



Ronald C. McGruder

July 1, 1941 - January 31, 2021

Ronald C. McGruder, age 79, peacefully passed away on January 31, 2021. Ron was born in Birmingham, AL on July 1, 1941 to Amos and Sallie (Billups) McGruder (both deceased).

Ron was a member of St. John Baptist Church for 38 years, where he served as deacon and servant. He was a member of AA since 1982, where he was instrumental in mentoring and leading others to the road of recovery. Through his good works, he, and his wife Julia, started the "New Beginnings" group which is still touching so many lives. Wickliffe Wednesday was his Homegroup since 1982. Ron initiated a sober house in Painesville over 10 years ago, which is still continuing to flourish today. He worked for over 10 years as a Chemical Dependency Treatment Counselor after having earned an Associate of Arts degree from Lakeland Community College in 2006. He retired from Lubrizol. He was a strong mentor of truth and unselfishness directed at saving lives. He was always available to assist the Cleveland AA Central Office whenever needed. Ron was brutally but lovingly honest.

Some of Ron's infamous quotes were, "Holla at your boy" and "Rock n Roll. He walked the walk of his beliefs with integrity. He was a servant of God and served it up with love to all people. He will always be remembered for his extraordinary "Sweet Potato Pies," which was also the name he used on his license plate. Ron was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, son, brother, uncle, friend, and mentor. He will be greatly missed. Ron is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Julia (Martin)

McGruder. Daughters, Linda (Emiel) Adams, Lezlee (Tony) Sims, Shannon McGruder. Sons, Willie Dill and Elijah McGruder, who lovingly called him Papa. His circle of love included nine grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and his brother, Dennis Echoles of Alabama. Ron also leaves to mourn a host of nieces, nephews, and friends whom he regarded as no less than extended family members, Michael McPherson, Jeff Moore, and Larry McCauley.

He was preceded in death by his siblings, Charlies, Prince Edward, Christine, Barbara, and Alonzo.

Services will be 11 am Friday, Feb 5, 2021 at St. John's Baptist Church 361 W Jackson St., Painesville. Visitation at the church will take place one hour prior to the service. Services will be available virtually through the church. Social distancing will be adhered to as well as masks are required.

An in-person visitation and virtual visitation will be held Thursday, Feb 4 from 5-7 pm at Monreal Srnick Funerals & Cremations, 35400 Curtis Blvd., Eastlake.

Virtual Visitation on Zoom at ID 620-867-2049 Password: monreal

Monreal Srnick Funerals & Cremations Visitation Room

Join Zoom Visitation

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6208672049?pwd=aWJveG16azZ5bFBWUDRkaCtNL3hBQT09>

Meeting ID: 620 867 2049

Passcode: monreal

Cemetery Details

Painesville Cemetery

Riverside Dr. & E. Walnut Ave.
Painesville, OH 44077

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John Baptist Church
361 W. Jackson St.
Painesville, OH 44077

Funeral Service

FEB 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. John Baptist Church
361 W. Jackson St.
Painesville, OH 44077

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Hi there, McGruder family- You probably won't even get this since it's been 2 years since Ron passed; I wish I had known then. I worked with Ron for several years at New Directions. I met him when I was 19, a couple years sober, and we frequently worked the evening shifts together before the boys and girls split off into separate houses.

Ron and I had so many spiritual, historical, and sobriety discussions. He became a mentor to me, although I didn't know it until many years later. I was in college at CSU at the time and was particularly interested in the civil rights era of American history. I feel like God gave me this incredible gift of being able to talk with Ron and hear his experiences in a way that a book or teacher just could not provide. I learned SO much from him. He shaped my openness and awareness and instilled a passion in me for a love of a people's history.

Then there were all the talks about getting sober, what AA was like for him in the beginning. It was so obvious how much he cared about helping young people find recovery. I can't imagine what that time in my life would have been like without him. We played a LOT of spades and I frequently disappointed him with my mistakes (I can literally hear him in my head). He is one of the funniest people I've ever met and I love him dearly. I'm sad to think about how many people will miss getting to know him, but also i feel comforted in knowing the thousands of people he impacted... which lives on forever. -Jenny Dorsey

Jenny Dorsey - June 10, 2023 at 10:56 AM

NM

“ This one hurts. Such a fun guy that taught me so many things. His laugh and smile lit up the world around him. I'll never forget singing with him while we worked...and a tour of executives came through. We laughed a long time about that.

Norm Milavec - August 05, 2021 at 01:48 PM

JF

“ Ron Mcgruder was a good friend. He loved AA and he had a hilarious sense of humor with a story for every event. Ed and I will dearly miss him. We love you Julia.

Jacq Iselin Ann Fields - February 04, 2021 at 08:20 PM

DR

“ I send deepest sympathy to Julia and to all of Ron's family. I was deeply saddened to hear of Ron's passing, but also rejoice in knowing that he is now in the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I really appreciated having Ron as a friend both at Lubrizol and in the years afterward. And his Sweet Potato Pies were always the best.

God's peace,

Dallas Rodgers

Dallas Rodgers - February 04, 2021 at 03:25 PM



Thank you Dallas for sharing and caring! We celebrate Ron's Homegoing. We mourn his absence! We CONTINUE to hold his place in our head and our heart ... ❤️

Lezlee Sims - February 05, 2021 at 02:32 AM