



Photo added by Pat McArron



Added by Pat McArron

## Ronald G Drum

<b>BIRTH</b>	1 Mar 1932 La Salle, LaSalle County, Illinois, USA
<b>DEATH</b>	23 Apr 2010 (aged 78) Kihei, Maui County, Hawaii, USA
<b>BURIAL</b>	Cremated, Ashes given to family or friend
<b>MEMORIAL ID</b>	53227122

In Memory of Ronald G. Drum  
Obituary for Ronald Drum

Ronald G. Drum, 76 of Kihei, Maui, Hawaii passed away on March 23, 2010 in Kihei. He was born in LaSalle, Illinois on 3/1/32 and was a retired Typesetter for the State of California.

He is survived by his Caregier/Niece, Robin Monik; Sisters, Elizabeth J. Rocknowski, & Lois Fletcher.

Visitation: OVER URN 8:30am Saturday (5/8/10) at  
St. Theresa Catholic Church  
Services: Mass at 9:00am

=====  
He moved back to the mainland in 2009 because of ill health and then returned to Maui, because he wanted to die there. Ron was a follower of St. Francis of Assisi.  
=====

Ballard Family Mortuary

=====  
-Ron is Maui and Maui was in Ron-

Ron had a saying, "One Thing at a Time Will Be Just Fine" but if you knew Ron you would know that the most important thing to him was his correspondence with friends and family, writing several hand-written letters and e-mails in a day. In other words he didn't practice what he preached, because staying in touch with everyone was so important to him. He would sit at his computer for hours at end, making sure that he would read all his letters and e-mails that he received. I even thought he would read all his spam mail too. Putting together the monthly calendar for the Secular Franciscans was very important and a passion for him, since he was a brother himself. Putting it all together on his little Imac computer in his bedroom took him hours, if not days. Getting them out on time was critical to him rushing down to the post office to make sure they were stamped by a certain time. He also attended the dinners each December in Lahaina. There were several times when I would stay at "Ron's Hotel" that I would leave early in the morning to go off and photograph some surfing contest in Maui, return later after dark and he would still be sitting there as a cool Hawaiian breeze would gently trickle into his bedroom. There were times I pretty much had to drag him away from his computer just to eat, sometimes picking up an extra sandwich on my way home or cooking something in his kitchen. As we would eat we would watch football. He loved football and especially San Francisco 49'ers, then later on in his life any team, I guess his passion for the game had developed. He was also a big fan of Smallville TV series, I got him hooked on that, about the younger days of Superman. I still watch it to this day and think of Ron every time it airs.

I first met Ron back in 1995 when I found out that I had a cousin that lived in Maui, lucky me! We connected right away. Ron was the most caring, generous person I know, right in step with my Mom. He always was there to help a stranger out, someone less fortunate than him and offer up a comfortable place to sleep for the night, even at times giving them a buck or two for a meal. That is how "Ron's Hotel" got its name. He would also rent out his second bedroom to me and other friends free of charge, never asking for anything nor expecting anything in return. Although he did get a lot of good meals in return. He providing clean sheets, a firm pillow and a slight view of the ocean, and oh yea, your own private bathroom. He also insisted to you, after using the shower to make sure you would squeegee down the walls, free of water. The squeegee was provided, free of charge, manual labor not included.

This stuck with me as I started doing it to my walls when I got home, Thanks Ron.

Ron loved the beach, even on his license for his car it was beachcomber, a shorter version though. There would be several times, probably a few less than a hundred we would head down to the beach for sunset, a thing you must do if you are in Maui. Throw together a couple of beach chairs and a few cold drinks, mine was Coke his was O'Douls beer "Hey Mark, there is a sale on "O'Douls beer at Foodland can you pick me up some," "Sure Ron" We would talk for hours on the beach, being there far after the sun's afterglow had vanished. Sometimes we would even spot the "Green Flash" which is the sun's special effect when it sinks into the ocean. "Hey, Ron did you see the green flash" "Sure did". He would always have his backpack with him with a few hidden surprises in it and he wore a faded of most of its color, tattered NYFD baseball hat that I send him many years ago. Inside his backpack were bread crumbs and Pringles, he loved them, wanted to make friends with Ron, just buy him some Pringles. I thought, cool he brought snacks, but no, unless you were a bird on the beach you would starve. He loved to feed the birds, even today I bet those birds wonder where their meal ticket had gone to. Ron was the beach caretaker of Kamaole 1, (never got paid, just did it) which was short walk from his place, any trash he would pick up, any left over beach chairs or umbrellas he would bring home and store in his closet for his guests. It was always fun to see year after year what new surprises you would see when you opened that door. I always pictured that one of these years I would open the door and like in the movies all that stuff would explode out of there and buried me.

Ron shared his place with me for over thirteen years when I would come to visit. He would always tell me to get a job over there at the Maui News, tried a couple of time but at the time they were not hiring. He knew how much I loved Maui also, it gets in your blood. In fact he gave me a picture book on Maui for Christmas so I would have memories of the island. Writing in it "Merry Christmas Mark, Hope this book bring you many fond memories of Maui." He had great penmanship and always had the right heartfelt words to say. Over the years I have received tons of letters and e-mails from Ron and to this day I can account for everyone of them, I never would or could throw them out. He knew that I loved the island also and would send me the Maui News when it had a cool story about the waves, surfing or any other interesting titbit. I spent many Xmas over there with Ron and the one thing he loved was to decorate his place. He had tons of Christmas lights stored under his bed and a small tree which we set up in his living room. I put most of the lights around his porch and up and down the stairs, very bright, surprise the airport didn't call to complain it was that bright. For Christmas we would head to the beach for a

Christmas dinner or head to the Hard Rock in Lahaina. It was especially great one year when the whole gang was there, me, Ron, Rick Piva, Alex Farkas, Erica. Nothing like good friends.

There were so many important things that mattered to Ron. His plants on his Lanai, was one thing, which he watered religiously, his favorite was Bougainvillea which surrounded him with bright purple flowers as he said his morning prayers with a steaming hot cup of coffee close at hand, before starting his day. He also loved Plumeria and Hibiscus which grew in abundance around his place. In 2009 I went back to Ron's old place just to see what changes had been made. To my disappointment the new owner had totally stripped the Lanai of those plants. Never did tell Ron, didn't want to break his heart knowing that I went back and saw what it took him years to nurture and love was all gone. Did pick up some of his mail and some other items that were left there that the new owner didn't want. When I presented the items to him he really didn't say much other than, "I used to have a picture just like that"... I smiled! One funny story about those plants it would draw Geckos, one of which I ended in me chasing it down late one night in Ron's second bathroom, Ron must have thought I was nuts as I was making so much noise trying to capture the little guy. Must have thought I ate too much spicy food.

Religion was also a huge part of Ron's daily activities, as he loved St. Theresa Church in Maui, serving mass there and attending to wedding sometimes. He also worked there for extra money, ironing the priest's clothes a couple of days a week. He loved that church more than anything and sometimes expressed his thoughts when a new priest was serving there started changing things around much to the disapproval of Ron. After he moved back from Illinois and couldn't drive anymore he always found a way to get to church, this time it was by bus with his oxygen bottle up over his shoulder. I would pick him up if I didn't have a surfing contest to shoot, showing up a little late sometimes where I once found him sitting on a bench outside the church talking to a little old lady. He never had any trouble making friends or starting a conversation with a total stranger. A good rare quality to be sure.

I went visit him when he moved back to Illinois, took some funny pictures of him standing in the cornfields, a little guy against eight feet high corn stalks, talk about out of place, or in Ron's case a fish out of water, mainly the ocean. From the beaches of Maui to the cornfields of Illinois, Ron made the best of any hand that he was dealt. I thought he was the bravest of the brave, dealing with health problems and then moving back to Maui and at his young age completely starting over from scratch. As mentioned before, my 2009 vacation back to Maui to visit him I met up with my very good friend and

Rons' Alex Farkas from Vienna, Austria. Teaming up, we were there to help Ron get his life back together and have a little fun when we weren't with Ron. Alex helped him purchase his new computer, his lifeline, and a beautiful desk which when I got over there we put together for him one beautiful Maui morning, which took a couple of hours in Maui time, mainland time it would have taken one. Everyone knows that being on Maui, time moves at a slower pace. He had to go to church that morning, so I drove him down to St. Theresa's and by the time he got back we had totally re-arranged his place, I think he like it.

Just had my 50th birthday the other day, and for fifteen of those years I have known Ron, feeling both damm lucky and honored to call him my friend. I have many special pictures and video of Ron from this latest trip and through the years which I will share to all his friends and family, remembering him as one hell of a guy that will be truly missed but stay forever in our hearts.

Ron was one of my closest friends, not just as my cousin, but my buddy. The other night, Friday, the day that they found him, I called his place in Maui, I guess to hear his voice one last time. The answering machine which I bought for him as a Christmas present kicked in and a voice that I will never hear again started speaking, "Aloha, This is Ron"

Mark Welsh-

---

**Maintained by:** Pat McArron

**Originally Created by:** Nan Reuel

Added: Jun 4, 2010

Find a Grave Memorial ID: 53227122

*Find a Grave*, database and images ([https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/53227122/ronald\\_g-drum](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/53227122/ronald_g-drum): accessed February 7, 2024), memorial page for Ronald G Drum (-), Find a Grave Memorial ID 53227122; Cremated, Ashes given to family or friend; Maintained by Pat McArron (contributor 47348594).