



## Ronald Bender

February 26, 1940 - August 30, 2024

A private service for Ronald Bender of Wadena will be held at a later date at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

Ron, age 84, passed away peacefully on August 30, 2024, under the gentle care of the doctors, nurses and staff at the St. Cloud Hospital in St. Cloud, MN. His infectious smile and sense of humor was a part of him to the end.

Ronald Nicholas Bender was born to William and Katherine (Duplaga) Bender on February 26, 1940, in Detroit, MI.

Ron was a vibrant young man, full of life, who entered the US Air Force in 1959. While stationed with the 739th Radar Squadron at the Air Force Base in Wadena, MN, he met Judith "Judy" Otte. On December 1, 1962, they were married at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena. Many will say they will always remember finding Ron and Judy on the dance floor at the NCO club and later, any other dance floor they came across.

After his honorable discharge in April 1967 as an Airman 1st Class, they headed to Royal Oak, MI where Ron operated a Bonanza Steak House. In 1975, the family moved to Wadena where they purchased and operated the Pine Cove Inn. Later, he loved showing off his grilling skills whenever he was

given the tongs. He ended his career with 25 years as a UPS driver until his retirement in 2003.

You might remember Ron enjoying coffee many mornings at McDonald's, for his elaborate halloween decorations popularly coined as Bender's Beasts or on the 18th green with a wide smile and putter in his hand. He enjoyed spending time at the ice rink with Greg and riding around the backroads with Paul on their motorcycles. Ron was proud of his grandchildren, following their activities and watching them grow throughout the years.

Ron will be remembered most for his genuine smile and sense of humor that brought laughs to all those who knew him.

Preceding Ron in death were his father, William; mother, Katherine Schnaidt; stepfather, Herbert Schnaidt; and brother, William Bender.

Forever remembering Ron will be his wife, Judy of Wadena; sons, Paul (Terri) Bender of Litchfield and Greg (Michele) Bender of Williston, ND; grandchildren: Nicole (Adam) Barnett, Kevin (Kami) Bender, Taner Bender, Megan Woods, Mason Bender, Ryia Bender and Nicholas Bender; and great grandchildren: Elin Barnett, Cora Barnett and Theo Bender.

Military honors will be provided by the Grand Forks AFB Honor Guard and the Elmer Goche Post 3922, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wadena, MN.

Memorials in Ron's name may be directed to the charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ Paul and all of the families. So sorry to hear of your loved one passing. May God give you peace and comfort and know HE loves all of us and promised we will be together again. My Sympathys.  
Jackie

---

**Jackie Perius** - October 02, 2024 at 01:49 PM

BM

“ Judy, Paul, Greg and families,  
I am so sorry to hear about Ron's passing. I have so many great memories of growing up around the house, camping, hockey and football games, too. You could always hear Ron when he was in the stands cheering for you. His laugh was also the best. Both Paul and Greg have that same laugh which is so great. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.  
Brad Macklem & Family

---

**Brad Macklem** - September 21, 2024 at 04:54 PM

SC

“ I'm so sorry that Uncle Ronnie died. My name is Sherry Bender Clarke. I'm the oldest child of William Bender (his brother). My best memory of Uncle Ronnie was about when I was 10 years old and he pull up at our house in Madison Heights, MI,, on a motorcycle!!! He took me around the block and that was all she wrote!!!! THAT was the start of my love of motorcycles!!

---

**Sherry Bender Clarke** - September 20, 2024 at 09:22 PM

MF

“ *MBC Crew & The Harrison Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ronald Bender.*



---

**MBC Crew & The Harrison Family** - September 20, 2024 at 09:51 AM

GA

“ *Ron was a fun man. Pine Cove, UPS and his wonderful Halloween display. When we own the local supermarket you get to know the community. Ron had the best smile. Violet & Greg Anderson*



---

**Greg Anderson** - September 18, 2024 at 06:57 PM

CA

“ *Cindy Anderson lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender*



---

**Cindy Anderson** - September 18, 2024 at 03:52 PM

EG

“ *Edward and Judy Greenwaldt lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender*



---

**Edward and Judy Greenwaldt** - September 16, 2024 at 05:55 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald Bender.*



September 14, 2024 at 03:58 PM



“ *Marjorie Mohs-Harrison lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender*



**Marjorie Mohs-Harrison** - September 14, 2024 at 08:56 AM



“ *I remember Robin Uselman (a petite blond) chasing after Greg Bender in high school. I love to bike by the Dr. Matt Yelle and Pastor Marilyn Breckenridge's former houses, too!!!!*

**Katherine Rohr** - September 11, 2024 at 10:35 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ronald Bender.*



September 06, 2024 at 06:46 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald Bender.*



September 06, 2024 at 11:51 AM



“ *Lucille A Belch lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender*



**Lucille A Belch** - September 05, 2024 at 09:43 AM



“ *Bonnie Gustafson lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender*



**bonnie gustafson** - September 04, 2024 at 12:51 PM



“ *Linda Youngbauer lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender*



**Linda Youngbauer** - September 04, 2024 at 08:55 AM

JD

“ Jerry & Janice Denny



Jerry & Janice Denny - September 03, 2024 at 06:37 PM

JS

“ Jim & Tracey Stoneman lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender



Jim & Tracey Stoneman - September 03, 2024 at 12:26 PM

TL

“ The Members of Wadena Elks Lodge lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender



The Members of Wadena Elks Lodge - September 03, 2024 at 09:46 AM

MF

“ Condolences to the family.~~~Marie Fraune



marie fraune - September 01, 2024 at 10:03 PM



“ Gladys Chase lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender



Gladys Chase - September 01, 2024 at 08:58 PM

JP

“ Jerry and Kathy Peterson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ronald Bender



Jerry and Kathy Peterson - September 01, 2024 at 05:47 PM

JE

“ Judy Erdahl lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender



Judy Erdahl - September 01, 2024 at 09:30 AM

MS

“ Mike and Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender



Mike and Lea Snyder - September 01, 2024 at 09:27 AM

DK

“ *Dan Kern lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender*



**Dan Kern** - September 01, 2024 at 09:20 AM

JJ

“ *Jon and Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender*



**Jon and Patty Johnson** - September 01, 2024 at 08:58 AM

KP

“ *Karen Priebe lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender*



**Karen Priebe** - September 01, 2024 at 08:49 AM

MC

“ *Marcy Collins lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender*



**Marcy Collins** - September 01, 2024 at 08:37 AM

JH

“ Jay and Debra Hutson lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender



Jay and Debra Hutson - August 31, 2024 at 10:09 PM

GK

“ Gene & Sandy Kappahn lit a candle in memory of Ronald Bender



Gene & Sandy Kappahn - August 31, 2024 at 07:52 PM

JP

“ Jerry and Kathy Peterson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ronald Bender



Jerry and Kathy Peterson - August 31, 2024 at 04:56 PM