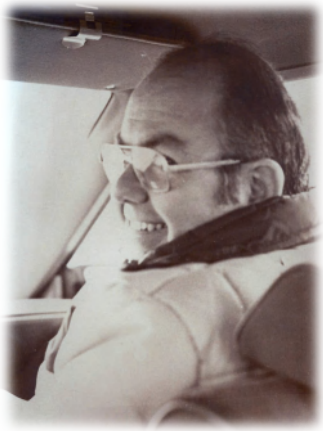
Ron Kersbergen of Sioux Falls, SD passed away in the Emergency Room at Sanford Hospital with his wife Cindy holding him close. It was the early morning of Saturday, May 11, 2024 following four months of ongoing heart problems.

Visitation on May 18th at Miller Funeral Home Downtown. Graveside Service at Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls.

Ronald Russell Kersbergen, son of Russell and Marian (Judes) Kersbergen was born October 10, 1947 in Rock Rapids, IA. The family moved to Sioux Falls, SD where Ron attended Horace Mann Elementary School and Patrick Henry Middle School, before they moved to Arizona where Ron worked with his dad at their Baskin Robbins Ice Cream Shoppe. Then they moved to Texas for a short time where he worked as a grease monkey on a large oil rig. The family returned to Sioux Falls, where he graduated from Washington High School, class of 1965.

After school and weekends, he worked at a gas station as a mechanic, saving his money to buy his first car, a green 2 door '53 Chevy with a white top. And soon his first Corvette, right off the showroom floor, a beautiful 1975, maroon with saddle interior.

After graduation he began his years at Augustana College (University) earning his BS degrees in Physics, Engineering, and Math, and his BA degrees in Secondary Education, Special Education, and Computer Science. Ron even taught Professor level classes at Augustana after he graduated. He loved learning, and college, and teaching, so he went on to earn his Masters degree in Computer Science and Technology, at Sioux Falls College (University).



Ron during Driving Education at S.D. School for the Deaf

Ron was united in marriage to Cindy Blacksmith on June 24, 1984, in the First Baptist Church at 22nd and Covell, Sioux Falls, SD. In Cindy's fun way, she always told anyone they met, "As they say, opposites attract." Ron was truly the love, the sweetheart, of her life for 47 years.

They would have celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary this June 24th.

Ron was such a kind, gentle man. He was known to everyone as the "Go To Guy." Whether you had any question about computers, or racecars, and especially Corvettes, Ron was the guy to call on.

Ron joined The Sioux Falls Corvette Club in 1974. He and Cindy have been active members of The SFCC for over 50 years. They have had several Corvettes through the years, along with several other types of vehicles. Ron's shops were his home away from home, truly his Heaven on earth.

Ron was met at Heaven's Door by his parents, Russ and Marian Kersbergen, his grandparents, Albert and Christina Judes and Ike and Ruth Kersbergen, and his and Cindy's Miniature Schnauzer children, Lady and Jakkie Jean.

Cindy said she was always so amazed and proud of Ron in everything he knew especially with cars. She asked him "How in the world do you know how to do all this stuff?"

He would lovingly say, "From the time I started walking I would follow my Grandpa Ike around his gas station and Kersbergen Car Repair Shop, watching his every move. Grandpa Ike always had the patience to show me and teach me and, I knew if I messed up anything, I would be sent home."



Educational Staff Front row,from the left: Susan Parr, Independent Living; Darlene Runyan, Home Economics, and Mary Walker, Library Aide. Back row, from the left: Ron Kersbergen, High School Teacher; John Schumacher, Graphic Arts; Joanna Keuser, Art; Larry Puthoff, High School Teacher; Jana Carlson, Physical Education; Mary Modica, Librarian, and Sandy Anderson, Elementary Teacher.

Picture taken in 1986 SDSD Yearbook

Ron was always so happy to have a many great friends he had in The Sioux Falls Corvette Club and from his 30+ years of teaching at The South Dakota School for the Deaf, and all those life long friends he made while building motors for and racing cars, along with the gab-sessions with so many other enthusiasts.

SDAD members, SDSD Alumni, and staff as well as the deaf community would like to send their regards and thanks for his huge time contribution to everybody during his time.