



## Ronald Frederick Smith

February 27, 1941 - May 8, 2025

Ronald "Ron" Frederick Smith, 84, of Sun City and formerly Dallas, Texas, passed away peacefully on May 8, 2025 as the sun rose. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, on February 27, 1941, a son of the late Bernard and Helen Smith, and younger brother to Howard.

Ron lived a full and colorful life that saw him succeed in countless endeavors--far too many to name all of them here. From building and managing a hotel, working on Wall Street, to owning a movie theater whose claim to fame was being one of the first instances of offering a live, pay-per-view event (the Rumble in the Jungle fight in 1974 between George Foreman and Muhammed Ali), to owning a race horse (this one did not end so well for the horse), to moving to Texas in 1978 to open a Chinese restaurant in Dallas (as New York Jews are wont to do), to breeding and showing his beloved Bijons, and finally, to what he was most well-known for professionally, being a successful, award-winning, luxury custom home builder throughout the DFW area. Ron's career spanned decades and industries.

Those who had the pleasure of knowing Ron knew him as a charismatic storyteller, always ready to spin an engaging yarn that would leave a smile on your face. Did he really hang out with Andy Warhol at the Factory back in 1970s? No one truly knows, but it is now forever part of his lore and a hilarious illustration of a life that saw him go to unexpected places and do

unexpected things.

A loving husband, father and grandfather, Papa Ron is survived by his loving wife, Abby, and his children of a previous marriage, Susan and Kraig. His memory lives on through his step-sons, Matt and Corey, and his grandchildren, Samuel, August, Austin, Audrey, Dylan, Isabella, and Noah.

Donation's can be made in Ron's name to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation <https://www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org/>.

A graveside service will take place on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 10:30 am at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery (2800 Hancock Drive Austin, TX 78731), followed by lunch at Corey and Lorena Egan's home at 10401 Treasure Island Drive Austin, Texas 78730.

In addition, a Livestream of the funeral service will be shown on the Austin Natural Funerals' Facebook page shortly before 10:30 am at <https://www.facebook.com/AustinNaturalFunerals>.

# Cemetery Details

## Austin Memorial Park

2800 Hancock Dr.  
Austin, TX 78731

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAY 12. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Austin Memorial Park  
2800 Hancock Dr.  
Austin, TX 78731

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Service Recording



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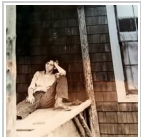
**Austin Natural Funerals** - May 14, 2025 at 04:04 PM

JH

“ The most beautiful homes I have ever been in to this day were built by Ron and decorated by Abby. Some of the best parties to this day were held in their home with tons of interesting people. I always felt welcome, loved and humor was always in the room. I am glad I got to spend a few years with Ron and Abby and am sorry to hear of Ron's passing. Rest in Peace Ron knowing you made a lot of people happy in this world. --Julie Hogg Dallas, TX

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**Julie Hogg** - May 11, 2025 at 07:02 PM



“ My dearest Uncle Ronnie, I will miss you always. You have been a constant in my life always; it will be hard to think that you will not be there for a video call over morning coffee anymore. You looked after us as if we were your own. Championing all of us in whatever it was that we strived for. Encouraging me to be the best version of me that I could be. Always proud to be my Uncle. I remember when you would go out to dinner in Dallas the Chef would call and say your “Dad” was here for dinner tonight. I would say that is not my Dad; it's my uncle. Everyone said we looked so much like each other. You always made me feel loved and cherished. And I just want to say I loved you very much and always will

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**Lisa King** - May 11, 2025 at 12:42 PM

LB

“ We met Ron and Abby 25 years ago on our first trip to Israel. Over the years we traveled together, shared homes and created countless memories. Ron was an extraordinary friend. Loving, loyal and always ready to lend a hand.  
He lived with warmth and strength and we were always captivated by his life stories.  
He was a man unafraid of any job, and challenge.  
We love you Ron. We will miss you deeply and we will never forget you.  
Rest in Peace, our Dear Friend.

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Lois Bidner - May 10, 2025 at 07:17 PM

AS

Thank you for your heartfelt message...we cherish our memories we shared together.

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Abby Smith - May 10, 2025 at 09:25 PM

JC

Oh Abby, Shelley and I are so sorry to hear this. We were out of town on Thursday for the graduation of our granddaughter Olivia from Vanderbilt. Shelley and I are devastated. We knew he was very ill, of course, but he was such a trooper. Ron was so good to me when I was in law school at Columbia, and of course Aunt Helene was my favorite aunt, and I think I was probably her favorite nephew. Ron introduced me to Coney Island, where I had my first clams on the half shell. And I remember that I would pick up Aunt Helene from her apartment on Ocean Parkway (1510 if my memory serves me) and we would all go to swim at the Howard Johnson's motel off Exit 5 of the NJ Turnpike. Of course, Ron managed the motel which Howard Smith and Jack Chartoff owned. Also, Ron never failed to call me on my birthday, and I always called him too. Of course, we were at your and Ron's wedding in Dallas in 1999 as I recall. Shelley just informed me that the funeral service will be live-streamed tomorrow (Monday). Of course, we will be watching. Again, please accept our heart-felt condolences. Love,  
Shelley and Joe

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Joe Chartoff - May 11, 2025 at 01:51 PM