



Ronald Joseph (Suizdak) Schultz

December 20, 1938 - February 6, 2023

On February 6, 2023 the world became a sadder place with the passing of Ronald J. Schultz. He was born in Yonkers, New York on December 20, 1938 to first-generation Americans Joseph George Suizdak and Marie Havrilko Suizdak. Joseph worked as a skilled welder during World War II and Marie was a homemaker. They would later adopt the Americanized surname of Schultz and move their family to Miami and then once again to Clearwater Beach, where Joseph opened the Beach 5&10.

Growing up on Clearwater Beach, Ronald caught the very first shark from Pier 60 as well as an award-winning tarpon that was displayed in the pier's bait shop for several decades. He loved to learn and attended many educational institutions including Clearwater High School, Jesuit High School, Shimer College, and the University of South Florida. While attending Shimer College he became known for his pranks, the greatest of which required a colony of bats, tennis racquets, a borrowed goat, and an airtight alibi.

Later, Ronald went on to become a professor teaching political science at Santa Fe Junior College, Syracuse University, the University of South Florida and St. Petersburg College. "RJ" or "Ron", as he was affectionately known, was a skilled raconteur. He loved telling the story of proposing to Diann, his 'Trophy Wife' of 56 years, while kissing her foot the moment he met her. (It did take her longer to say yes.)

He could fix anything around the house, and always had at least two projects going. On Halloween, he constructed glorious costumes for his two daughters, culminating in Tera's working traffic light outfit of 1977. Every Easter he would hide their baskets in increasingly complex places, including suspending Kama's 10 feet down a dumbwaiter turned air duct.

RJ loved to travel with his wife and family, taking many trips to Disney with his grandchildren. Over the decades he visited many US National Parks, including a wolf-watching trip in Yellowstone & the Grand Tetons with Diann, Tera, and her husband, Alex. Their dear friends, Walt and Carol Wynn, went on epic adventures around the world with Ron and Diann. While the Galapagos Islands, Maccu Picchu, and Vienna are joyfully remembered by all, the accidental bus trip to Detroit is best forgotten. They were most frequently seen with their cherished friends of almost 50 years, Larry and Mariyln Daly, in section 38 at Doak Campbell Stadium. Ron always had extra binoculars and an AM radio tuned to Deckerhoff.

Professionally, Ron was a fighter. He started doing research at the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office while working on the dissertation for his doctorate and decided he could do a better job. He ran for his first public office in 1976 as a Democrat and won. He was appointed by Ruben Askew (the Democratic governor of Florida) to finish out his predecessor's term of office and was re-elected for three more terms. As the Pinellas County Property Appraiser, he modernized the office and spent time in court forcing Florida Power and other corporations to pay their fair share.

He took those skills to Citrus County, where Gov. Bob Martinez (the Republican governor of Florida) appointed him to finish his predecessor's term and was elected three more times before retiring. Retirement did not suit Ron; he was elected to the Florida House as the Representative for District 43

where he served for three years.

Ron is survived by his beloved wife, Diann Griffin Schultz; his two daughters Kama Diann Schultz Monroe and Tera Kimberly Griffin; five grandchildren Kellen Griffin-Jay, Aidan Joseph Monroe, Rhiannon Griffin, Galen Alexander Monroe, and Tegan Alana Monroe as well as a host of extended family members, professional associates, and friends who will remember him fondly.

Ron will be privately interred at Roselawn Cemetery. An event in his honor is being planned at Dorothy B. Owen Park of Tallahassee on February 15, 2023 from 5-7pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be sent to the National Parks Foundation at <https://www.nationalparks.org>.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

815 West Piedmont Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

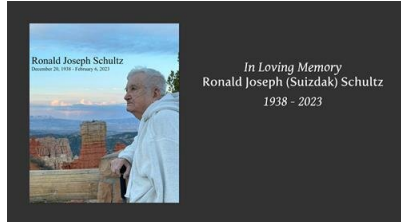
FEB **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dorothy B. Oven Park
3205 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ronald Joseph (Suizdak) Schultz*

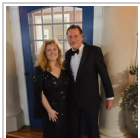


Bevis Funeral Home - October 10, 2023 at 01:15 PM



“ *Ron was always so gracious to open their home to the family for holiday gatherings. He always had a smile and an intriguing story to share. The rides on the ponton boat were some of my favorite family memories. My deepest condolences as we continue to send our love, thoughts and prayers to Diann, Tera, Kama and your family.*

Rob Haver - February 01, 2024 at 04:45 PM



“ *We are very sad to hear about Ron. He will be missed, we enjoyed all the fun times collecting fish for the salt water aquarium. We enjoyed seeing pictures and hearing stories from Ron and Diann's travels especially the Gallopolis Islands. He was always quick with a joke or funny story. My Uncle Ron and my father Ed were so close in age that they were like brothers. They shared many adventures together. We loved to visit with Ron and Diann at the house on the Homosassa river and take out the pontoon boat to see the eagles and manatees. Sending love and prayers to Diann, Kama, Tera, and the rest of the family*

Rob Haver - February 01, 2024 at 04:35 PM

NC

“ We have always enjoyed the Haver reunions and especially seeing Ron and Diann and family. A highlight would be Ron taking us out on his pontoon to go see manatees. My goodness, manatees, Maya’s beloved and favorite animal growing up! You have no idea how much she loved manatees! Through the years, we all came to look forward to this special treat. Ron’s gracious and well equipped boat made it so easy for young and old to jump in and look for those large, gray slow-moving sweeties. Whether it was goggles or safety vests, drinking water, or sunscreen, he had it onboard. Us suburbanites Northeasterners would plunk into those beautiful warm clear waters of Homossassa Springs to our fascination and giggles! “There’s one!” And we’d wriggle over the waters to catch up with and be next to a manatee <3 We would marvel over its size and shape, how gentle it was, how cute. Our hearts were aquiver with appreciation.

Thank you, Ron. You are so right here with us in our hearts, with love and appreciation.

XO, Nels, Eva, and Maya

Nels and Eva Christianson - November 25, 2023 at 07:26 AM

JV

“ Our Deepest Sympathy to Diann and the Family

It was a sad day in Citrus County when we heard the news of Ron's passing.

Ron was special kind of guy and made a difference in the lives of many.

Ron loved life, Diann and his family was his first priority and never missed an opportunity to mention them with so much pride when speaking. He always had a great story to tell! Ron enjoyed traveling with friends and family, boating, diving and watching or attending a football games.

Ron loved a good challenge or fight as Community Leader, Property Appraiser or State Representative. Ron loved representing his constituents; he was always energized and was a creative thinker.

Ron was a loyal friend, mentor, and adviser; he supported and was available to help me and my family always. We spent many days and nights together working on my campaign or government issues effecting the county or state.

When I was concerned about an issue or lawsuit he said "Joyce we got this"

It was a sad time when Diann and Ron decided to move and knew I would miss them dearly.

We had a lot of fun and laughs over the years and will always cherish the memories

Sal, Joyce, Michele Valentino and Family

Joyce Valentino - February 13, 2023 at 03:26 PM

VP

“ Ron was a good man and dedicated to public service. I am thankful to have known him (and Diann) during his tenure as Property Appraiser in Citrus County.
Vicki Phillips

Vicki Phillips - February 08, 2023 at 09:47 PM

DF

“ I always said Ron was my Lifesaver because he gave me a chance when my career at the time was effecting alot of things in my life. We became mot only boss and employee, but family. I will miss him so much. May you RIP Ron.
Dawn

Dawn Faherty - February 08, 2023 at 06:56 PM