



## Rodney Duane Adams

June 22, 1947 - November 13, 2024

What can you write what already hasn't been said about Rodney Duane Adams?

Writing an obituary about the person you spent so much time with almost feels like filling out a job application. And sometimes you are left wondering if anyone really cares where someone was born, where they went to school, etc. Although those moments in Dad's life were pivotal, they did not make him who he was as a human being on this Earth.

Ron was a native Bartian and spent the majority of his life here. Minus a short summer spent in Seattle, he never strayed too far from home.

Before becoming that guy in a red suit he was Corky the Clown, a Shriner. Him and his longtime friend Boo-Boo spent years putting smiles on children (and even adults) faces. He sponsored several children that were injured/sick at Shriners Hospital in Shreveport. He also started a program to provide busing for school kids to the Shriner Circus for a day filled

with fun in Tulsa.

Ron was the Kiddie Park Board President for fifteen years before retiring. To this day KP will always remain one of his biggest passion projects. He worked tirelessly for that place, creating the Spook-A-Rama during Halloween, designing an entire miniature golf course, and developing a scholarship program for the student workers. Kiddie Park and all of the other people that were involved was his second home and family.

His favorite foods were always homemade, and had to include some kind of meat. He also loved sushi, even the raw!

Dad served on a Federal Grand Jury for an entire year, and was on call for the first half of the following year due to the excellence of their duty.

Each year at Christmas he would buy several poinsettias and deliver them to special friends or if he knew a family that was in need during the holidays, he would make sure there were packages on their porch.

Dad loved to watch action packed movies, and would cry at anything sappy or cute. We loved calling him our “softy”. He was also an avid bird man. After his stroke in 2020, he became enamoured with the birds in our courtyard and backyard, he began making

suet feeders and  
even built a few houses for them. Even caught Dad one winter using my  
hairdryer in the  
freezing rain to try and thaw the birdbaths for the birds!

There is so much to share and say about Ron. What a privilege to get to even  
say that. Dad  
loved this life on Earth and he did his best to never take moments for granted.  
He wore his heart  
on his sleeve and carried a hanky in his back pocket. Even when he had the  
red suit on, he  
produced a spark that was contagious.

If you think about that special visit he made to your home, work, saw your kids  
at school or even  
church; remember that feeling that you had when you first saw him! That  
spark of joy or little tug  
at your heart. That's what it really is about, the real meaning of this life is love.  
Love of your  
family and friends, love of your neighbors and strangers, but most importantly  
the love you have  
within yourself to share.

\*\* We invite family and friends to please come by our home this holiday  
season and share those  
memory with us. Ron did not want a service, rather a celebration of life, which  
will be held at a  
later date in Spring of 2025. Private graveside services will be held at another  
date for relatives  
and close friends.\*\*

Thanks for the memories!

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ Debi, I heard about Ron's passing and my heart absolutely broke! My children haven't grown up in Bville so they weren't able to experience him as "their Santa" but I know they would've loved him! I know that his presence meant so much to everyone, especially during the holiday season. I remember you telling me some stories of touching conversations he had with kiddos over the years - he was the right man for the job!

*I know how much you loved Ron! I only saw him a few times but I know had a very happy and joy filled marriage!*

*Thinking of you Debi!!!! I am so sorry for your loss :(*

*Ashley (Rose) Lawrence*

---

**Ashley Lawrence** - December 07, 2024 at 12:49 AM

KL

“ 3 files added to the album Santa Ron!! :)



---

**Kim Lunsford** - December 05, 2024 at 10:52 AM

SJ

“ 24 years ago I became the Santa at Washington Park Mall in Bartlesville which lasted 20 years if it had not been for Ron and his encouragement that would have lasted 1 year. He inspired me and talked with me in the down years and made my journey in the Red Suit far more inspiring that lasted for a very long time. We would meet many times at Weeses and talk hours about this enjoyment of being *BROTHERS IN RED*. I will definitely miss him and his wisdom he had in our brotherhood. Farewell good friend and save me a place in *HEAVEN*.

---

**SANTA JOE** - December 03, 2024 at 01:32 PM

DC

“ I've known Ron since a very young age. He was and still is a spark added to everyone he touched with his smile and even without the suit. The fire engine red suit lit up all kids and adults alike either with his passion for Christmas or just being Ron . Condolences to his friends and family's .. he will be missed dearly.

---

**Dave Cox** - December 03, 2024 at 01:11 PM

MT

“ This man...my brother-in-law...he was one of a kind. He was my favorite dance partner and almost every time he visited me in Texas we managed to find time to hit a honky tonk or private party and scoot a boot. I know I am one of hundreds who are missing him and there will never be a Christmas where he won't still fill my heart with his spirit. My heart hurts for all those who loved him, especially my sister and niece. This is a lovely tribute to him.

---

**Melissa Renner Taylor** - December 03, 2024 at 12:01 PM

VA

“ Victoria Auschwitz lit a candle in memory of Rodney Duane Adams



Victoria Auschwitz - November 26, 2024 at 11:33 AM

DB

“ Uncle Ron was one of my mentors and my friend. He was there for me when I had no one else. He was the voice of reason. I regret that I was unable to spend more time with him in the last few years. I also regret not being able to say goodbye. He was always my Santa Claus and made my Christmas special every year.

Ron and I, along with my grandfather, Uncle Joe and my sons Matthew and Hunter, shared a lot of special memories out fishing and hunting. I will always cherish our time together and miss the smile when he'd catch his first fish and give it a kiss.

Ron was a spiritual leader and helped to guide me on my personal relationship with Jesus. His wisdom of the gospel helped me to understand my struggles and guided me to the right path.

I love you Uncle Ron, the world lost a great man but Heaven gained an angel.



Daniel Shane Bullick - November 20, 2024 at 05:31 PM

NC

“ Nicole Carter lit a candle in memory of Rodney Duane Adams



Nicole Carter - November 18, 2024 at 09:07 AM

JG

*I remember sitting in the ticket booth at Kiddie Park with Ron. This kid came up to get tickets and looked at Ron and said, "Santa Claus comes to Kiddie Park in the summertime."*

Joyce Golding - November 19, 2024 at 05:12 PM

CA

“*Picture two convertible Volkswagen beetles welded together to give a "mini-stretch-limo" effect. Paint it canary yellow, deck it out w/ candy apple red upholstery, and christen it "The Bug-and-a-Half."*

*Ron honored my Mom & Dad's anniversary one year by chauffeuring them around B'ville in The Bug -and-a-Half. I rode shotgun, trying desperately to keep my teenage embarrassment in check when female classmates drove past us on Adams Blvd.! It's my favorite memory of Ron: Full Corky regalia, having a ball while driving friends around his city. I'm so grateful for that experience, but more so just to have known him.*

*There's a clown loose in Heaven tonight. He's riding around Heaven in a Bug-and-a-Half w/ some buddies, singing along w/ the radio. St. Nicholas rides shotgun. They are laughing.*

C. Ackerly - November 17, 2024 at 10:18 PM

DA

“*How to sum up knowing a really good family? Ron adored Debi and Lindsey and would do anything for them. Mr. Claus needed his Mrs. Claus. They were also clowns together. 1 in 10 adults claim to be afraid of clowns, they obviously never met Ron and Debi. Because of Jesus' love, Ron served his family and others. We are so grateful for the fun memories and friendship. See you in heaven Ron, we miss you. Love you Debi, Lindsey and family. Don and Deborah Ackerly*

Deborah Ackerly - November 17, 2024 at 07:18 PM

JS

“ *Jeanne Foreman Shepherd lit a candle in memory of Rodney Duane Adams*



**Jeanne Foreman Shepherd** - November 16, 2024 at 09:37 AM

DE

“ *53 yrs ago I met Ron while he was a loan officer for Beneficial finance company. I was 18 and wanted a loan. My first ever. He trusted me and helped me. And I was and will always remember this man and his kind heart. Rest in Peace Ron.*

**Deniece** - November 16, 2024 at 02:55 AM

LQ

“ *Deb and Lindsey, Ron was such a wonderful friend. In The Ad Libs, the plays, he brightened the room by just being there. I am praying for your peace. Cry when you need to.*

**Linda Quinn** - November 15, 2024 at 11:09 PM

JB

“ *Joan L Baughman lit a candle in memory of Rodney Duane Adams*



**Joan L Baughman** - November 15, 2024 at 08:59 PM

SO

*Have known Ronnie and his siblings a long time. Lonnie is was good to see you at the hospital. I am so sorry for your lose and Ronnie's wife and daughter's lose. He will be greatly missed. But I believe heaven needed another good person or (maybe a Santa Claus). Thoughts and prayers are going up.*

*Sherry (Robinson) Owen*

**Sherry owen** - November 15, 2024 at 09:27 PM

RB

“ *Rosy Nikkel Beck lit a candle in memory of Rodney Duane Adams*



**Rosy Nikkel Beck** - November 15, 2024 at 08:19 PM

JH

“ *Janice Holland lit a candle in memory of Rodney Duane Adams*



**Janice Holland** - November 15, 2024 at 03:21 PM

KL

“ *Kim Lunsford lit a candle in memory of Rodney Duane Adams*



**Kim Lunsford** - November 15, 2024 at 02:10 PM

JH

“ *Ron was the best Santa ever! He was the Santa at our employee Santa party for years! He will be missed greatly!* ”

---

**jamie Hardesty** - November 15, 2024 at 10:22 AM

SS

*My deepest sympathy and prayers for the family. Ron was such a wonderful person and best Santa ever. He will truly be missed by all who knew him!!!*

---

**Sandra Stoy** - November 15, 2024 at 01:12 PM