



Major Ronald C. Callen

NOV 26, 1943 - NOV 12, 2022



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Ronald Charles Callen, 78, passed away peacefully on the morning of November 12th, 2022, in Tallahassee, Florida. Ron was born November 26, 1943, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania to Donald and Dorothy Callen. After graduating from Johnstown High School in 1961, Ron was accepted into Pennsylvania State University as an engineering student. He was ready to graduate 3 1/2 years later when Representative John Saylor nominated him to the Air Force Academy. Ron was a commander of the 11th squadron during his time at the Air Force Academy, and he graduated from the academy with high honors in 1969. He married Dana Gay (Zook) Callen that same year in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on December 27th.

After graduation from the academy, his first duty was serving as a captain at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. He served his country through leadership roles across Air Force bases in Pennsylvania, California, and Texas. Rather than following the expected path to becoming a pilot, Ron found his way into Air Force recruiting and made a name for himself at the recruiting detachment in Pittsburgh, where they became the top outfit in the nation. He then moved on to recruiting headquarters in the analysis department and was responsible for the adoption of new recruiting methods that are still used today. The time he spent serving his country in many capacities served as a core area of pride in his life.

Always focused on education and expanding his way of thinking through problems, Ron set his sights on further education. He continued his professional career while also graduating from the South Texas College of Law. From there, he went on to serve in a leadership role as Administrator of the Ausley Law Firm in Tallahassee, Florida for 24 years before retirement. During his time there, he helped many high school and college-age aspiring business/legal professionals take on part time



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support roles at the firm to encourage their personal and future career growth.

Ron loved music – from his time as a first-chair trumpet player in the band to the words of The Impossible Dream – and thought athletics and sports were an important part of a life well lived. But above all else, Ron viewed his role as a husband and father his most important roles. He and Dana were married for nearly 53 years, and as he said to his kids, Lisa and Scott, in one Father’s Day email, “I had a dream, and you both are it. Thanks for the most wonderful experience one could have.”

Ron is survived by his wife, Dana, of Tallahassee, Florida; his son, daughter-in-law, and grandsons, Scott, Krista, Taylor and Bryce Callen, of Tallahassee, Florida; his daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter and grandson, Lisa, Aaron, Leah, and Jacob Soltz of Prairie Village, Kansas; and his brother and sister-in-law, Don and Mary Callen of Portage, Pennsylvania.

He will be interred with full military honors at the United States Air Force Academy Cemetery in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on November 18 at 2pm.

“To this glorious quest, that my heart will lie peaceful and calm, when I am laid to rest.”

– The Impossible Dream



Events


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Graveside Service

 **Friday**, November 18, 2022

 2:00 PM ET

 **United States Air Force Academy Cemetery**
Colorado Springs CO



Tribute Wall

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MR

Mike Rose posted:

I cannot stop thinking and grieving about the passing of my friend and classmate Ron Callen. As my Doolie summer roommate when I was only 17 and he was at least four years older, he made a big impression on me, helping me by modeling him. (Upperclassmen years younger than him, seemingly confused about who was more senior to whom, paid more attention to training Ron who did not need their "training" than to me who did.) Over the years we kept in touch, on occasion visiting and staying with each other and our wives at our homes and being in a business together. I was privileged to meet his brother and children, and honored and happy to attend his and Dana's 40th anniversary celebration weekend in San Antonio. When I remember of Ron I will think especially of the legacy of his children, for whom he felt love and pride that was very obvious. I know Ron meant it when he told them he had a dream and they were his dream. But there is more to Ron and me than all of that. I feel a spiritual connection with Ron. I do not know why, but to me that connection is real and I feel he will always be part of me. I cannot explain it any better than that. Good bless you, Ron. You gave better than you got, and I will always remember you with love and respect. Mike Rose, AFA '69

November 21 at 4:44 AM

MW

Matt Waldron posted:

Ron was my classmate for 4 years in squadrons 7 and 11, Air Force Academy. A good friend and older mentor, he always offered a shoulder to lean on. Ron had a smile, a good word, and a good idea for every friend and situation. He was a good guy and a natural leader. Ron cared for those around him and became a great husband and father. I will miss my friend.

November 17 at 9:24 AM

JS

John Skorupa posted:

Ron and I were good friends at the Academy. As cadets from the Philadelphia area we got to know each other outside of our assigned squadrons. Since most of our hops home for whatever holiday seemed to go through Delaware where I lived, my father routinely picked us up and got all to their homes, so Ron was a friend of my family as well. At the Academy, Ron and I volunteered to be acolytes for chapel services during our senior year and we had many deep conversations. Ron's wisdom and prior college experience qualified him as a mentor which I greatly appreciated. I extend my heart-felt condolences to his family. As sad as it is to learn of his passing, we know he has "graduated" to a better place. Godspeed, Ron! John Skorupa, Class of '69

November 16 at 5:38 PM



Tribute Wall

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HB

Hud Baer posted:

Ron was my first roommate at the Zoo. We were in Seagram Seven along with a lot of other great guys. We knew at our last reunion that Ron wasn't doing well and we raised a glass to "Pops". Told a lot of stories about Ron. He taught me a lot and from time to time over the years I would reach out for some "fatherly" advice. He helped me get through Doolie Year. Without him, I am not sure I would have made it. I will miss my roommate. He was friends with my parents also. One night he ended up at my parents' house in Philly with Dana. Claimed he made a wrong turn getting on the PA turnpike in Pittsburgh and needed a place to stay. My Mom made one of them sleep upstairs and one of them sleep downstairs. Note: They weren't married at the time. Everybody loved Ron. Godspeed Roomie! Hud '69

November 16 at 1:45 PM

MT

Mike Thiessen posted:

It has been a long time since I last saw Ron, far too long. My memories are of a classmate who shared similar interests in woodwinds, his clarinet, my flute, shared friends (we were never in the same squadron) and intense interests in sports. Our friendship may not have been renewed with any frequency, but that in no way diminishes my appreciation and respect for this wonderful man. Among the many good memories were numerous times spent discussing basketball with Ron and Cliff Parsons, the center on our AFA team and with Ron, a fellow Pennsylvanian. To me, and to other '69ers, Ron was the old man, already having more than three years under his belt, I believe at Penn State. I just want his family to know from a friend from long ago how important their family member was to a classmate from Nebraska by way of Kansas. Such a good, kind, decent and enjoyable friend. Mike Thiessen, '69, USAFA

November 16 at 1:41 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ronald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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