



Ronald Dale Gregg

May 1, 1938 - March 16, 2019

Ronald Dale Gregg of Ypsilanti Township died in his sleep on March 16, 2019 due to complications following major surgery. He was 80.

Ron was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Toledo. He earned a B.A. from the University of Michigan, where he served as student body president, and a J.D. from the Harvard Law School. Out of law school, he and his first wife Martha moved to the Detroit area, where he worked for the firm Clark, Klein, Winter. In 1967, they moved to Ann Arbor where he served successively as general counsel for Community Systems Foundation, assistant attorney general for the state of Michigan, and partner in the firms Hooper, Hathaway, Fischera and Harris, Lax, Gregg & Guenzel. While in the Attorney General's office, he worked to prosecute the Michigan KKK for tax evasion and to support fluoridation for Detroit's water supply, which earned him recognition from the American Dental Association. Ever restless, he eventually became an early tech entrepreneur, helping to build the firms Huron Leasing, DV Technologies, NETI Technologies, and Patient Focus Systems.

Ron enjoyed a rich and joyful family life with his wife Mary, whom he married in 1982 and who was his partner in home, business, parenting, and life. Together, they shared many adventures, traveling the world, celebrating life, and creating a loving and welcoming home for all their family and friends. He took great pride in his children David, Sara, & Kathryn, rejoicing in their many pursuits, walking them through the ups and downs of growing into adulthood, welcoming their beloved ones into the family, and lovingly teaching them how to garden, play, paddle, read, and cook, as well as simply how to think and to live well. He delighted in his grandsons Colin, Alex, & Scott, whom he and Mary would host for sleepovers and take on outings; they always brought the largest smile to his face. As one of his grandsons said, "if you didn't know what something was, you could ask Grandpa and he could tell you." His love of others spread to his many deep friendships, as well. He loved opportunities to entertain, especially if he could prepare the meal, and he made sure every holiday was a feast: All who came enjoyed great food and better fellowship. A great-hearted man of humor and intensity, he will long be missed by the many who loved him, even as we continue to carry him with us in spirit, remembering the many ways he touched us and made us better.

Ron's commitment to his faith was lifelong and deep, and he expressed it most intensely in his work as an activist for economic justice and racial reconciliation. He co-founded and was executive director of Washtenaw Affordable Housing, served as board chair of the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, and volunteered for many initiatives such as, most recently, the Poor People's Campaign and the Independent Redistricting Commission. He was an early member of Glacier Way United Methodist Church and has for the past four decades been a pillar of the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor. His membership in the Ecumenical Institute in the 1970s was deeply formative to his life. He was an avid gardener, both vegetables and flowers, and planted trees everywhere he lived; he was particularly proud of his copper beech at the home on Robin Rd. He loved to travel, visiting Europe, the Middle East, Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and Central America, as well as most of America's national sights. An active athlete in earlier years, he spent many hours on the basketball and tennis courts, winning more than he lost and always having a great time. He was a lifelong camper and a proud Eagle Scout and Scoutmaster; he treasured the trips of his youth to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM.

Ron is survived by his wife Mary Gregg, daughters Sara (Jim) Barnes & Kathryn Gregg, son David Gregg, grandsons Colin, Alex, & Scott Barnes, ex-wife Martha Ball, mother-in-law Anna Kirstein, and several siblings-in-law, cousins, nieces, and nephews. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, to the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, or to the just cause you most deeply believe in.

Events

APR **Visitation** 05:30PM - 08:00PM

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First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
517 East Washington Street, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48104

APR **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

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Comments



“ The Cunningham family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Ronald Dale Gregg.



The Cunningham family - April 04 at 08:16 AM



“ From Tammy, Bob Canell & Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ronald Dale Gregg.



From Tammy, Bob Canell & Family - April 02 at 01:59 PM