

Ronald "Ronny" Lewis McElroy

August 20, 1947 - January 14, 2025

Whether you were a member of the Rusk community who knew him as “The Mayor of Brookshire Bros”, the many who knew him as “Mr. Ronny”, or “Dad”, as his three children knew him, Ronald Lewis McElroy was a shining example of what it was to be a “doer of the word”. He was a faithful servant throughout his community, relished any opportunity to commit a kind deed or volunteer his help, enjoyed meeting with old friends over a cup of coffee, and was always on the lookout for establishing new relationships. It is with a heavy heart that we announce Ronny passed away peacefully on January 14, 2025, with his son and daughter by his side. We feel tremendous sadness with his loss, but know there is immeasurable joy in Heaven’s gain.

Ronny was born on August 20th, 1947, and spent his childhood in his hometown of Rusk, TX. He grew up working for his family’s business, Mack’s Bait and Tackle, playing a variety of sports, and being involved in various organizations at Rusk High School. After graduation, he attended Stephen F. Austin University, where he earned his Bachelors of Business Administration degree. It was around this time that Ronny would complete his training for the National Guard, and would ultimately serve for six years in the National Guard Reserve. Ronny moved to Athens, TX, where he worked for the Hawn Lumber Company for many years, was heavily involved throughout the Athens community, and welcomed and raised his three children with wife JoAnne. Ronny returned to Rusk Tx in 1998 and would go on to work for the Rusk

prison system before retiring in 2013.

During his life, Ronny was actively involved in numerous public offices, including Junior Chamber of Commerce, Athens City Council, the Rusk Cemetery Board, and various positions with his church. Ronny was named “Jaycee of the Year in Texas”, and “Outstanding Young Men of America”. Of all the accolades he received, however, his most prized title was “Mayor of Brookshire Bros.” He would make daily visits to the local Rusk grocer, not only to have a friendly conversation with those who worked there, but with patrons of the store as well. Ronny was always on the lookout to accomplish his daily good deed, such as purchasing a plush toy animal for a child tagging along with their parent on a grocery run, or even contributing to help purchase someone’s items if they were a little short. He always noted how these acts helped lift his spirit, made him feel good, and kept him going daily.

In August of 2022, Ronny was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The diagnosis was a shock, but from the very beginning, Ronny courageously battled and fought, vowing he was not going to give up. Despite his condition, he continued to stay active around the community, made sure he was always available to help others when needed, and cherished each day, looking forward to performing a kind act to always brighten someone else’s. We may have lost a father, a friend, a son, a brother, an uncle, or “The Mayor”, but Heaven has gained an angel, who is undoubtably already working on those daily good deeds.

Ronny is preceded in death by his parents, J.L. and Corile McElroy; brother Randy McElroy; and eldest son, Major Brandon Hawn McElroy. He is survived by JoAnne Hawn McElroy of Athens, Texas, and his children; Blake McElroy and wife Cindy of Richardson, Texas, and his daughter, Brooke McElroy, of College Station, Texas. He is also survived by his brother, Tommy McElroy and wife Mary of Rusk, Texas; sister Sharon McElroy, of Las Vegas, Nevada;

and grandson Cord Wiley of Fort Worth, Texas along with many other nieces, nephews, and his very good friend, Suzann McCarty of Rusk Texas. Visitation for Ronny will be Friday, January 17, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home in Rusk, with a Celebration of Life service Saturday, January 18, at 11:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Rusk. Memorials can be made to the First United Methodist Church of Rusk, TX.

Cemetery Details

Whitehouse Cemetery

401 Memory Lane
Whitehouse, TX 75791

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home
221 5th Street
Rusk, TX 75785
(903) 683-2222

Celebration of Life

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
255 S. Henderson St
Rusk, TX 75785
(903) 683-4675

Tribute Wall

HF

“ Hilary Fry lit a candle in memory of Ronald McElroy



Hilary Fry - January 17, 2025 at 09:47 PM

JW

“ Ronny was very special to the members of the RHS class of '65. He will be missed and thought of every time members get together. I will always have a scar over my eye from bumping heads with Ronny in the second grade. It took 3 stitches to close my head and Ronny didn't even have a knot! May Ronny continue to bless us left here and those he encounters with the Lord.

Jan Butterfield Waggoner - January 17, 2025 at 02:04 PM

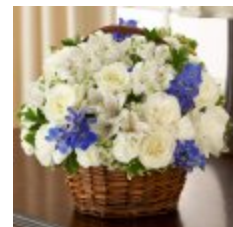


“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronald "Ronny" Lewis McElroy.

January 17, 2025 at 12:57 PM



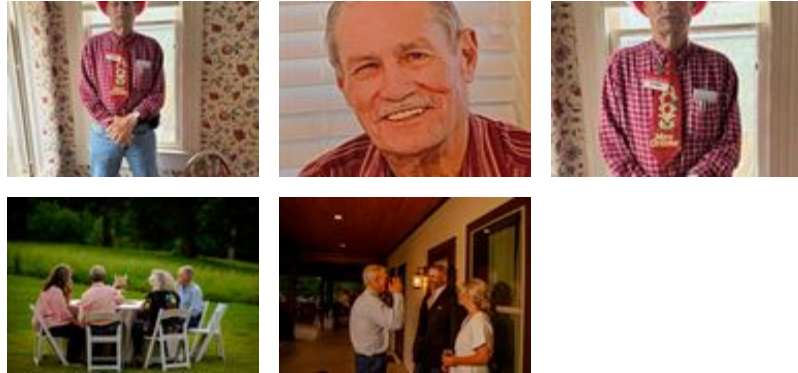
“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Ronald "Ronny" Lewis McElroy.



January 17, 2025 at 12:57 PM



“ 74 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home - January 17, 2025 at 12:16 PM



“ Hilary Fry lit a candle in memory of Ronald McElroy



Hilary Fry - January 17, 2025 at 11:00 AM



“ My husband and I were so sorry to hear about the passing of Ronny! My mother, Camille Jones, was a resident of Rusk until her death in 2023. She and Ronny befriended each other and she would always tell me stories about her and Ronny's conversations at Brookshires! He was a great comfort to her after my father passed in 2019 and Mom always looked forward to going to Brookshires and visiting with her friend. Rusk is a poorer city for the loss of him, what an ambassador he was!! Heaven is definitely richer with him there and I'm sure he'll keep an eye on all of us. Our condolences to Ronny's family and to all who loved him, he will be missed, but never forgotten.

Caryn Stewart - January 17, 2025 at 10:47 AM

BM

“ *Bonnie Mcgee purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Ronald "Ronny" Lewis McElroy.*



Bonnie Mcgee - January 17, 2025 at 09:46 AM

RM

“ *Rhonda Morrow lit a candle in memory of Ronald McElroy*



Rhonda Morrow - January 16, 2025 at 11:05 PM

SV

“ *Ronny was a faithful loving brother. For almost twenty years, without being asked, he has tended Randy's gravesite, keeping it beautiful. I will be forever grateful for his dedication and care. Now they are together sharing their hilarious stories and memories. With love to all of Ronny's family from Suzy Valentine-McElroy.*

Suzy Valentine - January 16, 2025 at 06:53 PM

CL

“ *I moved to Athens Texas 1975, first person I met was Ronny McElroy. He told me it was mandatory for a person my age to join the Athen's Jaycees. That was the beginning of a long and lasting friendship. Led to many community service projects and fun trips to Jaycee conventions. God speed old friend. Charles Lee*

Charles Lee - January 16, 2025 at 06:39 PM

CM

“ Cash, Joy, Jackson, Ryan & Mackenzie McElroy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald "Ronny" Lewis McElroy.

Cash, Joy, Jackson, Ryan & Mackenzie McElroy - January 16, 2025 at 06:24 PM

CM

“ Cash, Joy, Jackson, Ryan & Mackenzie McElroy purchased the White Sympathy Baskets for the family of Ronald "Ronny" Lewis McElroy.



Cash, Joy, Jackson, Ryan & Mackenzie McElroy - January 16, 2025 at 06:24 PM

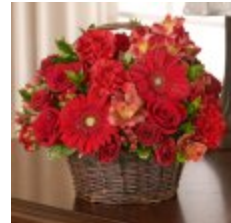


“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronald "Ronny" Lewis McElroy.

January 16, 2025 at 06:18 PM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red was purchased for the family of Ronald "Ronny" Lewis McElroy.



January 16, 2025 at 06:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronald "Ronny" Lewis McElroy.

January 16, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White* was purchased for the family of Ronald "Ronny" Lewis McElroy.



January 16, 2025 at 05:10 PM



“ *Hilary Fry lit a candle in memory of Ronald McElroy*



Hilary Fry - January 16, 2025 at 04:05 PM



“ *Nancy Fenton lit a candle in memory of Ronald McElroy*



Nancy Fenton - January 15, 2025 at 10:34 PM



“ *I was so sorry to hear this, Ronny was one of the best people Rusk ever produced. My sympathy to the family for your loss. He will be missed.*

Betty Gentry Hartless - January 15, 2025 at 09:10 PM