



## Ronald W. "Ron" O'Keefe

April 6, 1934 - May 3, 2018

Ronald W. O'Keefe, 84, of Naples, FL passed away on May 3rd at his residence in Naples.

Ron is survived by his five children, Robert O'Keefe and his wife Kathleen of Columbus, OH; Kevin O'Keefe and his wife Debbie of Mason, OH; Patrick O'Keefe and his wife Faye of Ramona, CA; Kathleen O'Keefe of Mukwonago, WI; and Michael O'Keefe and his wife Colleen of Sammamish, WA; and his thirteen grandchildren – Shannon, Kelly, Jesse, Jenni, Eva, William, Daniel and his wife Ashlee Hurff, Joshua, Sarah, Jacob, Caroline, Matthew, and Rebecca. Ron's wife of 54 years Mary O'Keefe, passed away on August 18, 2011.

Ron was born on April 6, 1934 in Wausau, WI and grew up in De Pere, WI. He is a graduate of St. Norbert College in De Pere, Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering, and Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. where he was awarded a Juris Doctor degree. Ron served two years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Belvoir, Virginia and Fort Campbell, Kentucky as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander. Ron spent his career of 39 years with General Electric Company in Legal Counsel positions with several GE businesses. From 1979 through 1996 when he retired, he served as General Counsel for GE's Medical Systems business in Milwaukee, WI.

Ron was an avid tennis player at Quail Creek Country Club in Naples. He also enjoyed hiking, especially with his children and grandchildren. He hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon four times – twice from the South Rim and twice from the North Rim. He also hiked to the top of Mt. Fuji in Japan. At family reunions in Colorado over the years, he summited six of Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks with family members including Mt. Sherman when he was age 80.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11am on Friday, June 1st at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Naples. Following the Mass, a reception and lunch for friends and family will be held at Quail Creek Country Club.

Ron's family extends special thanks to the kind and loving caregivers of SeniorCare Family Services, Assisting Hands, Avow Palliative Care and Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Ron's name to Avow Hospice of Naples.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Agnes Church Columbarium

7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd.  
Naples, FL 34120

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Agnes Catholic Church  
7775 Vanderbilt Beach Rd.  
Naples, FL 34120

# Tribute Wall



“ Ronald W. "Ron" O'Keefe

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October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ I worked with Ron at GE Medical and became friends as he lived in the next street in Brookfield, WI. Sadly because GE would not allow any contact between colleagues working for another Medical company we lost contact. He and Mary were very special and I was very sad to discover whilst looking up old friends that they had both passed. They were both very special and kind people.  
Anthony Layzell, Sarasota, FL.

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**Anthony W Layzell** - April 21, 2023 at 01:06 PM

FT

“ I did not know that Ron, my friend at QC, passed way last May. We had not been in touch since Mary passed away and also we moved away from QC in 2016.

*The reading of his obituary flooded my memories of our wonderful times spent with him and Mary on and off the golf course and tennis court. I learned many things from Ron in his skillful ways of navigating retirement from his meticulous way in building his house at QC and his approach to taking care of all the necessary essentials in life.*

*To me his was the quintessential and admirable boy from mid-west who became a successful and all-around family man in life. He will be very much missed.*

*Indeed as the Irish verse tribute cited here, I am only half-step behind. you, Ron.*

*Our deepest sympathy to Ron and Mary's children and their families.*

*Frank and Cammie*

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**Frank Tung** - March 23, 2019 at 11:33 AM

TS

“ My wife Darlene and I have had the privilege of knowing the Ron and Mary O'Keefe family since 1981 when their son Kevin and I first met as summer Co-op employees at GE Medical Systems in Milwaukee. Ron was always very welcoming, and had us over for family holiday and birthday celebrations over those early years. Later on, Ron and Mary would invite us to attend family snow skiing vacations out west. Ron always had a strong desire to be outdoors, seeing the beauty of nature first hand, and challenging himself and his family to make the most of opportunities to explore (see first pic below).

We currently live in the South Sarasota area, and were able to attend the Memorial Service for Ron at St. Agnes Church in Naples on June 1st. The service was beautifully done, and family members took turns providing the readings, prayers, presentation of gifts, and the Eulogy. At the end of the service, Ron was entombed with Mary by Kevin, and the US Army color guard played taps and presented the flag to the family in honor of Ron's military service (see second pic below).

After the service, friends and family gathered at the Quail Creek Country club for a Memorial Lunch. We had an opportunity to meet many other friends, and meet new family members and reacquaint with ones we knew which was a great pleasure. Ron would have been proud of the gathering to celebrate his life (see third photo).

*I closing, I would like to share a few Irish verses in Memory of Ron:*

*Don't remember me with sadness,  
Don't remember me with tears,  
But remember all the laughter,  
We've shared throughout the years.*

*Know that now I am contented  
That my life it was worthwhile,  
Knowing as I passed along the way*

*I have made so many smile.*

*When you are walking down the street  
And you've had me on your mind,  
Know I'm walking in your footsteps  
Only half a step behind.*

*So please don't be unhappy  
Just because I'm out of sight,  
Remember that I'm with you  
Each morning, noon and night.*

*Peace to you Ron, and Eternal Happiness to you and Mary.  
Tom and Darlene Sierocuk*



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**Tom Sierocuk** - June 03, 2018 at 11:51 AM

KO

*Thank you. Dad would love your Irish poem.  
Kevin*

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**Kevin O'Keefe** - June 03, 2018 at 02:12 PM

PS

“ Ron was a tennis friend of mine. My wife, Kathy, and I shared several lunches and dinners with him and will miss the consummate, witty gentleman greatly.

*Our condolences to his family.*

*Paul Siddle  
Quail Creek Country Club*

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**Paul Siddle** - June 01, 2018 at 04:15 PM

KO

*Thank you Paul.*

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**Kevin O'Keefe** - June 03, 2018 at 02:13 PM

DO

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Debbie O'Keefe** - May 21, 2018 at 02:44 PM

WL

“ *I wish I was able to spend more time with Ron and talk. My impression of Ron was that he was kind, generous, and very smart. He will be missed. I was happy to send him copies of old photos and information on his mom's side of our family. Cousin, Wayne Leitermann.*

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**Wayne Leitermann** - May 15, 2018 at 09:46 AM

KO

*Thank you Wayne.*

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**Kevin O'Keefe** - June 03, 2018 at 02:13 PM

FF

“ *My favorite was last fall when Ron was able to come to Marathon, WI. We had such a good time! Remembering the times together with the O'Keefes and the Leitermann's. Our families played a lot of Shepshead. I always remember falling asleep to sounds of laughter, shuffling and of course the smells of the midnight lunches! Such good times. I'll never forget any of it. We'll miss you Ron!*

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**Fran (Stieber) Flanders** - May 12, 2018 at 05:27 PM

KO

*Thank you Fran.*

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**Kevin O'Keefe** - June 03, 2018 at 02:14 PM