



## Ronald Wayne "Ronnie" McGhee

February 9, 1949 - October 12, 2021

Ronald W. "Ronnie" McGhee, age 72, died on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, in Decatur, Arkansas. He was born in Little Rock, AR on February 9, 1949 to George W. and Marguerite (Gaydon) McGhee-Reed. Ronnie grew up in Siloam Springs, AR, graduating from Siloam Springs High School in 1967. He attended Arkansas Tech, Russellville, AR for two years and completed his education with a BS Animal Science from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville in 1971. He and Paula were married the week after he graduated and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past June. He was first employed as the manager of the U of A Swine Research Center in Savoy, AR before moving to Decatur, AR in early 1974 to work with and eventually manage Greenlawn Farm, Inc. (poultry, then a cow/calf operation) for the next 48 years.

Ronnie served on and was the past chairman of the Benton County Soil Conservation Board for many years, Arvest Bank-Gravette, AR- Board of Directors, Decatur City Council and was a long time member of the Decatur United Methodist Church serving in many roles but particularly the finance committee for many years.

Ronnie was always known for his sense of humor, hard work, character and good common sense. He was particularly proud of the family being awarded the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year-1994 and the same year being named

the Arkansas Beef Cattle Producer of the Year. He was always ready to drive anyone that wanted around the hills of Greenlawn to see good mama cows, uniform steers, baby calves or a new crop of hay. He loved kids and many drove their first truck or had their first horse ride around those pastures.

He is survived by his wife, Paula (Browning) McGhee; sons, Matt McGhee of Decatur, AR, Adam and wife Jill McGhee of Gentry, AR; sister, Kay and husband Darryl Steele of Conway, AR; brother Rusty and wife Fran McGhee of Tulsa, OK; grandchildren, Seth, Addy, Jackson of Gentry, AR; sisters in law, Ann Davis of Edmond, OK and Kim Browning of Decatur, AR; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Memorial services will be Sunday, October 17, 2021 at the Decatur United Methodist Church of Decatur, Arkansas with visitation from 2pm to 3pm and funeral services thereafter with Pastor Heath Williams officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Falling Springs Cemetery, P. O. Box 365 Decatur, AR 72722 or Decatur United Methodist Missions P. O. Box 709 Decatur, AR 72722 To sign the online guestbook, please visit [www.wassonfuneralhome.com](http://www.wassonfuneralhome.com) .

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 17. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Decatur United Methodist Church  
230 3rd St.  
Decatur, AR 72722

## Memorial Service

OCT 17. 3:00 PM (CT)

Decatur United Methodist Church  
230 3rd St.  
Decatur, AR 72722

# Tribute Wall

SP

“ *Ronnie was an amazing friend to many, and this included my Grandad Bob, along with my father Bryan. Ronnie was extremely generous and kind to my Grandad before he passed in late 2019. My father has had many kind words and stories to share about Ronnie, who was always happy to say hello and ask about everyone when I'd run into him. He will be truly missed. From my family to Mrs. McGhee, Adam, and the whole family, he will truly be missed!* - Sean Patton

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**Sean Patton** - October 27, 2021 at 11:46 AM

CV

“ *Paula and Boys, we are so sorry for your loss. Ronnie was a friend to everyone that knew him and our little community is going to miss his great smile and sense of humor! God bless you and comfort you as you go through this journey!*  
*Clifford and Sue Verser*

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**Clifford and Sue Verser** - October 17, 2021 at 01:01 PM

JA

“ *When we were grade school children we used to catch the school bus on Highway 59 with Ronny and his siblings. I have nice memories of them. So Sorry to hear of Ronnie's passing. Judy Cloyd Arbia*

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**Judy Arbia** - October 17, 2021 at 11:02 AM

VD

“ Paula,  
I'm so sorry to hear about Ronnie's passing. He was one of the good ones. He will be missed. Praying you can find peace and comfort during this time.  
Virginia

Virginia Davis - October 16, 2021 at 08:14 PM

WASSON  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



Wasson Funeral Home - October 16, 2021 at 12:32 PM

SC

“ Mr McGee was one of best men I knew. He kind and never judged anyone. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. I know he is in heaven. I'm sorry for the family and I'll say a prayer for him and his family.

Scott Campbell - October 15, 2021 at 09:05 PM

LR

“ Liz Reading lit a candle in memory of Ronald Wayne "Ronnie" McGhee



Liz Reading - October 15, 2021 at 07:45 PM

BS

“ *Belinda Londagin Shetlar lit a candle in memory of Ronald Wayne "Ronnie" McGhee*



Belinda Londagin Shetlar - October 15, 2021 at 03:42 PM

WASSON  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

“ *64 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Wasson Funeral Home - October 15, 2021 at 01:03 PM

K(

*So sorry for your loss! Prayers for your family! Ronnie was such a wonderful man! He will be dearly missed!*

Kim Acuff (Banta) - October 16, 2021 at 08:51 AM

GP

“ We met Ronnie at various events that Rusty and Fran hosted in Tulsa and during Tyler's wedding. He made us feel accepted as part of the family because that's just the way he lived! We know how sad his death is for all his family and the many friends who no longer can visit with and enjoy his friendship. His absence will be a real void for Rusty and Fran.

We pray for God's great love and peace to overshadow all of Ronnie's family and friends.

We share your deep grief today.....

Charlotte and George Paden

Sand Springs, Oklahoma

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**George Paden** - October 15, 2021 at 12:45 PM

FF

“ We are so sorry to hear about Ronnie's passing. He was a sweet man. Prayers for you Paula and the boys. May God comfort you in this difficult time.

Steve & Flora Forrest

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**Flora Forrest** - October 15, 2021 at 12:23 PM

AB

“ So grateful to the McGhee family for contributing to the education of so many of us. The farm was always available for hands-on agriculture class field trips and so much more. I am especially thankful for a scholarship he provided that helped me attend Arkansas Tech University. God certainly used this wonderful family to shape my family into something He uses for His glory. Thank you so much Mr McGhee.

Sincerely,

Aaron Betts and family.

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**Aaron Betts** - October 15, 2021 at 12:05 PM

BS

“ Paula - both you and Ronnie are such an example of what “good folks” are. As friends, we appreciate you for your friendships. You were both so kind to my parents, Bob and Joan Meek, through the years. You have been such a strong voice for agriculture - both through your words and work. And your work for God and family has created a beautiful legacy. We love you. Al and Bev Saunders

Bev Saunders - October 15, 2021 at 11:36 AM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Ronald Wayne "Ronnie" McGhee.



October 15, 2021 at 11:26 AM

AR

“ We were saddened to hear the news of Ronnie's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with Paula, family, friends and the Decatur community.

Alan & Nancy Roller - October 15, 2021 at 10:53 AM

PM

“ He will be missed. Enjoyed the years we spent together at Arkansas Tech.  
Prayers and sympathy.  
Paul and Linda Mathis

Paul Mathis - October 15, 2021 at 09:46 AM

TS

“ I was at Tech and remember Ronnie and Kay there. He had that low key humor and a grin on his mug. I was much surprised to see he passed. Over the years, he always greeted me as a long lost friend. Of course, working with Adam for so many years, I learned to appreciate the family even more. So to all your family, my heart felt and sincere condolences.

Terry Shields - October 15, 2021 at 12:23 AM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Ronald Wayne "Ronnie" McGhee.



October 14, 2021 at 10:18 PM

BM

“ Dear Paula, my heart breaks for you and your loved ones. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you travel this journey that no one wants to take. May God watch over you and keep you in His loving arms. <3

Brenda Setser Morriss - October 14, 2021 at 08:57 PM

GW

“ We are so sorry to hear of Ronnie's passing. He was solid as a rock, a joy to be around and you could always depend on him. It was an honor to serve with him on the City Council, but more import it was a Blessing to be able to call him my friend. Our prayers for his family, may God Bless you with his Peace and comfort you. He was a Good Man.

George & Charla Weeks - October 14, 2021 at 07:08 PM

PH

“ I am so sorry for your loss Paula, Matt, Adam, and family. I have a lifetime of memories and so proud to call Ronnie my cousin .i loved his love for family, God, and the farm he loved so much. Ronnie will forever be in our hearts.

pat Humes - October 14, 2021 at 05:22 PM

RE

“ Paula, Rusty and family, I am so sorry to hear of Ronnie's passing. He was always just the nicest guy, with an ornery sense of humor. He was truly one of the good guys.



Renea Hill Ellis - October 14, 2021 at 04:53 PM

KH

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Daddy loved you and Ronnie and was always so happy to share time with both. May God comfort you.  
Love, Kay Truitt Hoggard

Kay Hoggard - October 14, 2021 at 11:35 PM

EV

I am so sadden by your loss. I have fond memories of Ronnie and his family, dating back to High School. He was a very unique person. My prayers are with his family at this time.

Evan Vohs - October 16, 2021 at 11:14 AM

DL

“ So sorry for your loss Pauls. May God and all your precious memories bring you peace and comfort at the time.  
Frank and Donella Leeman

donella Leeman - October 14, 2021 at 04:42 PM

LH

“ Every time I saw him I was always greeted with a warm smile, a handshake, and a sincere “howdy neighbor how are you doing?”

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**Luke Haak** - October 14, 2021 at 04:37 PM

KD

“ I am so sorry Paula, Matt, Adam, Kay, Rusty and all the family. Ronnie was the best in my book! When I was little I just thought Ronnie was part of our family. My mom and dad loved him like he was and we did too. If our truck left for a rodeo there were 5 of us in it, Dad, Mom, Sherri, me, and Ronnie. He was like a big brother to us and still is. Dad always said to go to Ronnie for advice when he was gone and we did. My heart is broken and I will forever miss you my dear friend!



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**Karen Davis** - October 14, 2021 at 01:37 PM