



## Ronald Craver

March 6, 1960 - November 16, 2023

Ronald Retson Craver, 63, of rural Bloomfield, Iowa passed away on November 16, 2023 near Downing, Missouri. He was born on March 6, 1960 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to Robert Retson and Dorothy Lounsbury Craver. Ron married Marcie Northup in 1988 in Ottumwa, Iowa, they later divorced. He married Adriana Stinnett in 2011 in Scottsdale, Arizona, they later divorced.

Ron was a professional bull fighter for over 40 years, and officially hung up his cleats in 2008, but still stepped back in the arena occasionally. His career took him all over the country where he met many lifelong friends. He fought bulls for men like Lane Frost, Tuff Hedeman, and Don Gay. He worked for Mesquite Rodeo and Rafter G Ranch for three years. Ron appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live to promote the PBR with Gus the Wonder Bull. Ron helped at and managed dude ranches in Wyoming, Arizona, and Alaska. He met Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush. Vice-President Dick Cheney's daughter and granddaughter visited one of the ranches and Ron went horseback riding with them. He cherished those memories and events. Over the years, he was a member of various associations including; PBR, PRCA, IPRA, URA, NFPB, BOA, IRCA, and MRCA. He participated numerous years in Fort Madison, Iowa at the Special Kids Rodeo. Ron won the "Bullfighter of the Year Award" many times and "Bullfighter of the Finals" which were both voted on by contestants. He was loved by the rodeo contestants and fans. Godspeed Big Ron Craver the Cowboy Saver, your

entry fees have been paid.

He is survived by his daughter, Tara (Jamie) Kane of Garrison, Iowa; son, Tonch (Sarah) Craver of Lancaster, Missouri; two granddaughters, Freya and Flora Craver; step-daughter, Sam Stinnett of Scottsdale, Arizona; uncle and aunt, Donald and Darlene Lounsbury; two cousins, Kristi Lounsbury, Joe Lounsbury; nephews, Brian Gonterman; and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father; mother; step-father, William Baker; and sister, Debi Clark.

Ron's wish was to be cremated. A get-together with family and friends will be held from 4:00 -7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at Whippoorwill Acres in Lancaster, Missouri. In lieu of flowers, a memorial may be made to his family and mailed to: Ron Craver Memorial, 5929 16th Ave, Garrison, Iowa 52229. Wagler Funeral Home in Bloomfield, Iowa is assisting the family.

# Previous Events

## Get-together

NOV **19**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Whippoorwill Acres  
16530 US Hwy 63  
Lancaster, MO 63548

# Tribute Wall

KW

“ You be so missed  
Ride high Cowboy, you got your wings ☐ ☐



Kelly Wright - November 20, 2023 at 03:04 PM

JJ

“ Ron was my mentor and best friend. Helped me on my path to becoming a Rodeo Clown and Bullfighter. Whenever I needed him, he was always there! Not only was he a good friend, but a brother. We done a lot of Rodeo's together helped me get my pro card...he always called to check on me. Save me a spot brother, really going to miss ya.

Jw. Robinson ( aka... Little Joe) - November 19, 2023 at 05:33 PM

TL

“ Tammy Van Loon lit a candle in memory of  
Ronald Craver



Tammy Van Loon - November 19, 2023 at 01:48 AM

TJ

*So my connection to Ron was back in the day in New London. He had just started the rodeo bullfighting gig. He lived just up the road from us and him and I went hunting a few times with hounds. We would sit out in the woods while our dogs were trying their best to find something! Talked about life and hunting-and Big Ron was so passionate about the Rodeo-and he was excited to return back to the circuit doing what he loved so dearly. He had a hound he acquired in Oklahoma named Sooner and he asked if I wanted her because it was just too much to take her with him. I asked is she good at hunting and he said oh yes! Well she was good at chasing rabbit and deer-the things I didn't want, Ha-however she made a great family pet! So Ron went on the tour and I would see him at a Rodeo or two and say Hello! Always enjoyed talking to him and watching him on the televised Mesquite Rodeo. Rest in peace Big Ron!*

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**Tim Johnson** - November 19, 2023 at 11:26 AM

PH

*“ I didn't know Ronald personally, but my son's class went on a field trip to his home in Ottumwa when my son, Paul, was in kindergarten. I remember the kids were just enthralled with the big white bull that he had & they all got a chance to get on him. It was funny because he offered for Mrs. Gaumer & myself to get a turn. Mrs Gaumer kinda laughed, saying there's no way she could climb up there & without saying a word, he swept her up & put her right on there. The look on her face was priceless! Then Ronald turns to me & asked if I wanted a turn & I said no that's okay, because I did not expect him to pick up my 6'1" frame, & again, he picked me up like a sack of potatoes & threw me up there & then the look on my face was priceless! It was such a wonderful day for the kids & I know it's one that they & myself will never forget!*

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**Pamela Horn** - November 18, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Ronald Craver.*



November 17, 2023 at 07:29 PM



“ *Derek Knowler lit a candle in memory of Ronald Craver*



**Derek Knowler** - November 17, 2023 at 07:05 PM



“ *So sorry for this loss. Deepest sympathies to Ron's family.*

**Sandra McClure-Hunter** - November 17, 2023 at 06:06 PM



“ *Fly high cowboy! This world will miss you..*

**Bonnie Jensen** - November 17, 2023 at 06:01 PM



“ *Hope and Diego planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald Craver.*

**Hope and Diego** - November 17, 2023 at 05:37 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Ronald Craver*.



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November 17, 2023 at 05:37 PM