



## Ronnie Sparks

March 20, 1952 - January 26, 2010

Ronnie Lee Sparks, 57, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, died January 26, 2010, at Siloam Springs Memorial Hospital, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Born March 20, 1952, in Hoisington, Kansas, he was the son of Charlie Sparks and Joyce Reynolds Sparks. He was the oldest living of nine children and lived most of his adult life in Northwest Arkansas. He was a surveyor in the early 70's and was manager of Dixieland Lanes from the 70's through the early 80's. He opened the first Car-mart of Siloam Springs in 1983, and in 2005, he opened his own car lot, Mo Motor Company, where he remained until the time of his death. He was an avid bowler for many years, as well as a pool player and golfer. He married Diane Ryan on March 17, 2000, in Gravette, Arkansas. He loved people. Ron never knew a stranger. If someone wanted to talk he was there to listen, give advice or just be a shoulder to lean on. He enjoyed spending time with his granddaughters, in the swimming pool, riding their horses or driving around on four wheelers or golf cart. He loved taking vacations with his family or just having everyone over for a BBQ and supported the Arkansas Razorbacks. Ronnie was preceded in death by his father and mother; one brother; and two nephews. Survivors include his wife Diane of the home; one son, Randy Sparks and wife Karen of Bentonville, Arkansas; one daughter, Melanie Meridith and husband Bryan of Colcord, Oklahoma; three granddaughters; Chelsi and Cassidy Sparks of Bentonville, Arkansas, and Malorie Meridith of Colcord, Oklahoma; one sister-in-law, Maureen Ryan and husband Scott Hagge, of Woodridge, Illinois; five

brothers, Gary Sparks of Elkins, Arkansas, Chuck Sparks of Newcastle, Texas, Kenneth Sparks of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, Brian Sparks of Yakima, Washington, and Rodney Sparks of Rogers, Arkansas; three sisters, Kathy Hamblin of Azle, Texas, Dixie Sparks of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and Patty Sparks of Weatherford, Texas. Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Monday, February 1, 2010, at Wasson Memorial Chapel, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Visitation will be 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Sunday, January 31, 2010, at Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Because Ron loved his animals, the family is requesting that, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Siloam Springs Veterinary Clinic, 504 West Tulsa, Siloam Springs, Arkansas 72761. Arrangements are under the direction of Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

# Tribute Wall

GJ

“ It's been over a year, and I still find it difficult to believe that Ron is no longer with us. I guess posting a tribute this long after Ron's passing seems a bit odd, but I just want anyone who may read these tributes to know that Ron is still missed, and I still think about him from time to time. He was a good and trustworthy friend. Dee, I hope you are doing well!!

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**Greg Jenkins** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

AR

“ It took me awhile to get this to you. You know I am here anytime. I love you all very much and Dee, you are my "other mother". My heart is always with you and Mel. You are family to us and I hope you never forget that. I LOVE YOU!!!

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**Andrea Rutherford** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

CE

“ I was truly saddened to hear of your loss. I know Ron meant the world to you -- to a lot of people. Meeting him was like catching up with an old, dear friend. I consider myself lucky to have had the chance to visit with him. His genuine nature obviously left an impression on all he came in contact with. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you, the family.

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**Chris Ennis** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

KS

“ DEE & MEL- My thoughts and prayers have been with you in this difficult time you're going through. I know I only knew Ron for a short time but that short time felt like a lifetime. He was one of those people that just treated you like you were his best friend even when he had just met you. Ron was a good man and Scottie & I thought alot of him. Of course the memory for me that stands out the most is the birthday phone call I rec'vd from him this past November. He got me good that day and it did put a smile on my face. He was good at that (putting a smile on someone's face). We will miss the weather updates and just many of the thoughtful gestures he would do for us at the office. He will be very missed but never forgotten.

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**Kasey Scott** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

TE

“ Dee,

*Just wanted you to know it was an honor to conduct the service for Ronnie. I pray you will find peace in the days ahead. If there is anything I can personally do to assist you it would be my pleasure. May God bless you.*

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**Tim Estes** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

AO

“ Dee and Mel, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

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**Andrea ODell** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

BH

“ Dee & Family, Our thoughts and prayers are always with you. Budgie & marolyn

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**Budgie & Marolyn Harris** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

DD

“ Thoughts and prayer are with you. May you feel God's comfort.

David Dixon - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

RA

“ My heart reaches out to you during this time of loss of a loved one. It is my prayer that God's healing angels are sent to you bountifully to hold your tears and to comfort your heart. You are dearly embraced by prayers and just know you are loved.

Regina Thompson-CNE Corporate Sr. Administrative Assistant - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

BM

“ I am still with Car-Mart because of Ron. I started with the company on Tuesday, January 19, 1993. It was during the fray of tax time. I was trained very little between Tuesday and Saturday. I was off on Sunday, which was odd due to the fact that we were open 7 days a week. I was sitting at my desk that Saturday evening, reflecting on the few things I had done and the lack of connection I felt. Ron came in to my office and spent about 30 minutes talking to me. It wasn't what he said, as much as it was how he said it. He showed me that he cared and he felt I had a bright future if I would just stick around. He was very genuine and I felt apart of something at that moment. I always look back on that conversation as 1 of the real turning points of my career with Car-Mart. I feel very fortunate to have spent time around Ron Sparks.

Brian McFarland - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

TR

“ *Dee, Melanie, and Family,  
We were saddened to hear of your tragic loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. If you need anything please let us know. We will miss Ron he was an awesome and sweet person. God Bless!*

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**Theresa Rye** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

DD

“ *Ron, Your friendship and your smile will be missed so much. I wonder if you knew what an impact you have made on so many lives, our family included. I don't know what we would have done at different times if you had not been willing to give us a chance. If we were not all just a little like you were what a difference our lives would make on this world. Your family will be in our prayers at this diffulcate time. God Bless*

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**Delbert and Lucy DeMoss** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

CW

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. Ron was a good man and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. If there is anything we can do please let us know.*

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**Clay & Natalie Wilcox** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

RS

“ *I worked with Randy at Bekaert and with Dee and Mel at the casino. You all were so much fun to work with. I was very sorry to hear about your loss. My thoughts are with you.*

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**Randy Still** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

JC

“ *We are sorry to hear of your lose. May God comfort you at this time.*

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**Jim and Esta Faye Combs** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

LS

“Dee -- Our prayers have been with you. You and Ron have been such sweet friends to us. We always enjoyed seeing you both at the bowling alley. I enjoyed working a little with Ron in real estate. He possessed such kindness that this world could use so much more of. Please know that we are praying for you during this most difficult time.

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**Loyd & Donetta Samuels** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

EV

“Ron will be missed, especially that smile and the twinkle that was always in his eyes.

*Words cannot say how we feel about your loss.*

*Diane and family, our prayers are with you at this time.*

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**Evan Vohs** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

KP

“It is with heartfelt sadness to learn of Ron's passing. He was a loyal friend to Brian, which meant the world to Brian and to me. Ron was a special person; the gift of his smile and his ability to listen and care about others is very unique and hard to find. He will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Our deepest sympathy to your family at this difficult time. May God bless you all...Brian and Kathy Piha

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**Kathy Piha** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

BE

“ I am going to miss coming home and seeing you. I wish I could be there but I know you understand because you always understood. I want to thank you for everything you have done for me and listening to me when I needed to talk. Also thank you for the advice you have given me as I was growing up I looked up to you like my father. I am so thankful you were there for me as I was growing up you helped me so much. You also had a lot of patience I remember working on things with you I think that is where I got my patience from.

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**Bruce Edgmon** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

KG

“ On January 26th heaven received an amazing angel. Ron, you were more than a friend, you were family. I appreciate the guidance and advice over the years. without you, I wouldn't be who I am today. Your words will stay with me forever and I will never forget who gave that advice to me. Ron, thank you for being you!

*Dee - You were the most important thing in his life. He cherished the ground you walked on and admired you intensely. We are here for you to get you through this.*

*Mel - He gave his love to you as his own and you returned that with the same love and respect you had for him.*

*Godspeed Ron!*

*The Glaze Family*

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**Kathy & Michael Glaze** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

MA

“ *My heart is saddened to hear of Ronnie's passing. I remember when we were little kids running around and having fun. I didn't get to see him as often as I would have liked because we always lived out of town but I have my memories of visiting all my cousins.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, children and all his siblings.*

*Love and prayers, Myra, Ron and Melissa Assaf and his Aunt Bessie*

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**Myra Assaf** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

CC

“ *Mel & Diane, I am so sorry to hear about Ron's passing, he always had a smile on his face, and seemed like a wonderful guy. Your family is my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Cathy Campbell** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

SR

“ DEAR SPARKS FAMILY,  
WE ARE SENDING OUR CONDOLENCES, PRAYERS AND LOVE TO ALL OF YOU. RON WAS ONE OF A KIND. SMILING, CARING, LOVING AND "TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS" IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE. WE LIVED IN SILOAM SPRINGS FOR 23 YEARS. WE MET RON IN 1985. WE HAD JUST HAD SOME FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND HAD LOST OUR 2 VEHICLES. WE WERE NEW CHRISTIANS IN THE LORD AND WE WERE BELIEVING GOD TO SUPPLY US WITH A VEHICLE, EVEN THO WE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW WE LOST THE OTHERS. ANYWAY, WE MET RON. AN ANGEL AND GOD USED HIM TO HELP US. WE TOLD HIM OUR SITUATION, HE LISTENED, INTENTLY, MADE A CONTRACT WITH US AND WE BOUGHT A CAR. AFTER THAT ONE WAS PAID FOR, THE YEARS FOLLOWING, WE PURCHASED 3 MORE VEHICLES AND KNEW, GOD PROVIDED NOT ONLY FOR US, BUT FOR HIM,<sup>p</sup> BECAUSE HE CARED AND TRUSTED US TO DO WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO. WE'RE SURE MANY OTHERS HAVE SIMILAR STORIES LIKE OURS AND WE WERE SO THANKFUL FOR COMING TO KNOW SUCH A KIND AND CARING SOUL AS, RON SPARKS. WE CAME TO BE TRUE FRIENDS AND WE PRAY GOD WILL GRANT YOU PEACE, JOY AND COMFORT AS ONLY HE CAN GIVE. MAY HE FILL THE VOID, AS ONLY HE CAN. CONTINUE TO KNOW JESUS AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOUR AND WE WILL ALL SEE HIM AGAIN ONE DAY, VERY SOON. GOD BLESS AND KEEP Y'ALL.  
SINDERELY,  
SSG. JOHN ODELL, USA RETIRED AND RITA

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SSG JOHN ODELL & WIFE, RITA - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

JV

“ Ron was a very special person and he will be greatly missed. He always had a smile and a friendly, Hi how are you doing. Those who knew him were truly blessed.

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Jean Ann Varwig - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

SJ

“ Ron had a great sense of humor and always had a smile on his face. My former husband and I got to know him through a social sorority club. He enjoyed having fun.

*My condolences.*

*Susan Joseph*

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**Susan Joseph** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

DS

“ sorry to hear about ron. He was a great guy you couldnt help but love him. He will truly be missed. my prayers are with you at this time. May God cradle you in his arms at this time. Hes gonna make a great angel.

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**Donna Selvidge** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

PA

“ so sorry to here about ron we just seen he a walmart about a week ago we well miss him

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**Pattie** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

EH

“ sorry to hear of ron's passing. he was a good friend .

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**ed and shirley harwood** - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

GJ

“ I was so sad to hear of Ron's passing. He was the BEST BOSS I ever had!!!! He was always kind, and I hardly ever saw him without a smile on his face. I am going to miss him very very much, but Sparkie will always be in our hearts. Nothing but good memories about him. I can honestly say that through the 15 years that I knew him, I cannot ever, ever recall having reason to be angry with him. Although he probably got mad a me more than once. RON, YOU WERE LOVED AND RESPECTED MORE THAN YOU WOULD HAVE EVER KNOWN. I'll miss you. GREG

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Greg Jenkins - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM

AR

“ I was deeply sadden to hear of Ron passing. I just couldn't believe it. He was the most caring and happy man you will ever meet and he will be greatly greatly missed. I can honestly say Ron made me the person I am today because of him I am successful. I always enjoyed stopping in @ the car lot and getting to talk with him I always knew the minute I walked in the door he would be waiting with a big hug! I will miss you dearly but I know God has a plan and he is needing all the good people he can get to be by his side and let me tell you he got one of the best! Dee please stay in touch and you and yours will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

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April Renfro - September 19, 2012 at 11:26 AM