



## Ronald E. Henderson

June 18, 1957 - November 25, 2020

Ronald Eugene Henderson passed away surrounded by his family on Wednesday after a bout with late stage cancer. Ron was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and grew up in Overland Park, Kansas. He graduated from Shawnee Mission West High School where he played trumpet in their award winning jazz and marching bands. Ron graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Kansas. He worked for Black & Veatch for his entire career, becoming a Vice President and lead membrane water treatment plant designer. Ron and his wife Betsy relocated to Tempe, Arizona for project work, where he completed his Master's Degree, and then to the San Francisco Bay Area for work in the B&V Walnut Creek Office. They had two children, Alexander and Leslie, whom he loved dearly. Ron was diagnosed with ParkinsonsDisease in 2007 and took early retirement in 2015. Ron's lifelong passions included muscle cars, model trains, cats, golf, the KC Chiefs and KU Jayhawks, and drinking cabernet with friends in the wine country. Ron also loved the Rock Steady Boxing program designed for those with PD. He and Betsy restored a historic house in Oregon and their Victorian in Benicia. Ron is survived by his wife Betsy, son Alexander, daughter Leslie, and his sister Neva Schleper, her husband Charlie, and their daughters Amy Schleper and Angela Wong (Andrew) and their two sons. Please visit the online tribute at [www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com](http://www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL 1. 11:00 AM (PT)

Passalacqua Funeral Chapel  
901 W Second Street  
Benicia, CA 94510  
(707) 745-3130  
info@passalacquafuneralchapel.com  
<https://www.passalacquafuneralchapel.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald E. Henderson*

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November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ *It has taken me until now to be able to share my sadness and sympathy of Ron's passing in November of last year. I have known Rom and Betsy since their Son Alex was an infant, 26 years. He was a kind and gentle soul that seemed to be the rock of his family. He had the rare personality to be an incredible engineer while also maintaining and growing professional relationships. I remember Ron and Betsy for the houses we watched them transform, wine tasting in Livermore, traveling together in Scotland, and many other family dinners and events.. I miss him and hope that Walter and I's love, as well as the rest of our family, for Ron, Betsy, Alex and Leslie will support his family in healing from losing him from this life.*

*Love,*  
*Vicky Pease*

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**Vicky Pease** - July 01, 2021 at 12:29 PM

TF

“ I am so saddened to hear of Ron’s passing. Sending much love to Betsy and the kids.  
I have had the honor of being the family stylist for over 25 years! I have known them before they started their beautiful family. Ron and I always joked around about our football rivalry as I am a diehard Patriot fan... I loved hearing about their next real estate project and his and Alex’s love of muscle cars. I think it made him very proud to have that with his son. We talked about his passion for a good vino....  
I was so impressed by how he handled life’s challenges with his health. He did what he had to do and never once had a negative thing to say about any of it... There is no doubt he fought as hard as he could for as long as he could and I will miss our time every six weeks for sure. I will be praying for some peace for all the family during these very difficult times. Tina Flask

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**Tina Flask** - December 14, 2020 at 04:58 PM

LH

“ It was a pleasure working with you and Ron as you remodeled your Victorian home in Benicia. Thank you for putting your trust in our company to complete your dream home. It was a pleasure getting to know you both during this time. We will be thinking of you and your family as you celebrate Ron's life. If there is anything you need please give us a call. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.  
Larry & Carlene Hunt

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**Larry Hunt** - December 10, 2020 at 12:05 AM

PH

“ Hugs and love to Betsy, Alex, and Leslie. Ron was a wonderful husband, father, and friend. We will miss him very much.

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**Pam and Leon Hall** - December 07, 2020 at 05:46 PM

SS

“ Ron was a very close friend of mine when we were attending JCCC in the late 70's. We spent most of our study time at his house. We even were excited about Amway when we were involved with that. Ron stood up in my wedding when he looked like Mr French which we always cut up about, and when he married Betsy, I stood up in his wedding. We both worked for Black & Veatch while in school. We parted ways when we graduated from JCCC. I have traveled to see him at different times to see my “dirt pusher” friend (civil engineer) in the last 40 years. I will truly miss Ron and I am sorry about Betsy's loss.

Steven W Smith “Smitty”

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Steven W Smith - December 07, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ Full Heart was purchased for the family of Ronald E. Henderson.



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December 07, 2020 at 12:02 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ronald E. Henderson.



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December 06, 2020 at 04:01 PM

KO

“ I was very sorry to hear about Ron's passing. We met at Rock Steady Boxing and I always admired his tireless enthusiasm for the workouts, especially when we played team games. I enjoyed our chats over lunch and was looking forward to getting to know him better. He had many friends at Rock Steady and we will all miss him dearly.

Kent Olson - December 05, 2020 at 12:59 PM

JS

“ Ron was a great person and I had the pleasure of knowing him in Rock Steady Boxing. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was always supportive in all we did in class. Walking the Lafayette Reservoir was my fondest memory of him. May he Rest In Peace.  
Janet Sullivan

janet Sullivan - December 04, 2020 at 10:58 PM



“ Caring Condolences Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald E. Henderson.



December 04, 2020 at 06:38 PM

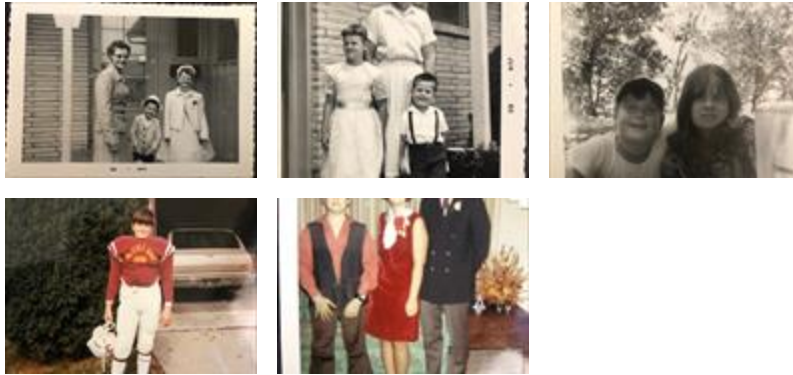
XI

“ Sorry to hear of Ron's passing. I got to know him about 20 years ago working on a major pumping plant project and really appreciated the time we spent together. Ron was a great engineer and friend, and a person who shared his wisdom with the younger engineers.

Xavier J Irias - December 04, 2020 at 05:21 PM

AN

“ Uncle Ron was always full of spunk and humor. When my sister and I were little, he was always the one who tossed us in the air, and made us laugh! All through the years, he has had a special place in my heart, and I'm so very sad that we have lost him so soon. My two sons also loved Uncle Ron...they loved talking trains and cars with him! I found a smattering of pics to share from older family albums, and one from just this last January...a siblings selfie :) Love you, Betsy, Alex, and Leslie <3



Angela - December 04, 2020 at 04:47 PM

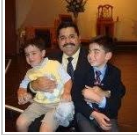
JH

“ Ron was my first supervisor at B&V when I was an intern many years ago. I always appreciated his mentoring and patience both at work and in outside activities. He made me feel like B&V would be a great place to work once I graduated. One of my favorite memories is the old yellow jeep I bought from Ron. I loved that Jeep!

*Although I did not see Ron much once he moved from KC, I always thought of him as a good friend.*

*Jeff Henson*

Jeff Henson - December 03, 2020 at 10:36 AM



“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Ron Henderson. He was a titan amongst the water leaders in California and an inspiration to so many of us for his work ethic and practical and pragmatic approach to civil engineering design. He was responsible for positioning California ahead of the nation in the area of water quality and water treatment and his legacy will serve many generations to come. He will be sorely missed as a civil engineer, a mentor, a friend and family man.

-Ernie Avila

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**Ernesto Avila** - December 02, 2020 at 12:49 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ronald E. Henderson.



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December 02, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ Ron and his wonderful wife Betsy were our very first friends we made as a married couple 23 years ago. We have so many memories with them. The birth of their children Alex and Leslie. Fishing at the trout farm in Sonora. Ron's 50th birthday party. Thanksgiving with Ron's parents in our garage. Backyard lunches. Annual trips to the Napa Sonoma and Livermore Wine Country. Ron, you were a wonderful friend and we will never forget you. We feel thankful that you are at peace now and not suffering anymore. Betsy, Alex and Leslie: Our deepest condolences to you and the rest of Ron's family. With our love, Mike and Dhyan Gilton

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**Mike and Dhyan Gilton** - December 02, 2020 at 12:21 PM

PG

*I still remember interviewing B&V so many years ago. Ron said my typical day would be designing pump stations. I was sold. Extracurricular events took on importance later; among them were the annual Sonoma Wine country trips. We thank Ron for his enthusiastic support for such endeavors. Just a solid guy and Betsy a real joy & light. You form part of us all in the circle of friends w/ water in the soul.*

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**Phil Gittens** - December 07, 2020 at 09:25 PM