



## Ron J. Fitzgerald

September 22, 1948 - May 9, 2020

Ron J. Fitzgerald, 71, of Kearney, passed away Saturday, May 9, 2020 at Kearney Regional Medical Center. Memorial Mass will be held at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, October 8, 2020 at St. James Catholic Church with Fr. Joseph Hannappel officiating. Memorials are suggested to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or to the family for a memorial bench at Kearney Pediatric Dentistry.

Ron was born September 22, 1948 in Rockland, Maine to Alvah and Clementine (Mazankowski) Fitzgerald. He graduated from Kearney Catholic High School in 1966. Ron joined the Navy and served from December 14th 1966 and was honorably discharged on September 3rd 1970. After his discharge he married Susan J. Luth on February 22, 1970. They lived in Kearney and together raised two children Lori and Eric. Susan passed away in November of 2010. Early in his carrier, Ron worked as an Outside Foreman for Agri-Automation & Country Structures in Kearney. He later worked for GTE and Frontier Communications as an Outside Maintenance Technician until retiring in 2009. Ron was recently employed at Sterling Apartments and Kearney Pediatric Dentistry as a Maintenance Specialist. He was a member of the American Legion, Kearney Kiwanis and St. James Catholic Church. Ron helped in numerous charitable organizations in the Kearney community. He was heavily involved in the Knights of Columbus where he held numerous positions with council #1728 including State Softball Chairman, State Youth

Chairman, District Deputy, Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight and 4th Degree Knight of the Year. Later in life Ron met Mary Jo Freeze and the two were engaged in August of 2013. They enjoyed their time with each other and the many adventures they experienced together.

Ron was a true gentleman that would always put other people's needs before his own. He had a stoic, humble, kind and humorous nature that was contagious and resonated with everyone he met. When it came to helping, he was the first to show up and the last to leave. Ron never knew a stranger. He had a true passion for helping others and fixing things. He was a carpenter at heart and perfectionist when it came to his work.

Ron enjoyed the outdoors and had many pastimes. He loved to travel and always looked forward to his annual trips to visit his sister Delores in Arizona and the occasional Fitzgerald reunion in Maine. When it came to Ron's grandchildren that is where he felt most rewarded. His grandkids were drawn to his humble and gentle nature. He was most joyful when he was with his family especially his loving grandchildren. Ron was the most caring and supportive brother, husband, uncle, father and Papa.

Ron is survived by his son, Eric and Lyndi Fitzgerald of Loup City, NE; daughter, Lori and Tom Pepperl of Kearney, NE; sister, Delores Mayfield of Phoenix, AZ; fiancée, Mary Jo Freeze of Kearney, NE; Cody and Meghan Freeze of Amherst, NE; Tara and Kasey Brandt of Kearney, NE; grandchildren, Olivia, Isaac, Elliott, and Amelia Fitzgerald, Daltyn Pepperl, Drew, Hunter, Cooper, and Sadie Freeze, Lane and Finley Brandt.

Ron was preceded in death by his wife Susan Fitzgerald.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ron J. Fitzgerald*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Ron held a big love in our families ❤️ hearts 💕 he will be missed ever so dearly. Enjoyed his spirit & kindness for our children Ron, Ryan, & Kristine. He was a great father, brother, husband, grandpa, brother in law, & friend to all who knew him 🙏🏻🥰*

**mary Graves** - June 17, 2020 at 09:37 AM



“ *We have such wonderful memories of Ron. He was always such a kind and giving man. The joy he shared was contagious. He was full of peace and love. Our sympathies to all of you.*

**Cliff and Mary Jo Jarecke** - June 12, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ron J. Fitzgerald.*



May 17, 2020 at 07:30 PM

JS

“ Ron worked at Emerson Place Apartments when I first started there as a manager in 2014. All the tenants loved him and always gave him a Christmas card each year and gathered up whatever money they had to put in with the card. They valued how he always would visit with them and talk while he fixed whatever they needed him to in their apartments. They were all sad to see him leave and retire and we all greatly missed seeing him there every day. He was a truly great guy and will be very missed by all of us!!!

*Jennifer Slater & Emerson Place Apartments*

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**jennifer slater** - May 15, 2020 at 10:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ron J. Fitzgerald.



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May 14, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Ron J. Fitzgerald.



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May 14, 2020 at 11:08 AM

KE

“ *Sorry to hear about Ron's passing. Prayers to the family during this difficult time.*

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**kevin** - May 13, 2020 at 10:37 AM

PS

*So sorry to hear about Ron what a hard time after losing Barb too so sorry. Thoughts and prayer to you all. Love you. Joe & Patti Streit.*

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**Patti Streit** - May 15, 2020 at 09:56 PM

LM

*“ Ron was one of the best men I have ever known. I enjoyed working with him so much. He never got upset about anything. He was a sweet, calming presence when everything was falling apart. He was so wonderful to my daughter when she came to the office. He loved his family so much. My heart goes out to all of you.*

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**Lisa McGuire** - May 12, 2020 at 08:55 PM

LP

*“ Dad was always the adventurous man even when he would try to show off to his grandson by trying his hoverboard!!*

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**lori pepperl** - May 11, 2020 at 02:08 PM