



## Ronald Lee Brower

January 20, 1944 - March 8, 2023

Ronald Lee Brower, 79, of Girard passed away on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at Mercy Hospital in Joplin, Missouri. Ron was born on January 20, 1944 in Chanute, Kansas, the son of LeRoy Brower and Nellie Catharine Bower-Brower.

Ron graduated from Moran High School in Moran, Kansas in 1962 and went on to Iola Junior College, graduating in 1964 with an Associate of Arts degree. Ron married Sharon Kay Boler of Elsmore, Kansas on September 6, 1964. Ron continued his education at Kansas State College of Pittsburg, now Pittsburg State University, majoring in Industrial Arts Education and minoring in math and driver's education. Ron graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science in Education, and received a Master of Science in Education degree in 1968.

After graduating, Ron and Kay continued to live in Pittsburg, and he began his career by teaching math at Uniontown Elementary for two years, followed by teaching industrial arts at Carthage Junior High School for six years. In 1976, Ron and Kay purchased Tavella & DePaoli, which soon became the Frisco Shoe Shop. In 1984, they moved their family to Farlington Lake and relocated the shoe shop to Girard, Kansas, where Ron served the community as a respected master of the lost art of shoe repair until his retirement in 2022.

Ron was an avid sports fan, and his passion was supporting his alma mater Pittsburg State in football and basketball, #OAGAAG. Ron also loved spending time with his grandchildren and following all of their activities and high-achievements throughout their lives.

Ron will always be remembered as a man who never met a stranger, loved having coffee with his friends and customers, watching golf, playing solitaire, following pop-culture, and loving social media. He was also honored to be an organ donor. Ron, affectionately known as "Papa" by many, will be missed greatly by all who knew him.

Ron is survived by his wife Sharon Kay "Katy" of Girard; his daughters, Michele Brower-McFarland of Kansas City, MO, and Becky Brower-Scimeca & her husband Nick of Nixa, MO; five grandchildren, Camden Vance McFarland of Columbus, MS (US Air Force), Delaney Jayde McFarland of Lawrence, KS (University of Kansas), Emily Claire Scimeca of Nixa, MO, Chase McFarland and his fiancé Beth Keegan of Germany (US Air Force), and Kelci McFarland-Mar and her husband Shaun of Kuna, ID; and two great grandchildren, Amelia and Miles Mar.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, brother John Thomas Brower, nephew David Michael Brower, and sons-in-law William Dean Clark and John Michael Nauman II.

Per Ron's wishes, he will be cremated, with no official services scheduled at this time. A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date. Memorials have been suggested to Pittsburg State Athletics Foundation-Women's Basketball Program, or to Pittsburg Alcoholics Anonymous Area 25-District 22, and may be left with or mailed to the funeral home. Online condolences may be left at: [www.countrysidefh.com](http://www.countrysidefh.com). Services entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home 101 N. Highland, Chanute, Kansas 66720.



# Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald Lee Brower.*



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March 28, 2023 at 03:44 PM



“ *I am sorry to hear of his passing. He was so good and took great care of my husband's (Donovan) shoes. Our prayers are with you all. Kathy Hale*

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**Kathy Hale** - March 24, 2023 at 06:14 PM



“ *Dear Kay, I am so sorry you are having to go through the loss of Ron! After living together for the vast majority of your lives, I know it leaves a void in your life and spirit. I pray for you to have strength to face each new day alone and to find purpose for your life. I'm sure the girls and grandchildren will help to fill your emptiness. I don't know if Ron had a long illness or if this was sudden, but no matter which, you are never prepared to say goodbye. You are in my prayers. May you feel the Lord wrapping His loving arms around you and may He give you peace. Hugging you from afar, Cyndie Rexer*

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**Cyndie Rexer** - March 22, 2023 at 10:34 PM

CN

“ Dear Kay, Michelle, Camden, Laney and all family Mike and I and Tim were so sorry to hear of Ron's passing. We always enjoyed being around him when we all got together. He was a kind good man. Glad we got to know him. I know how fond Michael was of him! Wishing you all love and peace. Carol and Mike Nauman...

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**carol Nauman** - March 22, 2023 at 11:44 AM

PV

“ Dear Michelle & the Brower family,  
I was sad to learn of Ron's passing. He was truly a good man and will be missed by many. May you find comfort in your memories. God Bless.  
Pam Senecaut Varone

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**Pam Varone** - March 18, 2023 at 05:47 PM

BG

“ Kay and family, this is the worst kick in the stomach that I have ever had. I have just lost my best friend and colleague. After 55 years he must have done something right at the wedding. I will see you at the college lake on the 1st. trying to call but all numbers seem to be disconnected love you all Bob and Joyce

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**bob gelso** - March 16, 2023 at 03:56 PM

AE

“ My condolences to Kay and family. May God Bless Him

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**Albert Eshelbrenner** - March 16, 2023 at 09:43 AM

FJ

“ As long time customers and friends, we are sorry for the loss of Ron, Katy. He, and you, were always so enjoyable to visit with when visiting the shop. Also, we greatly appreciated your assistance with the suicide death of your neighbors son at Farlington Lake so many years ago. We'll miss Ron.

*Best Regards, Fred & Ellen Foshag*

Fred C Foshag Jr - March 15, 2023 at 04:35 PM

VW

“ So sorry for your loss. Ron was such a nice person and I always liked talking with him.

Vicki Whitehead - March 15, 2023 at 09:40 AM

JH

“ Ron and my husband J.D. were very good friends. Ron was a gentle very friendly man loved by all. He will be sadly missed. Joy Holloway

Joy S Holloway - March 14, 2023 at 02:51 PM

BP

“ To The Family,

*So many memories from out at the KB...  
Once A Gorilla, Always A Gorilla.*

*Betty Hyatt Pierson*



Betty Jean Pierson - March 14, 2023 at 01:59 PM

HW

“ *The very best brother-in-law. He took the time to take trips to make wishes happen before it was too late. Stan appreciated all Ron did and you know I did.*

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**Hellen Welch** - March 11, 2023 at 11:20 PM

BS

“ *Bud Soper lit a candle in memory of Ronald Brower*



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**Bud Soper** - March 11, 2023 at 11:47 AM