

## Ronald E Garrett Obituary

Ronald Eugene Garrett, affectionately known as "Ronnie", "Big Ronnie" and "Pete", was born December 2, 1943 to Samuel Billie and Marguerite Berniece Garrett in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Ronnie was the second of four children. He attended elementary, middle, and high school in Oklahoma City Public Schools. He accepted the Lord in his life at an early age at the Union Baptist Church under the pasturage of Rev. V. H. McCowen. Later, he joined the Wildewood Baptist Church under Rev. S. G. Smith.

In 1961, Ronnie joined the U. S. Army. He completed his basic training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. He was trained in infantry and after several years of military service, he was honorably discharged in 1969. As a result of his military service, he began collecting guns as a hobby.

On January 5, 1965, Ronnie married Alma J. Garrett, his childhood sweetheart. To this union, three children were born, Roland Eugene, Kelley Sue and Kimberley Dawn. Ronnie was a big presence, but gentle spirit in the eyes of his family. With his family, he enjoyed summer vacations and Sunday outings at parks and lakes. He always made sure that everyone sat down to eat dinner together and enjoyed each other's company.

Ronnie enjoyed tinkering with cars and trucks. At one time, he was the family mechanic. Ronnie was a Chevrolet man through and through.

Early in his trucking career, Ronnie was employed at 7-Up Bottling Company, Mistletoe Express and Leepack. He loved trucking so much that it became his career. He later became a long haul truck driver with LeeWay Motor Freight and ultimately retired from Yellow Motor Freight/YRC. Ronnie retired with more than 40 years as a member of Teamsters Local 886. He received several commendations and pins for his safe driving record. When he reached one million safe miles, he received a jacket, a watch, and a ring.

Ronnie loved to play card games, dominoes, and listen to the Blues. Bobby "Blue" Bland and B. B. King were his favorites. He was an avid fan of baseball, football, basketball, boxing, tennis, and NASCAR. At one time, he organized and coached a neighborhood Youth Baseball team that included his son Roland and boys from the neighborhood. After practices and games, the team was always invited to the house for snacks. He kept the family entertained with his jokes and laughter. Ronnie was a strong and humble man. The Lord continued to bless him through many years of sickness. He was blessed with the strength and determination to fight through until he was called home.

Ronnie was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Billie Ray Garrett and Richard Lee Garrett; and one granddaughter, Yajaira Betancourt.

Ronnie is survived by his lovely, devoted wife of 55 years, Alma, Oklahoma City; one son, Roland E Garrett Sr. (Lourdes), Oklahoma City, OK; two daughters, Kelley S Garrett and Kimberley D Garrett-Banks (Clarkie Jr), both of Oklahoma City, OK; five grandchildren, Johnny Betancourt (Vivian), Queens, NY; Roland E Garrett, Jr (Zaib), Oklahoma City, OK; Renaldo Garrett (Kenzie), Oklahoma City, OK; Christopher Hill II, Oklahoma City, OK; one granddaughter, Kandace Banks, Oklahoma City, OK; thirteen great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; one brother, Samuel Garrett McDowell, China; one sister, Blondene Garrett-Taite, McKinney, TX; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends: Mr Frank Dean, Mr Edward Gipson, Mr Ted Castleberry and Pastor Allen Threat III.