



Ronald R. Otto

December 17, 1949 - December 12, 2021

Ronald R. Otto, 71, of Richland Center passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Sunday, December 12, 2021, at Meriter Hospital in Madison due to postoperative complications. He was born on December 17, 1949, in Burlington, WI, the son of Richard and Earlene (Foss) Otto. He graduated from Burlington High School and Gateway Technical College.

Ron grew up milking cows on his grandfather's farm and later married JoAnn Robers on April 28, 1973, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Burlington. Ron and JoAnn moved to Richland County where they purchased a dairy farm. Ron milked cows up until his health would no longer allow it. He enjoyed his draft horses, fishing, hunting, and had an appreciation for wildlife and land conservation.

Survivors include his wife JoAnn of Richland Center, WI; 4 children, Matt Otto (Alison Brooks) of Madison, WI, Becky Otto (Mike Siefkes) of Grass Lake, MI, Sarah (Scott) Siefkes of Onalaska, WI, Tim (Mary) Otto of Richland Center, WI ;4 grandchildren, Owen Otto of Madison, WI, Charlotte Siefkes of Onalaska, WI, Ben and Ellie Otto both of Richland Center, WI; 2 brothers, Gary Otto of Racine, WI, Vern (Marcia) Otto of Three Lakes, WI. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Earlene Otto.

Following Ron's wishes, no funeral services will be held. A private family burial

will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the family and will be donated to Wisconsin Public Radio and Richland Center FFA. The Clary Memorial Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

VO

“ It is now two years since my brother Ron passed away. He is still on my mind, and I write today to remind friends and relatives of the positive influence he had on all of us. Through him I learned to work hard, appreciate nature, stay committed, and try to always do the right thing, while mixing in some wisdom and humor. Yes, I miss him, but trust that he is with the Lord, and still smiling.

Vern Otto - December 15, 2023 at 12:11 PM

VO

“ It is now a year since my brother Ron passed away. I still think of him often, and the greif has somehow turned into a profound appreciation for him having been in my life. We can all look back at certain events and have different interpretations. I believe they are orchestrated to present learning opportunities, and guide us as we face the twists and turns of life. We must all have the wisdom to see the Holy perspective, for it is our only true source of hope in this world.

Vern Otto - December 13, 2022 at 08:28 AM

“ It has been a little over a month since I learned of the passing of my big brother, Ron. I am still trying to process and put it in perspective. Many of our childhood adventures and projects have come flooding back in my memory. When we wanted a Sears and Roebuck go-cart, we worked and saved for two years, doing chores for neighbors, growing pickles, (I still remember getting stung every time we picked), and mowing lawns. There was no such thing as an allowance. When we finally saved enough, my folks wisely said this was not a good use of our money and put a stop to it. Without hesitation, remorse, or anger, Ron said " OK, lets build one", and so we did. We scavanged parts from old lawn mowers, and after many hours working together, I am sure we had the best go-cart ever made.

We also spent a lot of time hunting and fishing. Ron liked to hunt pheasants with our yellow lab, Bess. We were amazed when after an hour of trailing a wounded bird through the swamp, she came out, laid it at our feet, and collapsed, exhausted. Ron carried her back to the truck.

Ron wanted to be a dairy farmer for as long as I can remember. I was always a bit envious that he was not distracted in this pursuit, while I could not decide which way to go. He did not inherit a farm, but did it the hard way by first cash renting and building the herd. This is a lot of hard work that most would not attempt today. His determination and perseverance should be an example to all.

My thoughts are also with JoAnn and the family. I remember him coming home after a date and saying how much he liked JoAnn. I was blessed to be best man at the wedding, and see the family grow over the years. It is tough to imagine not to be able see my brother, but I know he was with the Lord, and I will see him again some day.

Also, my best wishes to Ed Fallon and family. It has been a long time since we sat in labor economics class at UW Parkside. Say

hello to Frank also.

Vern Otto

Vern Otto - January 14, 2022 at 10:27 AM

EF

“ *First I want to say how sorry I was to hear about Ron's passing. He and I first met in HS as freshman in Mr Mercer's Ag class. I've got to say Ron was a much better student than I was. He was always calm and ready to go to work. He tolerated me and my humor and that took a pretty understanding individual. Later in life I was working in RC and our young families got together a few times. Like most people you take for granted you'll run into them down the road again. While that didn't happen to us Ron was the kind of guy if we did see each other it wouldn't make any difference if it was two hours or 20 years later you always knew Ron would remember you and you were still friends.*

JoAnn please know such a lifelong loss as you're experiencing will heal. Cherish the memories and hug those kids and grand children.

It's been such a long time since I've seen Ron's brother Vern and I want to say hi to Vern and express my sympathy for the loss of his brother.

Take care Otto family.

Ed Fallon, Plymouth, WI

Ed Fallon - December 20, 2021 at 11:30 AM

GP

“ Don't picture me as past and gone;
I've only past the stream,
And though dimensions separate,
There's just a veil between.
Don't speak of me in past tense words,
For long as love remains
I'll reach you through the realms of dreams,
As well as memory lane,
Don't think of me as a life that's lost,
Though on earth I've had my day,
But imagine me as a soul set free,
No more than a thought away.
The Transition Gillian Walsh, This England Magazine Autumn 2018

Sending comforting wishes to JoAnn and family. We will miss his friendly wave.

Graham & Margaret Phillipson

Graham & Margaret Phillipson - December 16, 2021 at 08:56 AM

BP

“ My sympathy goes out to you and your family at this time Matt. The description of your father's hard work and conservation ethic sounds a lot like you. You are in our prayers.

Brian Pillsbury - December 15, 2021 at 05:06 PM

MR

“ Matt, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your father. Prayers for you and your family at this difficult time. Mark Roloff

Mark Roloff - December 15, 2021 at 08:59 AM

LQ

“ *Matt and Becky ~ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. God bless you.*

Laurel Qualy - December 15, 2021 at 08:41 AM

EH

“ *I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Matt, I see your smile in your Dad's smile. Please know that I am thinking about you at this sad time. Eric Hurley*

Eric Hurley - December 15, 2021 at 08:08 AM

MK

“ *My heart goes out to Ron's family. I hope you can find peace, especially during this holiday season. God Bless.*

Michelle Komiskey - December 15, 2021 at 07:50 AM

BL

“ *Our sincere condolences to the extended Otto family on your loss. I've learned from Mike that Ron's was a life well lived and full of hard work for the benefit of his family and fellow citizens. We wish that your strong family ties and years of great memories will give you the strength to get through these challenging times.*

*Bob Lambe
Great Lakes Fishery Commission*

Bob Lambe - December 14, 2021 at 03:34 PM