

## **Ronald Scheele – MS 1969 Pharmaceutical Sciences**

Age 80 – Houston, TX

It is with deep love and respect that we announce the passing of Ronald ("Ron") Scheele who went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at the age of 80. Ron passed away peacefully at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas. Ron was born the only child of Victor and Hilda Scheele on January 29, 1944, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Ron had a passion for education and science, which is evidenced by his life's work and contributions to the field of medical physics.

From an early age Ron demonstrated his love of math and science, from serving as the secretary of the Science Club and winning first place in the Science Fair at South High School in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, to placing as a top quarter finalist in the state mathematics competition. Ron's other activities in high school were competitive tennis where he earned a letter two years in a row and competed in the state doubles tournament. Outside of high school he was active in church and was in an accordion band. Ron earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1966 from Lakeland College (currently Lakeland University) in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He was awarded a renewable tuition scholarship to attend Lakeland College that was foundational to his future education and became an important remembrance that he wanted to honor later in life.

After graduating Lakeland, Ron attended North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo, North Dakota. It was in Fargo where Ron met his first wife Constance ("Connie") Wiesner; the two of them were married in Superior, Wisconsin in 1968 and went on to spend the next 28 years together. Ron received his master's degree in 1969 from NDSU in radiation health physics with a thesis of "The Radiolysis of d-Amphetamine". Ron and Connie moved to Charlottesville, Virginia in 1969 where Ron served initially as an Instructor of Radiology (Physics) and then as an Assistant Professor of Radiology for the University of Virginia's School of Medicine Radiology Department.

In 1975 Ron and family relocated to Green Bay, Wisconsin to be closer to family. The radiation department at St. Vincent Hospital had received their first linear accelerator, and they hired Ron to get it operational and working successfully. Over the course of his 11 years in Green Bay, Ron served various roles as a Radiation Physicist at St. Vincent Hospital, ultimately managing the overall Division of Radiology Therapy. In addition to his roles at St. Vincent, Ron also earned his master's degree in health services administration from the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. Ron also taught night classes and consulted for numerous hospitals across the state of Wisconsin and upper peninsula of Michigan.

In 1986 Ron and his family moved to Houston, Texas, just in time for their first hurricane experience (hurricane Bonnie). It was here that Ron began his career with the Memorial Healthcare System, serving various key roles and impacting numerous lives through science until the time of his death. Ron began his tenure with Memorial Herman at Memorial City Medical Center as their Administrative Director/Physicist, Radiation Safety Officer. He served a similar role with Memorial Southwest and Memorial Northwest Hospitals before becoming the System Senior Medical Physicist and System Radiation Safety Officer for Memorial Healthcare System.

On St. Patrick's Day in 1999, Ron married his second wife, Julie Murray and the two shared 16 years of marriage before her death in 2015.

Throughout the course of Ron's life, he displayed a steadfast commitment to science and his trade as a nuclear physicist. Ron published numerous scientific articles and was the co-author of the book "Elements of Radiation Protection" that is still used as a college textbook today. Ron was instrumental in the establishment of the professional license issued by the state of Texas for medical physics as he assisted in writing the test questions the state used to issue this license to qualified professionals. Ron was among the first group of licenses issued by the Texas Board of Licensure for Professional Medical Physicists and is licensed in all four specialty areas: Diagnostic Radiological Physics, Therapeutic Radiological Physics, Medical Nuclear Physics, and Medical Health Physics.

Outside of work, Ron loved baseball and was a big supporter of the Houston Astros. You could also count on Ron for a friendly bet for the March Madness basketball playoffs. In his college days, Ron competed in tennis and played a great deal of bridge; he used to joke with others that he was "majoring in bridge" because of the amount of time he spent playing the card game.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Victor and Hilda Scheele, and his wife of 16 years, Julie Murray. Ron leaves behind his ex-wife Connie Scheele, who he shared two children with during their 28-year marriage, his son, Adam Scheele and daughter-in-law Ashley Scheele, his daughter Justine Baxa and son-in-law Ken Baxa and their son Gregory Baxa and daughter Kirsten Baxa. He also leaves stepchildren Mark Weiler, Peter Weiler, Karen Bedford, and Heidi Stowe and their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Ron did not desire a funeral service but instead wanted family and friends to gather together to drink a toast to Ron and celebrate his life together. The family will host a gathering to celebrate Ron's life; details will be forthcoming.

Over the course of his life, Ron was a son, a husband, a father, a coach, a friend, a neighbor, a mentor and a steadfast advocate for education. It is this passion for education that led to Ron establishing a memorial scholarship in his name at Lakeland University. In lieu of flowers, Ron would like donations to support his scholarship program at Lakeland University, "The Ronald Scheele Memorial Scholarship for Science", to support future scientists in enhancing their education to change lives and improve medical care for our future generations.