

Balboa Cremation Services

Ronald Vernon Johnston

(December 27, 1942 - November 29, 2019)

Ron is predeceased by his parents, grandparents, and fur children Kim, Pyewacket, Merlin, Sam and Marlowe, Puck, Bottom, Snug, Starveling, Blossom and Poppy.

He's survived by wife Pat, son Michael, brother Arthur, nephew Eric and wife Molly, and niece Karen.



Ron was raised in Whittier, CA, where his family had horses, a cow and chickens, grew lemons for Sunkist and where he had lemon 'fights' with his childhood pal Ron Clark, rode his horse Ginger through then rural Orange County, and jumped off his garage roof and tried to fly. He graduated from California High School Class of 1960, Pasadena City College, and extended studies programs. He was proud to join one of the first integrated fraternities at PCC. Ron and Pat married in 1963 and son Michael was born in 1969.

While living in Glendale, he was inspired by Robert Kennedy to run for California State Assembly in 1968. After moving to San Diego in 1974, Ron participated in his University Heights neighborhood as President of the community association, first President of the UH Recreation Council, and leader of the UH Library Task Force. He received commendations from the 3rd District Council and 4th District Board of Supervisors offices, and the Library Task Force was given an award from SOHO. Ron was also a member of the Desert Advisory Council to the BLM.

During his 50 year career in the financial business, Ron managed several stock brokerage offices in San Diego and Scottsdale, AZ and helped set up the statewide in-house investment department for a major bank.

A sports enthusiast, he pitched in the softball leagues at Robb Field - he was a hopeful golfer who played at Bonita and Balboa golf courses with golf partner Ray. He was an original "Trekkie" and an avid reader of sci-fi, espionage and mysteries. Ron loved his family and friends, cats, Italian cars, art and music (especially jazz), spicy food and the high desert community of Joshua Tree. Ron was a good guy, always ready to help a friend, and is greatly missed by those who knew and loved him.