



Ronald "Ronnie" Phillip King

October 31, 1942 - September 25, 2023

You probably know Ron King from his many appearances with major circuses and shows across North America. Since 1952 King has performed in 47 States and 10 Foreign Countries.

Nicknamed "Butterfly" an early age for his hobby of collecting butterflies and insects. Ron got his start at 10 years old. sitting in playing cabaret shows on the infamous Baltimore Block. A much different time indeed, his talent was recognized and by the time he was 17 he was touring with the Tex Daniels Band, and touring the capitals of Europe, covering 10 countries with Mel Price & The Santa Fe Rangers. During this time Ron backed up many shows including a number of Grand Ole Opry stars such as Minnie Pearl, Johnny Cash, Roy Clark. "Little" Jimmy Dickens, and many other CW stars.

In between road tours, '62 - '66, Ron opened his own music store, King's Studio of Music, 7206 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD. Ron's store hosted drum clinics conducted by the world's drum greats, Gene Krupa, Louie Belson, and Max Roach.

In 1967 he met his future wife and married in 1969. Fatherhood kept him

stateside and for the next sixteen years he performed in and around Maryland working with three-piece bands like The Baysiders and also worked full orchestra ensembles of twenty pieces. During this time, he played worked for and ran the 15-piece The Hunt Valley Jazz, performing everywhere from nightclubs and radio to ethnic festivals and private parties.

Starting in 1986 Ron and his son traveled throughout the United States and Canada playing for top international circus stars. Ron's keen sense of timing and his ability to accent cues for the various types of acts made him loved by both performers and audiences alike. He toured with George Hubler's International Shrine Circus, where he backed such performers as The Wallendas, Johnny Wellday and his Dancing Bears, and the Clyde Brothers Performing Elephants. In 1999 Ron toured for 7 weeks across Canada with the Wallenda Shrine Circus, a Great Wallenda, Inc. production, and featuring the Flying Wallendas.

Ron played drums professionally for seven decades, and was in demand as a show drummer of unequalled ability. He played in dance bands, and paid his dues on club dates. His love of music, and his natural likability make him an asset to any show.

During day Ron could be found doing his second love and full time day job as an automotive detail specialist. from 1969 till the early 2000s he worked at Swartz Cadillac, Franke Cadillac, Anderson In Hunt Valley as well as operating Ron's Auto Recon.

During 1997 to 2000 Ron and his wife joined their son Andy and participated

in his Civil War reenactments. Photographs of Ron and his family were published, as a centerfold, in Al Thelin's and Kent Courtney's seminal 1997 book, *Returning To The Civil War*.

When not touring with a circus or stage production, Ron made his home in Baltimore, working for drum great, Dennis Chambers, chauffeuring and restoring his extensive drum collection. Also, he enjoyed collecting and restoring vintage drums, and working on his consistently first place winning 1985 Buick Riviera, W-15 phone number, okay website, exhibiting it in many shows on the East Coast. From time to time Ron would assemble musicians together and performs as The Fabulous Kingsmen, in various venues in the Baltimore Region. If you have missed Ron performing live, Ron can be seen on YouTube @ Ronnie King On Drums.

Ron's final performance. was it the Autumn Leaf rehabilitation center just a few days before his passing with his friend and fellow musician Bobby Morris, doing is the often did sitting in for a few numbers.

Ron was endorsed by the DW Drum Company, The Bellow Drum Company, and MusicLives® LLC –makers of the Gromble & Cymbal Chief.

Ronald was preceded by his wife Jacqueline Teresa Maria LaPaglia (d.2014) son Joseph Vincent (d.1974) and his legacy carried on by his Son Andrew Michael (b.1970) , Grandson Henry Howard (b.2012). and Second Cousin Michelle Kirby King (b.1968).

Family and friends may call at Johnson-Fosbrink Funeral and Cremation Services, P.A., 8521 Loch Raven Blvd. (beltway exit 29B) on Tuesday, October 3rd from 2 to 4p.m.; where services will begin at 4:00pm. Interment is private.

The family requests in lieu of flowers Please make a donation in Ronald's name to:

<https://www.drumsfordrummers.org/donate/>

Drums for Drummers Org

c/o Tom Stewart

25781 La Serra

Laguna Hills, California 92653

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 3. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Johnson-Fosbrink Funeral and Cremation Services, P.A.
8521 Loch Raven Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21286
(410) 668-2300

Funeral Service

OCT 3. 4:00 PM (ET)

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8521 Loch Raven Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21286
(410) 668-2300

Tribute Wall



“ *Ronnie, was a heady man, but very sweet. He was appreciative as well as demanding; I loved working with him and he would be missed.* ”

Omolola (Social Worker) - October 02, 2023 at 02:00 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ronald " Ronnie" Phillip King.* ”

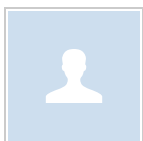


October 02, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronald " Ronnie" Phillip King.* ”

October 02, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald " Ronnie" Phillip King.* ”



October 01, 2023 at 10:51 AM

AK

“ From 1969 wedding memories of Ronnie and Jackie, his son and grandson. His energy will be replaced.



Andy King - September 29, 2023 at 06:00 PM

HD

“ 2 files added to the album Chesapeake Rrgion, Antique Automobile Club of America



Harold Diehl - September 28, 2023 at 09:30 PM