

Ronald John Banta

January 18, 2021

Ronald John Banta, a resident of Fort Collins, CO, passed away the evening of Monday January 18, 2021 at the age of 72 from a heart attack.

Ronald was born to John and Lenetta Banta. He was born in Pearl River, NY and grew up in Montvale, NJ along with sisters Nancy and Shirley. He shared memories of family vacations to a cabin in Jefferson, NY. Nancy remembers them pulling up to the cabin and Ron immediately jumping out of the car, racing down the dock, and jumping into the lake. He had an exuberance throughout his life. He talked about backpacking trips in Bear Mountain and sleeping out under the stars.

After high school he considered becoming a priest, but with the Vietnam war unfolding he decided to join the Navy, becoming a nuclear submariner. He was known as Ron “Bam-Bam” Banta. One of his shipmates shared that Ron taught him to be a helmsman, a sub-driver. “Imagine two 20-year-olds driving a nuclear submarine. He was as good a shipmate as one could have.” Another shipmate shared “We were a motley group of submariners that bonded deep beneath the sea, that bond is forever as are the memories.” And another shared “Ron was a hard working, quiet and nice guy. He was one of my Submarine brothers. He was one of the nicest people I've known.”

Upon leaving the Navy, Ron couldn't leave the water, and became a part-time

lobsterman. Ron and a partner had a lobster business out of Rye, NY. He was delivering lobsters to Charles and Isabel when he met their daughter, Gail.

On May 29, 1976 he married the love of his life, Gail. Gail says “Ron was always there for me, no one will spoil me the way he did. He was always there to help and sometimes helped too much. His first thoughts were of others never himself, he was generous to a fault, sincere and loving. He bought me flowers often for no reason at all. If I asked for the stars he would have attempted to get them for me. Above all he was kind to everyone, gave of himself and was devoted to his family.”

Together they raised their two children, Darlene and Philip, in Park Ridge, NJ. While there are so many good memories two things stand out. Ron quickly learned the game of soccer and coached 4 teams every season. Through this, he had an impact on so many others outside of his two children. Every summer required a weekly trip down the Jersey Shore to Wildwood Crest, NJ. Much like his childhood, the first thing Ron would do (well once everyone else's needs were met) would be to take off his shirt, run into the water, and then dry off in the sun (and turn into a lobster by the end of the day - every single year).

Together Ron and Gail moved to Fort Collins, CO in 2013 to be close to their children, and if we are being honest, the true motivation was to watch their grandchildren grow up. Myles and Ada, his grandchildren, remember him most for his jokes and breakfast pancakes. Even Darlene and Philip remember Ron's pancakes, every Saturday morning growing up. Ron's pancakes are just another example of him taking care of those around him.

Ronald is survived by his wife Gail, children Darlene and Philip, son-in-law Daniel, and grandchildren Myles and Ada of Fort Collins. He is survived by his sister, Nancy Young of Clifton, NJ, nephews Gerald, (daughter Julia), Brian

(wife Judy) and Gary (wife Erica) also of NJ, and Sharon Degg (children Saffie and Zach) of England. Ronald is also survived by nephew Kyle Walker, (wife Diane, children Rachel and Kyle Jr.) of Massachusetts and niece Dawn Walker of Stony Point, NY. Always an animal person, he is survived by two Australian Shepherds, Remy and Tito and a flock of chickens. Remy continues to get up in the middle of the night and look for Ronald. Ron is predeceased by his parents, in-laws and sister Shirley Walker.

A small service for immediate family is planned for Thursday January 21 at Goes Funeral Care in Fort Collins, CO. A Celebration of Life is being planned for the summer of 2021. If you feel inclined to donate in honor of Ronald, the family requests donations be made to <https://freedomsvicedogs.org/>

Ron is most remembered for his generosity, kindness and caring. Saying that he was a good man seems to minimize his monumental impact on those around him, but that truly is the best phrase to describe him. He was self-effacing and always had time to listen. Ron provided amazing memories and opportunities in his family's life and there was never a second one could doubt his love for them. He would drop everything just to help one of us. He instilled the values of hard work, respect and love that we will carry throughout our lives. Even now you will be gently (hopefully) guiding us for the rest of our lives.

Sailor, rest your oar, we have the watch.

John 3:16

Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald John Banta*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *I worked at Kolbus Cleveland with Ron for a little while. What a kind man. I have thought of him often over the years, and enjoyed when he told me things about all of you, his family. I knew he was a kindred spirit, and in reading all of the wonderful things in his obituary, was happily surprised to hear about his Australian Shepherds... I have an Aussie too 🍷 that's pretty cool.*

I cannot tell you how very very sorry I am for his passing, and the loss you are all feeling. It's not fair... and I wish I had beautiful words to say to you to make it a little better.

I'm sure it was hard for him to be in Cleveland away from you (and vice versa!) during the Kolbus time he spent here - but I thank you for sharing him with us for a little while - he is truly someone I have not, and will not forget ever. My father was gone when I was 8, and I sure appreciated Ron's perspective on things, and his kind ways.

*I send you many hugs!
Kira Holchin*

Kira Holchin - January 29, 2021 at 11:17 AM



Thank you so much for sharing 🍷

Darlene Rouleau - January 29, 2021 at 03:06 PM

GB

I havent been able to write things before now. Thank you for sharing. Yes him in Cleveland was a difficult time for us. On chilf in College and one child a junior in hs. We could not move him going into his senior year. So Ron went to Cleveland and i stayed in Park Ridge. We had 2 cockers at that time and when our son graduated college he wanted an Aussie, a year later, Ron and i got our own aussie, Remy Martin. I did agility with all and Ron was always there helping build courses, hold dogs, load the car, unload the car, etc. Great times. The hugs were so welcome in January. It was very comforting to hear thee stories and perspectives from others. God Bless and thank you.

Gail Banta - June 01, 2021 at 12:36 AM

RR

*Hi Gail.
We have never met but Ron was my first friend when we grew up in Montvale NJ. His family lived on Cooks lane and we lived on Kinderkamack road. I am sorry to see that Ron has passed away. All the best to you.
Ron Russell
Eagle, ID*

ron russell - January 20, 2022 at 03:49 PM

KB

“ *This was a great visit to the Bantas' house in Fort Collins.*



Keriann Barry - January 24, 2021 at 10:20 AM

NA

“ Nancy sent a virtual gift in memory of Ronald John Banta



Nancy - January 24, 2021 at 08:06 AM

ER

“ I’m truly so sorry to know that he’s gone. He was a constant fixture of my childhood. From kindergarten on, if I wasn’t home, I was probably at the Banta house - playing with Danny Boy, jumping in the pool, riding the tree swing, and eating Mr Banta’s pancakes. He always made me feel so welcome. And not only did they have to put up with me at the house - I also tagged along on their family vacations too! Wildwood, Smugglers Notch...I’m sure he must have gotten sick of me always being around - but he never made me feel unwelcome. It had been a few years since we saw each other, but when I came out to visit Colorado — it was so nice to all and hang out again, this time watching Darlene and my kids playing together. In 2019 - Darlene and I, and our families spent a week in LBI together - and it felt so nice to carry on the shore family vacation tradition. I hope we can continue it because the memories I have from those vacations as a kid are so special. Mr. Banta you will be missed greatly.

Erin - January 21, 2021 at 08:56 PM

PB

*We met the Banta Family when my daughter Erin went to kindergarten and became great friends with Darlene. Our friendship has continued all these years. The Banta's are simply the best friends you could hope to have. Whenever we needed help, they were right there. Ron saved the day at Erin and Patrick's wedding when he picked up something that had been forgotten in the trunk of her car. There was a downpour and he came back soaking wet but never complained. He was such a great husband, father, grandfather and friend. We visited their Colorado home in 2019 and saw the chicken coop that he was so proud of building. We will miss you Ron!
Our loss is heaven's gain.*

patricia barry - January 24, 2021 at 05:00 PM



I forgot about the wedding dance save!

Darlene Rouleau - January 25, 2021 at 03:58 PM



A great shipmate/ may you RIP!

Denis Chenel - January 27, 2021 at 04:38 PM

GB

Thank you all for sharing

Gail Banta - June 01, 2021 at 12:38 AM

DM

“ Watkins Glen Formula 1 Grand Prix: Shipmates Dave, Ron & Jim.



Dave McDowell - January 21, 2021 at 08:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Ron's Service



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - January 21, 2021 at 07:36 PM

KR

“ *I met Ron through family gatherings with Dan and Darlene. It was a little awkward for me in the beginning meeting everyone new but Ron was so easy to talk with he made feel welcome and had such an easy way about him that any awkwardness I had quickly went away. He will be greatly missed.*

Karen Ralicke - January 21, 2021 at 04:11 PM

GB

Thank you Karen, he is missed.

Gail Banta - June 01, 2021 at 12:39 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ronald John Banta.*



January 21, 2021 at 02:05 PM

FM

“ Flo and Lloyd Morgenstein purchased the Chees eboard Complete for the family of Ronald John Banta.



Flo and Lloyd Morgenstein - January 21, 2021 at 10:19 AM

FL

“ Flo sent a virtual gift in memory of Ronald John Banta



Flo - January 21, 2021 at 10:14 AM

FL

“ Through Aresenal Soccer we got to meet Ron and the Banta Family. We quickly became friends as Darlene and Philip bonded with our children. Whether at the soccer field, their pool/home in Park Ridge or dinners spent together we were lucky to have met them and of course Ron. Such a sweet, kind, loving man always there for his family! Not too long ago we were able to spend some time with Ron and Gail when they were back in NJ. It was like old time for sure. Our family has been blessed to have known Ron and I know his legacy will live on in the wonderful memories everyone has of him. Flo, Lloyd and family.

Flo - January 21, 2021 at 10:13 AM

GB

We alwas enjoyed being with you abd your family Flo! Ron lived being with the kids and just hanging with you folks. Great times, great memories.

Gail Banta - June 01, 2021 at 12:42 AM

BH

“ *Ron you were always a wonderful Man. The best neighbor ever. So friendly and welcoming. You set the highest example of goodness for all us to be.*

You were loved by many and Jean and I will miss you . Sleep well old friend until we meet again. Barry & Jean.

Barry Heaps - January 21, 2021 at 06:54 AM

GB

Oh Barry and Jean. We loved you folks right next door. What great times we had. (even shoveling snow). I know loved your sense of humor and i remember Ron telling me how Jean saved the day when he spilled white paint on himself while painting garage and Jean went inside to get him another pair of Jeans. I was at work and he told me he was co templating stripping at the back door and making a mad dash inside..... so thank you for the kind words

Gail Banta - June 01, 2021 at 12:51 AM



“ One day a young engineer started working for a company. The engineer was bright and could figure things out that seemed to baffle others. But with his successes he has grown arrogant in his ability to solve problems. An experienced technician always told him to “slow down”, to “be mindful” of what he was doing, but the engineer didn’t want to be slowed down. One day the engineer came to a problem he couldn’t solve. He read all the books, checked the schematics several times, and tried everything he could think of. So with no other options he called the veteran tech and explained his issue. The tech told the engineer to “replace the doohickey” but the engineer responded “I checked the doohickey and it’s functioning properly.” Knowing he had just wasted his time the engineer pulled out the schematics and continued to troubleshoot. Confident that he would find the culprit, a day passed, then two, and then three with no solution. Nothing had ever taken the engineer so long to figure out. Finally, the boss made the call the engineer was dreading. The boss asked if he had listened to the veteran tech and he explained that he checked the doohickey 20 times and could find no issues. He convinced the boss to give him one more day. The boss agreed, but decided to ship the engineer a new doohickey just in case the technician was correct. The veteran technician stayed patient and pacified the engineer even when his logic was directly challenged. Now having failed to solve the issue on the 4th day the engineer decided on replacing the doohickey to stay off any further inquiries which were taking away from the real work of troubleshooting the impossible problem.

The engineer learned three things that day.

- 1. Vibration can cause intermittent problems with doohickeys that cannot be tested in a static environment.*
- 2. Humility*
- 3. That I wanted to be like Ron Banta when I grew up.*

I love you Ron. I’m so sad that you’re gone.

Daniel Lumbarkovski - January 21, 2021 at 01:04 AM



Thanks for sharing this story. Work dad was a side I didn't really know and I loved reading this.

Darlene Rouleau - January 25, 2021 at 04:00 PM

GB

Ron was very humble and never shared his successes at work. Thank you for sharing this.

Gail Banta - June 01, 2021 at 12:20 AM



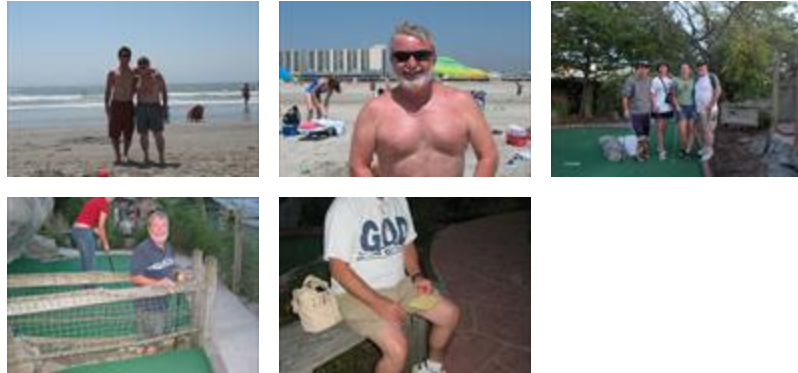
“ *Some hiking photos in Colorado. Our list recent distanced masked thanksgiving photos. Some from my wedding in RMNP. The Rockefeller tree. I think one is from his birthday at the Crab House in Wildwood.*



Darlene Rouleau - January 20, 2021 at 11:18 PM



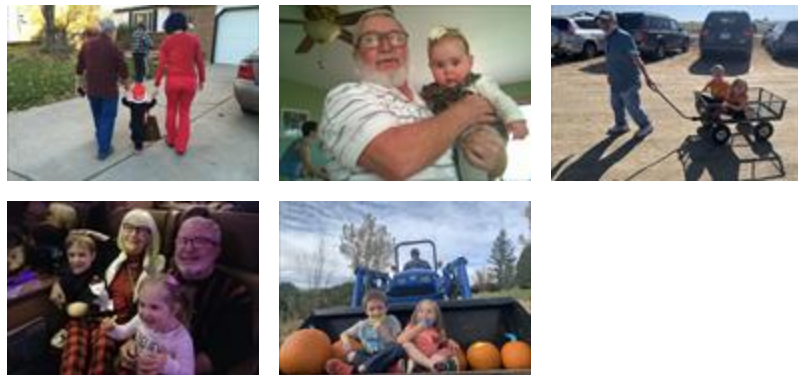
“ Photos from Wildwood Crest. (G.O.D. is ‘Good Old Dad’)



Darlene Rouleau - January 20, 2021 at 11:12 PM



“ Photos with the grandkids



Darlene Rouleau - January 20, 2021 at 11:10 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album

Duty on a Submarine requires us to learn everything about our boat and become "Qualified." Qualification is the process of learning every valve, switch, the entire electrical, hydraulic, water, compressed air, ventilation and propulsion equipment takes usually about a year or more. You have to be familiar with all of the equipment onboard and how to operate it in an emergency (except nuclear and weapons). Then you do walk through with

Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - January 20, 2021 at 07:23 PM