



Ronald James Fenik

August 29, 1935 - January 12, 2023

Ronald James Fenik, 87, passed away at home on Thursday, January 12, 2023. Surrounded by his family, Ron succumbed to myelofibrosis, a blood disease he battled for the past three years. Having always been a positive individual, Ron expressed his gratitude for the many friends he acquired and for the opportunities and events he experienced in his life.

Ron was born on August 29, 1935 in Lorain, Ohio to Steve and Louise (Kulesz) Fenik. He was the oldest of seven boys and attended Elyria High School where he played football and baseball. After high school, Ron worked for one year and then attended Ohio University. At Ohio University, Ron played varsity football. As an offensive and defensive linemen, he was a team captain, the team's most valuable player, first team all Mid-American Conference, and is enshrined in the Ohio University Athletic Hall of Fame and the Lorain County Athletic Hall of Fame. As a student at Ohio University, Ron majored in industrial education, was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, was elected the King of J-Prom for the university, and was enlisted in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

After graduating from college, Ron went on to earn a Master's degree in education from Xavier University and as a paratrooper achieved the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army.

Ron's career as a teacher was fueled by his desire to coach. Football was his first love but he often helped with other sports especially early in his career. Coach Fenik's career included multiple stops at a variety of schools and colleges. His resume was as follows:

Hillsboro High School Assistant coach

McArthur High School Head coach

Bellefontaine High School Head coach

Xavier University Assistant coach

Muskingum College Assistant coach

Barberton High School Head coach

Jackson High School Head coach & assistant coach

Minford High School Assistant coach

Gallipolis High School Assistant coach

In 1972, Ron and Sharon moved their young family to Jackson, Ohio, where they bought the oldest house in the county and restored it. Fixing up the old home and farm became Ron's hobby which aligned with his passion for history. He moved and restored several old log cabins to the property while planting trees and gardens in an attempt to have it look original. The "farm" has been their Jackson County home for the last 50 years.

Having a deep interest in history, Ron read extensively and especially enjoyed

studying antiques. He loved to look for deals and believed that knowledge was the most important part of the hunt. Throughout his life, he bought and traded antiques and art which satisfied his personal tastes. As an avid reader, and sometimes to the chagrin of others, he often claimed to know a little too much. His thirst for knowledge was easily seen by the number of books he read and the questions he asked often demonstrated the wide range of subjects he found interesting.

Often, Ron's exterior seemed to be as a rough and tough individual. However, most people never saw his kindness in finding ways to help others while providing them with a sense of worth. He found work for those in need and always was compelled to lend a helping hand or invite someone over for a meal. Laughter was also embedded in Ron's life. Simply stated, he loved to laugh! His quick wit and unique view of life often caught others off guard as he inserted a small tidbit or different perspective into a conversation which made others smile and feel happy. Ron's softest side emerged as he took on the role of grandfather. He took great delight in seeing his grandchildren grow into young adults. He also loved to watch them participate in athletics and a wide variety of activities. As part of the community, Ron enjoyed serving as a long time member of the Jackson County Water Board. he was also a member of The Wine Club, and he attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents Steve and Louise (Kulesz) Fenik and his brother Robert (Carolyn) Fenik. Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 59 years, Sharon (Kohn) Fenik, whom he married on February 2, 1963, his children Mark (Leslie) Fenik, Stephanie (John) Koshan, Yvonne (Doug) Adams, and Ron's sibling's Gene (Kathy) Fenik, Steve (Rosie) Fenik, John (Marie) Fenik, Mike (Cheryl) Fenik, and Patrick (Chris) Fenik. Ron's grandchildren are Emma & Elise Koshan; Victor, Jacob & Simon Fenik; and Veronica Adams.

Calling hours will be on Thursday, January 19th from 2:00pm to 7:30pm with a Rosary prayed at 7:30pm. The viewing will be at the Mayhew Brown Funeral home in Jackson, Ohio.

The funeral mass will be held at 11:00am on Friday, January 20th at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Jackson, Ohio.

Instead of flowers, the family requests gifts be directed to a memorial fund for Ron Fenik through the Mayhew Brown funeral home. All proceeds will be donated to the local American Red Cross in support of blood transfusions for patients in need.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 19. 2:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Mayhew-Brown Funeral Home
135 Broadway Street
Jackson, OH 45640
(740) 286-4161

Rosary Service

JAN 19. 7:30 PM (ET)

Mayhew-Brown Funeral Home
135 Broadway Street
Jackson, OH 45640
(740) 286-4161

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
334 Court St.
Jackson, OH 45640

Burial

JAN 20 (ET)

Mt. Olivet
Jackson, OH 45640

Tribute Wall

JE

“ *This man is one of the top reasons I was able to become a successful adult! I still rememeber him showing up to practice having caught a bird. He turned that into a lesson for us.* ”

Jeremy - January 20, 2023 at 10:49 AM

DM

“ *Doug McEnroe purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Ronald James Fenik.* ”



Doug McEnroe - January 17, 2023 at 09:33 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ronald James Fenik.* ”



January 16, 2023 at 08:18 PM



“ *Jeanne Jindra lit a candle in memory of Ronald James Fenik* ”



Jeanne Jindra - January 14, 2023 at 11:57 AM



“ We shared many good times over wine and food with Ron. He was a wonderful person and friend! Prayers to the family.
Jeanne and Lou Jindra

Jeanne Jindra - January 14, 2023 at 11:57 AM



“ May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of Ronald James Fenik, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.
My thoughts
and prayers to the family of

US Army Veteran, Ronald James Fenik, is “A True American Hero”
God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum - January 14, 2023 at 09:02 AM



“ I am so sorry to read this he was a wonderful man. Love and prayers.
Claudia mcginnis

Claudia mcginnis - January 14, 2023 at 06:20 AM

SC

“ *Mr.Fenik was a wonderful teacher. One thing he always said that stuck in my mind was, "never let anyone put you at the dumb end of the tape measure".... I now find myself telling my kids that..... I'll always have fond memories of his class...My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.....*

Shamra Carlson - January 14, 2023 at 02:17 AM

JR

“ *May God bless the family as they go forward.*

Jeffrey T Reynolds - January 13, 2023 at 08:17 PM

JU

We loved Ron and knew him for many years at Church. May he coach the angels and be happy in heaven - Julie Wolford Watkins

Julie - January 13, 2023 at 11:43 PM

JV

I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Ron, I met Ron and Sharon 25 years ago with my friend Quack. Ron was a very knowledgeable man whom had a passion for sculptures and civil war memorabilia. Ron was a very giving person that took great satisfaction in helping others in which he never wanted recognition. I will always have fond memories of staying in the building and visiting with Ron. Trips to Jackson will not be the same without seeing him. Great man! My sympathy to Sharon and the family.

Jim V

Jim V - January 16, 2023 at 01:07 PM