



Edwin Rondald Loyd

January 3, 1942 - September 22, 2018

Edwin Rondald (Ron) Loyd

Our Superman met his kryptonite on September 22, 2018. Athlete, artist, teacher, mentor, leader, family man and all round superstar - Rondald (Ron) Loyd, 76, passed away in his home in Visalia, CA after a valiant battle with an aggressive and rare brain disease known as Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP).

He was born in Tulare, CA on January 3, 1942 to Edward and Louise Loyd. His brother Donald was born two years later. The family moved frequently to surrounding communities following crops until they settled down in Visalia when he attended Divisadero Jr. High. He quickly excelled as a natural athlete participating in football, basketball, baseball and track .

As a member of the first four-year graduation class at Mt. Whitney High School he again excelled in sports; lettering in football, basketball and track all four years. Highlights included playing three years Varsity Football, playing as a sophomore on the Valley Championship Team in 1957, being honored to play in the North-South All-Star Football game in 1959 and being chosen the All-American Award Winner in Track in 1960 and getting elected Senior Class President.

College of the Sequoias welcomed him into their football program where he

played offensive fullback and defensive end for two years and was elected Captain by his teammates. Both his years at COS, the football team won the Olive Bowl game in Lindsay, CA. He ended his football career at COS being awarded the All-CCJCAA Honorable Mention as fullback on the team which finished rated 8th in the National JC All-American Index rankings.

He lettered one semester for track before getting married to Weslee Rose Sarment on January 26, 1962 and moving to Berkeley where he attended Oakland City College to practice with the UC Berkeley football team. A recruitment visit from Coach Ray Clemons prompted a move to finish college at California State University, Sacramento where he played both offense and defense for the Hornets. Ron then coached one year with the University's Freshman Football team while earning his lifetime secondary teaching credential. After years of organized sports, his physical fitness and weightlifting became a lifetime passion.

A move back home to Visalia to teach 3-D art at his alma mater gave him the chance to coach football, wrestling and track at MWHS while assuming the mantle as head of the visual and performing arts department. With a waitlist of students wanting into his classes, he ended up teaching a pre-first class, a class during his planning period plus an extra afternoon class, as well as night classes 4 days a week. He also supervised noon detention, allowing contact with almost every student in school in one capacity or another! A few of his major artistic accomplishments there include originating the first ever Living Arts Patio in California, redesigning the Whitney Pioneer logo and creating a night class for Gifted and Talented Students.

He spent his lifetime continuing to pursue his own artistic talents having numerous local art shows and featured exhibits in surrounding communities from Bakersfield to Sacramento. Many homes and businesses showcase his talents in jewelry making, pottery, metal sculptures, stained glass and woodcuts. And we can't forget the

cars; fixing the engines, restoring the vehicles, adding his own touch via etchings and paintings throughout and showing them at numerous car shows in the valley and central coast often with the Visalia Vapor Trailers Car Club.

Ron devoted his time to educating teenagers on making better life choices. Prior to serving on the Board of Directors for Sober Grad, he focused efforts on Red Ribbon Week and creating a Students Against Substance Abuse (SAS) Club at school to educate kids on the dangers of all substances and to encourage students to "Just Say No". He began the Crafts Club to give members scholarships and encourage them to pursue further education. He helped his students run Blood Drives each year as well as a Toy, Book and Clothing drive every Christmas for community service. Ron was a Junior Class Advisor. He timed track meets and announced the Wrestling team's home matches, the Band's halftime performances at home games, and the Choir's Concert of the Classics for many years. He updated the original Cowhide by tooling the date on the winning side of the leather award annually. After 40 years, he retired from teaching.

In addition to all the above, Ron received numerous awards and recognition over the years for his efforts. For example: Kiwanis Club Of Sequoia-Visalia created for and presented the Star Teacher Award to him in 2000. Ron was recognized in Who's Who Among America's Teachers in their first edition, repeating for ten years until his retirement. He was an Outstanding Teacher honoree to students with ADD in 1998 through 2000, a PTA Education Hall of Fame honoree in 2000, and a Honorary Lifetime Member of FFA.

Within the district, Ron was a Mentor teacher for 3 years and a Master teacher for 7 years. He held multiple offices on the faculty club at Mt. Whitney. He started a Friday morning breakfast club for teachers which began with hand thrown pottery gift mugs personalized for each member. In the community, he

was a secret judge for the Visalia Players at the Ice House Theater and an advisor to the Boy Scouts of America - two of many volunteer roles.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Weslee Rose Sarment Loyd; his son Eric Rodd (wife Michelle) from Lemoore, CA; his daughter Amber Rose Loyd Connolly (husband Dr. Timothy A. Connolly) from Houston, TX; his step-brother Johnny Helget (wife Billie) from Farmersville, CA; his sister-in-law Sandy Kirkham (husband Dwayne) from Lake Isabella, CA; his brother-in-law Mike Liddi (wife Sylvia) from Visalia, CA; and six grandchildren: Erica Rose Loyd, Audrey Rose Loyd, Erin Rose Connolly, Sean Patrick Connolly, Riley Rose Loyd, and Ethan Ross Loyd. Preceding Ron in death are his father (Edward Hale), his mother (Louise Loyd Helget), his step father (Frank Helget) and his brother (Donald Ray).

Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, November 3, at 10am at Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel with a Celebration of Life immediately following at the Mt. Whitney High School cafeteria. A memorial tribute may be offered on www.salseranddillard.com <<http://www.salseranddillard.com>>

An inspiration to us all, his memory will live on in the lives he has touched and the artwork he created. He was there for the kids, period.

Previous Events

Memorial

NOV 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel
127 East Caldwell
Visalia, CA 93277

Celebration of Life

NOV 3. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (PT)

Mt. Whitney High School
Visalia, CA 93277

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Edwin Rondald Loyd*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - November 03, 2018 at 01:00 PM

AW

That was wonderfully done! Thank you for sharing this with the rest of us.

Alisa Ward - November 07, 2018 at 06:58 PM

MS

“ *I was a student of Mr.Loyd's in the 1980's.
He became my mentor and saved me from an unknown future.
His art room severed as a safe haven for me.
With his help I discovered the power of art, and my path.
I've worked my whole career as an artist, I owe a lot to him.*

I know now he and I were kindred spirits.

Best, Mark.

mark serr - November 12, 2024 at 06:01 PM

AW

“ *Mr. Loyd was the best of the best. He was an incredible artist, teacher, mentor and friend. My mother had a huge crush on him when she was in high school and thought it was absolutely amazing that I got to have him as a teacher as well!*

He will be missed by more than Mrs. Loyd and the rest of his family will ever hear about. His creative spirit, his ability to befriend students of all backgrounds and demographics, and his ability to draw out the true artist in us all were true gifts!

Mr. Loyd I will miss seeing you while taking my parent's dogs on a walk while visiting them in Visalia. It was so great to catch up with you over the summer and to say goodbye one last time.

Alisa (Boon) Ward

AlisaWard@pointloma.edu

Alisa Ward - November 07, 2018 at 07:46 PM

JL

“ *I just found out about Ron's passing. I will be out of town this weekend and will not be able to attend, though I truly wish I could. He deserves all the respect and accolades. He was a role model to so many of us at Mt. Whitney. When I started as a young teacher and coach, just a few doors down from his art room and statue garden, he was someone to look up to. One who had been through it all and had stories to tell. I always enjoyed running into him at a wrestling match or a play. He was a true Renaissance man and will be missed.*

Joseph Lane

Joseph Lane - November 02, 2018 at 11:16 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Edwin Rondald Loyd.



October 30, 2018 at 08:15 PM

“ *The Potter and the Clay*

18 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 “Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear[a] my words.” 3 So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. 4 And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

5 Then the word of the Lord came to me: 6 “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

My heart is heavy this morning as I read of Ron's death. I immediately thought of this passage in the 18th chapter of Jeremiah. I know of no other person who was a better potter than Ron as he molded and shaped more than simple clay, but rather so many countless students and friends and family through his long and spirit filled work at Mount Whitney. As a colleague and friend, I had the privilege of being Amber's guidance counselor and always the joy of walking into Ron's room to experience a new art piece, created by himself, or one of his students. I always knew that he would go the distance to help and encourage even the most “at risk” students. His many mosaics around the campus and throughout Visalia are a living testament to his creative genius and his devotion to making his community a better place for all of us.

Ron knew His potter! His love of Jesus and the Bible were a witness for all who knew him. Now Ron is walking with his hand in his Lord's, at peace. I praise God for Ron's life, and his influence in mine. He made working and learning at Mount Whitney High School a joy, an adventure, and a blessing.

*Glen Drake
15050 Sunset Shores Circle
Harrison, Idaho 83833*

Glen Drake - October 30, 2018 at 03:03 PM