



## Ronald Edwards

March 26, 2026

Click on the link to watch the funeral service.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhAomAoE8j0>

Ronald Edwards, 78, of Richland County, Wisconsin, passed away on March 26, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

Born in Washington State, Ronald's life was shaped early by a deep sense of service, compassion, and community.

He grew up in an Army family and attended schools around the world. When his father was stationed in Germany and Japan, the family joined him there. Ron had favorite phrases in German and Japanese that he used affectionately his whole life.

He attended high school in Sonoma County, California, where his first job was working for the Post Office part-time while finishing high school.

After high school, he proudly enlisted in the Army during the Vietnam War and served his country honorably as a Chaplain's Assistant at Fort Carson, Colorado. He became the fastest Morse Code Operator and Trainer, and was tasked with creating new training tapes that moved faster than the ones he

learned with.

He was sent to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, on a summer Temporary Assignment where he met fellow soldier and love of his life, Luella. They played ping pong at the Chapel Center, watched the moon landing together, and soon married. They finished their enlistments and moved to Madison, Wisconsin

A few years later, Ron returned to California for college, where he became President of the Santa Rosa Junior College Veterans Club. He then graduated from Sonoma County College with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Ron and family transferred to the Chicago area in the late 70's where he began working in the sporting goods industry. He earned the distinction of becoming a Certified NRA Firearms Instructor. He worked at multiple gun stores and taught Walter Payton – the Chicago Bear - how to shoot. He often laughed, saying he shouldn't be proud of that because Walter Payton shot himself in the foot shortly afterward. He also opened his first gun store, R&R Sporting Goods. He played a key role in creating a new American Legion post near Chicago and was honored to become American Legion Commander of that post. He also taught himself to play the drumset. And after planting a new rose garden in his front yard, the neighborhood named his home the Rose House.

In the mid-80's, Ron and family moved to Richland Center, where he worked at Krouskop's Men's Store, and opened his second gun store – The Gunrunner - located on Main Street. Afterward, he dedicated more than two decades of his life to serving the people of Richland County. He was a County Social Worker for 11 years, where he became a trusted advocate for families and children. His passion for strengthening community support systems led him to establish the KINSHIP program in Richland County. He continued for another 9 years as a Social Worker at WSPF in Boscobel until his retirement.

His devotion to public service extended far beyond his professional life. Ronald served as an EMT in Richland County, was a member of the Richland County Board, led the Richland Boy Scout Troop 81, instructed the local B.B. Gun team, which won two State Championships, and contributed his time and energy to numerous civic organizations. He was an active member of the Richland Optimist Club, the local Masonic Lodge, the local R.E.A.C.T. Emergency Communications Team, and the Pine River Sports Association, bringing humor and dedication to the groups he joined. Always an extrovert, he could be found at Papa's Donuts after work each day, drinking coffee and chatting with friends.

Ronald's life was defined by kindness, humor, and a commitment to helping others. He believed deeply in community, in service, and the power of showing up for people—values he passed on to his family and all who knew him.

He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 57 years, Luella Edwards; son Travis Edwards; daughter Crestalee Meyer and husband Brian; grandson Samuel Meyer; sister Emilie Sumwalt and husband Duane; brother George Edwards and wife Judi; sister-in-law Lanette Pugh; sister-in-law Lily Viksjo; brother-in-law Chet Sumwalt and wife Karen; sister-in-law Lila Rikli and husband Curt; brother-in-law Dennis Sumwalt and wife Debbie, brother-in-law Jim Sumwalt and wife Diane; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Ron was preceded in death by his mother Bonnie Edwards; father George Edwards; sister Lindsay Edwards; brother-in-law David Pugh; brother-in-law Mark Viksjo; sister-in-law Luana Wade; sister-in-law Lavonne Babbitt and husband Jose; and several family and friends who he was looking forward to seeing again on the other side.

He loved his family, God, his country, firearms, fast cars, and the Packers. He had a great sense of humor and loved to tell stories and have thought-provoking conversations. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, the programs he helped build, and the community he helped strengthen. Ronald will be remembered with gratitude and love and will be deeply missed.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, April 17th, 2026, at 6:00pm at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center, WI. Military graveside rites will be provided by the Local Military Honors Unit at the funeral home. Visitation will be held there before the service from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Ron wanted his life to be celebrated like a party and he would appreciate bright colors being worn.

Your presence and support mean the most. If you would like to honor Ronald with a gift, contributions to the family are welcome.

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhAomAoE8j0>

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# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 17. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC  
26777 Jelland Drive  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 647-6390  
josh@clarymemorial.com  
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

## Celebration of Life

APR 17. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC  
26777 Jelland Drive  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
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# Tribute Wall

DE

“ *Sorry for your loss*

Deb - May 06 at 09:59 AM

DB

“ *Dawn, Joel, Autumn & Brennan purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Ronald Edwards.*



Dawn, Joel, Autumn & Brennan - April 17 at 07:30 AM

B2

“ *To the family and friends of Ronald Edwards, another Comrade has been called to the high command. He has gone to the commander of us all. We will be present to Honor the memory of one that had offered his service to our country in a time of national need, who is now enrolled in that great spirit army whose footfalls cause no sound. But in the memory of man, their souls go marching on. Because of them, our lives are free, because of them the world is blessed. Our deepest condolences from Bower-Gunnill-Dalton VFW Post 2267, Richland Center, WI.*

Bower-Gunnill-Dalton VFW Post 2267 - April 17 at 04:36 AM

GE

“ *George (Gus) & Judi Edwards purchased the Angel's Embrace Bouquet for the family of Ronald Edwards.*



George (Gus) & Judi Edwards - April 14 at 10:30 PM

CW

“ Thanks to Ron Edwards, the Kinship organization, which matches caring adult mentors with Richland County children who need an extra adult in their lives, is still going strong. It has helped countless area "Kins-kids" and is appreciated by all involved. Thank you!

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**Chelsea Wunnicke** - April 14 at 05:37 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear that my long-time good friend Ron passed away. People often say, “Sorry for your loss” to family and friends. Certainly, I am so very sorry for their loss and pain. However, Ron’s passing is also a loss to all those who will never get to know him. He was an exceptionally kind and caring human being. He was also a lot of fun!

*During the magical summer between high school and adulthood, Ron and I were inseparable buddies. We shared Russian River hangouts, music, friends, food, vehicles, and even our living quarters (thanks, mom). In the past few months, he wrote a song about that summer. Ron loved to recall those days and laugh at our foolishness. Ron loved to laugh, often at himself.*

*Yes, Ron had a great sense of humor, but his defining character was love for others. After we went our separate ways in the fall of 1966, Ron would often reach back to find me and draw me into the reverie of our friendship. Ron was part of the glue that kept relationships and communities together. He worked at those connections. He taught me to do the same.*

*Today, I will ride on my bicycle for a few miles with the music of the sixties playing on my phone. After listening to that music and reflecting on that era, I would sometimes call Ron at the turnaround point. It seemed only right to maintain the connection that Ron taught me to value. Although there is no more opportunity for that call, there will be many opportunities to exercise the lesson he taught of valuing connections with others. Thank you, my great friend. You are loved. You are missed, but you are still teaching those who watched you.*

*Kurt*

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**Kurtes Quesinberry** - April 14 at 03:54 PM



“ 223 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Clary Memorial Funeral Home** - April 14 at 03:21 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Ronald Edwards.



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April 10 at 11:37 AM

“ I met Ron 25 years ago at WSPF. I was a new psychologist and "Uncle Ronnie" quickly took me under his wing for which I am so grateful. We became fast friends despite our age difference and spent time outside of work together. We talked about everything, but mostly about politics, religion and family. He once told me he identified spiritually as a "sciemormometholuthepiscopalean" . I threatened to put that on a t-shirt for him. I know enough about Cres and Travis to feel they are part of my family, although they barely know me.

More than being funny, Ron was an emotionally and intelligently generous person. Because of his advice I started a 401K early on. He taught me gun safety and target practice. I survived difficult times working in Corrections due to his support. I thanked him in my doctoral dissertation because I wouldn't have completed it without his regular encouragement. After Ron retired from the DOC we kept in touch via email on almost a daily basis for many years. He was there through my divorce and my wonderful new husband was able to meet him once. After mobility became an issue for him I couldn't persuade him and Luella to meet us for dinner somewhere. So I last saw him years ago which is a sad regret.

I have a cornucopia of wonderful memories of my dear friend who brought joy to an innumerable amount people's lives. Here's just one. My ex-husband and I were camping with Ron and Luella and another mutual friend. My ex-husband said something snarky to me and Ron, being Ron, egged him on with a big smile. Ron liked to tell the rest of the story this way...I briefly looked at my ex-husband then decided Ron was the bigger offender, put a bead on him and threw the water bottle I was holding at his head. For the record I missed and Ron laughed. Much later, after enduring endless teasing from Ron, we decided after he passed he would let me know he reached the other side by throwing a water bottle at me. There are few things in life I've wanted more than that.

Every New Year I go outside and toast my deceased grandparents

*and Ron's mother. He spoke lovingly of her and felt she gave him her sense of humor. Expressing my respect and gratitude to her each year feels right. Next New Year I will have the pleasure of toasting Ron too.*

*There are no words I can write to lessen the grief for Ron's family and friends. Please know I loved my friend. There will never be another one like him. I hope to always remember Ron's infectious smile and laugh as I await the water bottle from beyond.*

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**Colette Cullen** - April 09 at 04:04 PM

CM

*Collette, this is beautiful. Thank you so much for sharing about him. It helps to know that others loved him, too. Thank you.*

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**C Meyer** - April 09 at 05:37 PM

CM

“ 30 files added to the album Family Pictures



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**C Meyer** - April 06 at 09:40 PM



“ Our family is sad to hear of Ron’s passing. While I didn’t know Ron very well, I only have fond memories of him from my younger days. He was always kind and shared fun stories and conversations that I will remember with a smile. He was part of a great parenting team, raising a wonderful, kind daughter as well. For that I am also grateful to him. Our thoughts are with him family. -the McDowells

Christine McDowell - April 05 at 11:44 AM

CM

Thank you ❤️

Crestalee Meyer - April 05 at 11:51 PM

BO

“ Luella, so sad to hear of Ron's passing. He was an incredible man. I am sorry for your loss. Cousin Bob

Bob - April 04 at 09:05 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Ronald Edwards.



April 02 at 06:51 PM

PM

“ Sympathies to all the families of this wonderful man! I am sure he will be missed by many more not mentioned.

Patti Machovec - April 01 at 11:16 PM

GC

“ truly a golden man. I met Ron and Lou at Santa Rosa Jr. college in 1974. An outstanding man. Now I know why he doesn't return my calls. God bless all. Greg Champion, President, SRJC '74-'75.

Greg Champion - March 31 at 11:40 PM

AT

“ Ron Edwards, known for the greatest hits "How bout this Packers, I love Wisconsin" and "Stupid Packers, I hate Wisconsin".

Ron came into my life during a time when I was completely unsure of myself and my future. He was a mentor to me at the prison, where we were both social workers. He taught me how to be assertive and take no crap. He reminded me of my value when I wasn't sure where to find it. He consistently urged me to get my Master's degree and cheered me on through Facebook and texts. He genuinely changed my life in the most positive ways and I am thankful that I was able to tell him that.

I am so grateful to have known him. He will be so missed in the community that he gave so much to. 💖

Amber Teubert - March 31 at 10:47 PM

VW

“ My sympathy to Luella and family i worked with Ron for all his years at social services he was a great co worker always had a smile and willing to help everyone



Virginia Wiedenfeld - March 31 at 10:32 PM

BJ

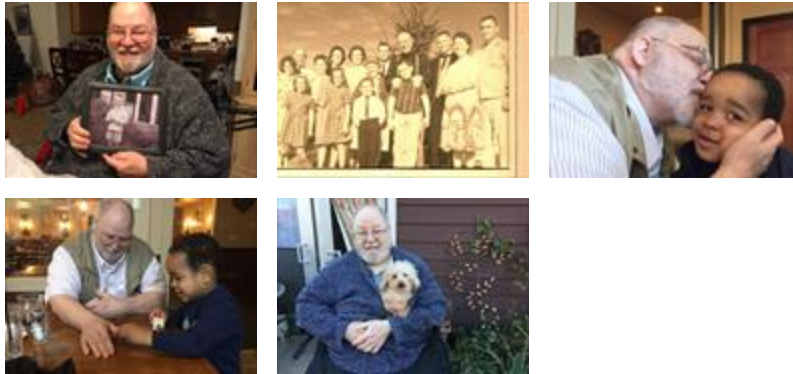
“ Ron and I were stationed together at Chapel 2 in Fort Carson, Colorado. Ron was a great friend, a gentleman, and a man of integrity. The Divine proctor God that assigned us in that place of military service gave us many great memories. Blessings on all his family. Until we meet again. Bill Sanders. U.S. Army.

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**Bill Sanders Jr** - March 31 at 09:30 PM

CM

“ 5 files added to the album Family Pictures



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**C Meyer** - March 31 at 07:31 PM

GE

“ Way back in 1951 as Mom, Ronnie and I we on our way to Japan by a refurbished troop carrier, we ran into a storm, naturally. As the storm raged and rocked the ship this way and that way, meal time approached. Now it seems that the rough water was affecting the apatite's of the other passengers including our mother. As it turned out, Ronnie and I were the only passengers in the huge dinning room for breakfast. We had the whole place to ourselves and got to pick our own food. Now you must remember that I was 8 and he was 4 years old.

Then in 1953 we flew back to the states via MATS and made stops iat Wake Island (check your history books) and Hawaii then on to San Francisco. Then to Fort Benning, Georgia. Anyway, see if you can find Wake Island on a map! !

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**George (Gus) Edwards** - March 31 at 04:50 PM

CM

*Thank you*

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**C Meyer** - April 01 at 09:43 AM

DP

*Ron, Luella and I became fast friends when Ron and I attended SRJC and Luella worked for the IRS. We three talked for hours, about life, about the army (Luella told me it took her a long time to realize that since she was out of the army, it was no longer necessary to wash her kitchen floor every night at bedtime!), about school, and about the frustrations of working at the IRS. Those cozy chats, often over dinner, are treasured memories.*

*But Ron liked a good practical joke! I called him in desperation one afternoon, because my '55 Buick Special wouldn't start. What should I do? "Well Diane, is it having trouble turning over?" "It won't turn over! It just clicks!" "Are the lights working?" "No!" "Fuel gauge working?" "No!" "Okay, sit tight, I'll grab my tools and be on my way."*

*And he showed up. Got in the driver's seat. Grinned at me as he put the car in 'park.'*

*Ron was best man at my wedding to Pete, and Luella and my sisters were bridesmaids. I was a starry-eyed bride, and if Ron had any doubts about the future success of the marriage, he kept them to himself, as far as I knew at the time. But I still wonder if he observed something the rest of us did not. Pete was a near-stranger to everyone except me and one of my sisters, so even Ron didn't know him very well. Nevertheless, as he drove Pete to the wedding, at an intersection he told him, "turning left takes you to Penngrove Church. Turning right takes you to SF Airport. It's not too late to back out, and I will take you wherever you want to go." They arrived at Penngrove Church right on time, but ten years later the marriage finally sputtered and died. (We were a totally mismatched pair for marriage, but we are good friends now.)*

*And Ron did not tell me about that conversation until about six weeks ago.*

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**Diane Pelham** - April 07 at 08:05 PM

CM

*Diane, that's an amazing story and make me laugh out loud. Thank you so much for sharing. I can't tell you enough how much it helps to hear others talk about him. Thank you!*

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**C Meyer** - April 09 at 05:38 PM

SE

*Hello,*

*Ron and I are cousins, and I was asked to provide some remembrances of Ron. Though cousins, Ron and I were often separated by distance and time. I live in California and Ron lived largely in Wisconsin, or as we like to say out here "back East". Ron was also around seven years older than me.*

*Thinking about Ron, I like many of you thought of his kindness, his thoughtfulness, his humor, and his intelligence. Though Ron and I would go years between speaking to one another, I was always surprised how easily the conversations would pick up as if little time had elapsed since we last spoke.*

*One example of Ron's kindness was of a time he visited us for a few days when we lived in Willits CA, it is/was a logging town in Ca. I was probably four years old and Ron had to be at least thirteen or fourteen at the time. I assume that I would not leave him alone and Ron probably out of desperation grabbed a shovel and we went over to the vacant lot next door to dig a hole. If I remember correctly Ron did most of the digging, and the hole was around three feet deep. I cannot help but think that the thought of leaving me in the bottom of that hole did not at least cross Ron's mind, which he did not.*

*Regarding to Ron's humor; a couple years ago I found an old picture of Ron, myself, and Gus standing together with very wide grins.*

*Unfortunately, I could not find the picture to include in this post. I think this picture was taken a couple years after the previous story. I noticed all three of us were standing there with belts that were six to eight inches too long and all three belts protruding forward towards the person taking the picture. It was not unusual for parents who lived through the depression to buy clothing that children would "grow into". However, upon reflection I think that I may have not fully grasp the joke or it's possible phallic implications.*

*A lesson that I will take away from Ron's passing is there is not always more time, and Ron will be remembered and missed which is a testament to Ron, all by itself.*

*Sharing your sorrow.*

*Steve Edwards.*

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**Steve K Edwards** - April 12 at 02:39 PM

CM

*Thank you so much, Steve. I'd never heard this story. It makes me smile.*

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**C M** - April 16 at 12:11 AM