



Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin

December 13, 1949 - April 5, 2025

Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin, age 75, of Albia, IA, passed away on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at the Monroe County Hospital in Albia.

Ronnie was born on December 13, 1949, in Albia, IA, to Raymond and Marie (Kosman) Griffin. He grew up attending school and graduated from the Albia High School with the class of 1968. On December 21, 1970, he was united in marriage to Janet Bettis and to this union, two children, Kim and Nick, were born. Ronnie and Janet shared 54 years of marriage prior to his passing.

Ronnie served his country in the United States Army. He completed basic training at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington. Upon that completion, he was ordered to report for duty at Aviation School at Fort Rucker in Alabama and join the 116th Assault Helicopter Company. There he completed the United States Army Aviation School UH-1 Repair Course. Ronnie served his country as a helicopter mechanic from November 1970 until he was honorably discharged on May 3, 1971. The 116th Assault Helicopter Company, also known as the "Hornets" earned a reputation for excellence and was considered an elite unit during the Vietnam War. The 116th was known for operating UH-1 "Huey" helicopters which became iconic during the war. Ronnie also worked at Goff & Nash in Albia for many years before opening his own business, Ron's Mechanic Shop in 1990, which he owned and operated until his retirement at the end of 2016.

Ronnie was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia as well as the American Legion Howard Cessna Post #136 in Albia. He was extremely talented and with his engineering mind, could fix anything. He was a classic car enthusiast and enjoyed car shows and taking his Impala on the Hot Rod Power Tours. He was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan as well as Nascar, especially Hendricks Motorsports drivers. In recent years, he has enjoyed working on sprint cars, attending vintage races as well as weekly races in Oskaloosa, with a highlight being getting to drive the car. Ronnie coached the Reds Little League team when his son played, it was quickly obvious that he thrived as a coach to young boys, always patient, encouraging, dedicated to helping every player improve, and teaching more than just baseball. He really loved to watch his grandchildren's events, attending these events was a source of great joy and pride. Above all else, Ronnie's family was everything to him and he cherished all of the time spent with them. In every moment, Ronnie's love was constant and unconditional, always offering support and care without hesitation.

Ronnie is survived by his wife, Janet; his children, Kim (KC) Powell and Nick (Lindsey) Griffin; 5 grandchildren, Addison, Ellerson, and Emmerson Powell and Henry and Finley Griffin; his mother, Marie Griffin; his siblings, Jerry (Linda) Griffin, Joyce (Gilbert) Robinson, Patty See, Dave (Cheryl) Griffin, Donnie (Sherri) Griffin, Robert (Carla) Griffin, and Denise Patton; and in-laws, Susan Murphy and Elaine (Del) Griffin. Ronnie is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and good friends.

Ronnie is preceded in death by his father, Ray Griffin; brothers-in-law, Brad Patton, Dave See, Jim Flahive, and Ed Murphy; a sister-in-law, Diane Flahive; and a nephew, Shawn Shaffer.

Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2025,

at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Ronnie's family present throughout to greet family and friends. A Rosary will be held at 4:00 p.m. led by St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society and a time of remembrance to share stories/memories of Ronnie will be held at 7:00 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia, with Father Isaac Essel officiating. Burial with military honors provided by the American Legion of Albia, Lovilia, and Melrose, will follow services at St. Mary's Cemetery in Albia. The family would like to invite people to drive their classic cars in honor of Ronnie.

Memorials have been established to the American Legion in Albia and St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Albia.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

Albia, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 9. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Rosary

APR 9. 4:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Time of Remembrance

APR **9**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home
116 Benton Ave.
Albia, IA 52531
(641) 932-3129
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

Mass of Christian Burial

APR **10**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
730 Benton Ave W
Albia, IA

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ *The Griffin family has weighed heavily on my heart lately. I ran into Ronnie and Janet somewhat recently at my uncle Bobby's bday party. I grew up down the street and enjoyed a friendly hello from Ronnie every day.*

Y'all have been steadily in my prayers. ❤️

Sincerely,

Angie Johnson

Angie Johnson - May 19, 2025 at 09:09 AM

JB

“ *Growing up next door to the Griffin family was filled with great and crazy memories! We were all one big "Lower Albia" Family! Prayers to the Entire Griffin Family! Jeffrey Bernard*

Jeffrey Bernard - April 11, 2025 at 09:00 PM

EA

“ *1 file added to the album LaHarpe, III.*



EarlMcDonald - April 09, 2025 at 08:59 PM

EA

“ *Ronnie E. Griffin, I will never forget our meeting. The first day I met you was at a car show in La Harpe, Ill., and knew right that instant that you were related to Ed McGinn and good friends with DeWayne Repp. Being from Albia told me you were special and with the quiet demeanor you possessed and a Albion sense of humor I felt very comfortable around you.*

There is nothing I can say here to make all your friends and family laugh and smile however I can say quiet people as yourself have a special place in our hearts. May God bless and here's to that day we shall meet again. Ron, leaving us in body as you did, will certainly not diminish our love and memories we will have in the future. Later Friend.....

EarlMcDonald - April 09, 2025 at 08:23 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.*



April 09, 2025 at 01:19 PM

TF

“ *The Broders Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.*



The Broders Family - April 09, 2025 at 07:47 AM

MJ

“ Matt, Jocelyn, Madelyn, Matthew & Jordy purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.



Matt, Jocelyn, Madelyn, Matthew & Jordy - April 08, 2025 at 10:18 PM

JN

“ Jason, Jen, Jackson and Wyatt Nutt purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.



Jason, Jen, Jackson and Wyatt Nutt - April 08, 2025 at 08:50 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.



April 08, 2025 at 11:26 AM

RF

“ Rhonda & Mike Mitrison Brooksville, FL purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.



Rhonda & Mike Mitrison Brooksville, FL - April 08, 2025 at 10:51 AM

RF

“ Rhonda & Mike Mitrison Brooksville, FL planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.

Rhonda & Mike Mitrison Brooksville, FL - April 08, 2025 at 10:51 AM

RM

“ My dear sweet friend Janet, I am so sorry for the loss of Ronnie . He was such a great guy. He was quite ...unless you were a gear head. He and Mike weren't around each other, but when they were , their love for cars was a common bond. I remember scooping the loop with Ronnie and you. Never get in his car with dirty feet or food. Lol. You were one of my bridesmaids when Mike and I were married in July of 1970; that following December, Ronnie and you were married. The Griffins were like family. My deepest condolences to all of you. Hugs , prayers, and love, Rhonda and Mike

Rhonda Mitrison - April 08, 2025 at 10:42 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.



April 08, 2025 at 04:47 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.

April 08, 2025 at 04:47 AM

LL

“ Lori Hankins and Scotty Lucas purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.



Lori Hankins and Scotty Lucas - April 08, 2025 at 12:19 AM

DP

“ I so enjoyed doing business with him.....visiting with him was always a treat.....a GREAT GUY

David pope - April 07, 2025 at 11:23 PM

LV

“ I'll miss him at the car shows. Always enjoyed talking with him. Never could get over how clean he kept his shop. You could eat off the floor in there!! Rest in peace buddy.

Laurel Varner - April 07, 2025 at 11:21 PM

KA

“ OMG!! Ronnie was the greatest guy and friend. He always had such a mischievous smile. Prayers for you Janet and all the family 🙏🙏

Kay Allison - April 07, 2025 at 07:01 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.



April 07, 2025 at 06:21 PM

BS

“ I’m so sorry for your loss! May God greet him with open arms and give you all strength during your period of grief. Beverly Selby (Grimes)

Beverly Selby - April 07, 2025 at 03:07 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald "Ronnie" Eugene Griffin.



April 07, 2025 at 02:26 PM

DC

“ My condolences from my family to the Griffin family for your loss.



Daniel Crall - April 07, 2025 at 01:21 PM

KA

“ Dear Griffin Family,
I offer my heartfelt condolences and hope that the cherished moments you all shared will bring you some comfort. When I think of Ronnie I remember being in high school. He was a quiet person and I'll always remember that sheepish little smile on his face when I would do something "off the wall", never knowing what he was thinking. I wish you all peace and comfort and to Ronnie, God Speed my friend!!
Kathy Wallace

Kathy Alvarez - April 07, 2025 at 01:01 PM

MS

We'll miss seeing that red and gray truck at his mom's, checking on her most every day.

Mary and Mike Serterh - April 07, 2025 at 02:07 PM



I REMEBER RONNIE AT A CAR SHOW IN HAMILTON ILLINOIS HE SURE WAS PROUD OF HIS CHEVY REST IN PEACE COUSIN

Ed McGinn - April 07, 2025 at 02:20 PM