



## Ronald Alvah Batchelder

February 8, 1941 - March 1, 2025

Ronald Alvah Batchelder, an avid NASCAR fan and inventor, was born February 8, 1941 as the first born son of Gertrude and Alvah Batchelder of Frankfort, Maine. Ronald died on March 1, 2025 at his winter home in Dade City, Florida at the age of 84. Ronald embodied a true sense of camaraderie and dependability. His unwavering loyalty to friends and family was evident in every act of kindness and his constant willingness to assist those in need. Ronald's delightful stories and adventures are treasured memories for all who knew him.

Ron attended the Frankfort Grammar School in Frankfort Maine through the eighth grade and transferred to the Leroy H Smith High School in Winterport, Maine from which he graduated in 1959. He held high honors in both math and science throughout his sophomore, junior and senior years.

Ronald dedicated 20 years of honorable service to the United States Air Force. His expertise in radar installation and maintenance took him to remarkable places, including a notable assignment on Shemya Island, Alaska, site of the COBRA DANE radar station, at the end of the Aleutians only 300 miles from Russia. After his military career, he continued his passion for engineering in Michigan, helping to design the Meijer Warehouse in Delta Township where he became known affectionately as "The Birdman" after enticing a bird to land on his hand to safely remove it from a warehouse.

Ronald's zest for life extended beyond his professional achievements. An avid NASCAR fan, he found joy in the thrill of the race and was especially proud of his Jeff Gordon signed Monte Carlo. His competitive spirit shone brightly as he participated in the Senior Olympics, and he cherished the fellowship of the Potterville Michigan Masonic Lodge, following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps, both having been lifetime members in the Order of Masons in their hometown in Maine, and the Brookfield Order of the Eastern Star. Along with his other community involvement, Ron was also a former member of the Potterville Lion's Club.

Ron is survived by his four daughters, Debra ( Ron) Kindal, Nancy Laurion, Sabrina (Jim) Mathay and Teresa (Chris) Hoffman; his three brothers, Kenneth (Marge) Batchelder, Edwin (Sharon) Batchelder, and Vaughn Batchelder; 10 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, two nieces, two nephews, two stepsons Robert ( Kat) Patchett and Tom (Angie) Patchett and one step daughter Amy Patchett and their families.

Ron was predeceased by his parents; his first wife, Elnora Fay Carney (Polly) the mother of their four children; his second wife, Vicki and the mother of Ron's three step sons; his sister-in-law, Randee Batchelder; and grandson, Ronald Hoffmann.

Ron will be remembered for his sense of loyalty to friends and family, his willingness to assist and offer aid when, and if, needed, his sometimes hot but remorseful temper and his sense of camaraderie and dependability with friends, family and anyone showing him respect. He was, and will be, loved and missed

Friends are encouraged to support Ron's family at visitation Tuesday Evening March 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Pray Funeral Home. The public is also

welcome to attend Ron's funeral service Wednesday March 12, at 11:00 am at Pray Funeral Home with Pastor Sean Esterline officiating. Interment will follow in Ft. Custer National Cemetery in Augusta.

The funeral service will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Ron's tribute, then click on Photos & videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). Just prior to the beginning of the service, a link will appear on this page to watch the webcast.

If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to First Lutheran Church, Charlotte. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in Ron's Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Custer National Cemetery

15501 Dickman Road  
Augusta, MI 49012

# Previous Events

## Masonic Service

MAR 11. 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Visitation

MAR 11. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Funeral

MAR 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Burial

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MAR 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

Fort Custer National Cemetery  
15501 Dickman Road  
Augusta, MI 49012

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Ronald Alvah Batchelder*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - March 12, 2025 at 09:45 AM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Ronald Alvah Batchelder*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - March 08, 2025 at 02:18 PM

## “ REMEMBERING MY BROTHER RON

*During our very early years growing up, all four of us brothers (Ron, Ken, Ed, & Vaughn) did everything together. Whether it was playing at our home or traveling with our mom and dad going places or just taking rides and visiting with our relatives. As we grew older, Ron and I began doing more things together like singing in the choir at church and being Boy/Explorer Scouts. We both were active members of the Frankfort, Maine, First Congregational Church. Even as young teenagers, we helped maintain the church such as cleaning, painting, trimming and cutting the grass, and getting it ready for Sunday morning service by starting the heater and clearing the steps of snow in winter, etc. Among many other things, we earned money by cutting our neighbors grass and shoveling snow in the winter. Ron and I even helped build an addition on a neighbor's house. Also, Ron, me, and my younger brothers volunteered helping our senior neighbors with things they couldn't do or had difficulty doing themselves.*

*My younger brothers and I always loved and admired Ron as a mentor. Ron was very intelligent. He learned things very fast; especially, in math and science. His grades were all A's and B's, and he graduated from high school with honors and was class Salutatorian.*

*Ron joined the USAF soon after high school graduation. Around two years later after graduating from high school, I also joined the USAF. As fate would have it, this was the beginning of being physically separated from Ron. Ron eventually settled in Michigan and after serving four years in the USAF, I settled in Connecticut. A few years later I was transferred to Phoenix, AZ, by the corporation (Honeywell) I was employed with until retirement. Ron and I always kept in touch but seldom got together physically. I always thought about how wonderful it would be if my brothers and I could live near each other, but fate had other plans.*

*My brothers and I will miss Ron dearly, but we are comforted knowing that Ron is no longer suffering and is peacefully resting in heaven with God.*

*Ken Batchelder*

**Ken Batchelder** - March 11, 2025 at 08:00 PM

ET

*Such a nice tribute to Ron. He was a nice neighbor to have, always kept his yard nice and watered my outside plants while I was on vacation. I'm glad he shared his little Tori with me.*

**Eula Tarantino** - March 14, 2025 at 06:56 PM



“ 33 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - March 08, 2025 at 02:17 PM

CB

“ *Charmagne B lit a candle in memory of Ronald Alvah Batchelder*



**Charmagne B** - March 07, 2025 at 09:21 PM

KV

“ Ken & Marge, Ed & Sharon & Vaughn purchased the Distinguished Service Casket Spray for the family of Ronald Alvah Batchelder.



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**Ken & Marge, Ed & Sharon & Vaughn** - March 07, 2025 at 11:17 AM

ET

“ Sending prayers to Ron’s family. I’ve only known Ron for five years but I have enjoyed his stories and friendship. I will miss his daily visits with his dog Tori. I hope he is at peace.

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**Eula Tarantino** - March 06, 2025 at 11:40 AM

SP

“ A whole lifetime is hard to show memories with you Grandpa Ron, so I will go with the more recent years. Gawd you're missed.

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**Sarah Patchett** - March 06, 2025 at 11:01 AM

SP

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



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**Sarah Patchett** - March 06, 2025 at 10:56 AM

SP

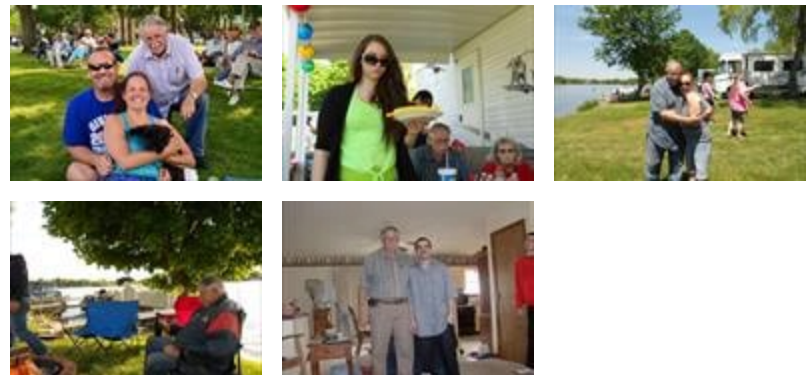
“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Sarah Patchett - March 06, 2025 at 10:56 AM

SP

“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Sarah Patchett - March 06, 2025 at 10:55 AM