



Ronald Joseph Walker

JAN 6, 1934 - JUL 12, 2025



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Ronald “Ron” “RJ” Joseph Walker, 91, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, passed away peacefully on July 12, 2025. Born on January 6, 1934, in Toledo, Ohio, Ron lived a life marked by brilliance, humor, and unwavering dedication to his family, career, and community.

Ron graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from Case Institute of Technology, launching a distinguished career in the aerospace and aviation industries. He played a pivotal role in the Apollo Program, working at the White Sands Testing Facility in Las Cruces, New Mexico. As Engineering Supervisor Test Operations, Ron was directly responsible for planning and implementation of propulsion systems test programs for Apollo service module and boilerplate fixtures, service propulsion engine, service module reaction control system quads, and ground support equipment. His contributions to space exploration remain a proud legacy in American history.

Following his work at North American Aviation, Ron continued to shape the future of aviation as Managing Director, Powerplant Engineering at American Airlines, where he proudly served from October 1969 until his retirement in December 1999. His meticulous nature and deep technical expertise earned him the respect of colleagues across the industry. "Ron <https://Walker...Still> a Man of Vision. First to encourage development, test, and fly OEM alternative compressor blades —improving safety and economy for commercial aviation".

Beyond his professional achievements, Ron was a devoted husband, father, and community volunteer. He married the love of his life, Joyce Ann Walker, on March 14, 1964, in New Lexington, Ohio. Together, they raised 2 children, Kyle "KC" Walker and Lori Walker, who were the pride and joy of Ron’s life.

Ron was known for his sharp wit and infectious—and sometimes dry—sense of humor, always ready with a joke or a clever remark. Yet, beneath the laughter was a deeply loving and detail-



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oriented man who cherished his family and took pride in even the smallest things—so much so that he kept his W-2 from his very first job as a lifeguard.

An avid tennis player, golfer, and fisherman, Ron found joy in the outdoors and in the camaraderie of friendly competition. He also gave generously of his time, volunteering at Up With Trees as Site Coordinator, as well as serving on as a board member. He also was an active member of Rotary Club of Tulsa, contributing to the Above & Beyond Awards Committee, Crescendo Music Awards Grants Program, and attending weekly meetings and luncheons with enthusiasm.

Ron's legacy is one of love, laughter, precision, and purpose. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.



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Judy Shepherd posted:

So sorry for your loss. I drove cross country with Aunt Wanda and Uncle Bert to visit them when I was about 12. Lori Jo was little and Kyle was just a baby. I remember him as a great host and very smart. I didn't know Joy was actually Joyce! Wanda and Bert were very proud of him and the family he and Joy created!

November 19 at 7:05 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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