

Ronald Franklyn Bartholomay, known to most as Ron or "RB," peacefully passed away on May 17, 2026, at the age of 83, at Bethany on University and Ethos Hospice after a long journey with dementia.

Ron was born on July 25, 1942, in Glendale, California, to Jean and Roger Bartholomay. He spent his life doing exactly what he loved most: making friends everywhere he went, working hard, laughing loudly, and making sure everyone around him was having a good time.

On April 29, 1966, Ron married Loretta Jean Skjonsby, and together they raised their daughters, Megan Jane and Bethany Joan, making Fargo their home. In later years, Ron shared many memories with his longtime companion, Ginny Klein.

If it had a motor, a throttle, or a chance to create a story, Ron was all in. In his early life, he was a motorcycle racing enthusiast before becoming a lifelong snowmobile fanatic. He made countless memories on snowmobile trips with close friends and never passed up a chance to hit the trails - always and only on the back of a Polaris.

Summer meant the lake: boating, fishing for walleye (and only walleye, according to Ron), golfing, waterskiing, tubing, and gathering the people he loved most. He was happiest when everyone else was smiling, laughing, eating well, and maybe holding a cold Miller Lite.

Ron was a natural entertainer and connector. He loved music, dancing, telling stories (and jokes), grilling for a crowd, and cooking big Italian meals. He never met a stranger for long, and his quick wit, big personality, and generous spirit made people feel instantly at ease.

He built a successful career selling heavy equipment machinery, but his real talent was people. Whether talking with lifelong friends or someone he'd just met, Ron had a way of making everyone feel important. He adored children, animals, and just about anyone willing to share a smile, laugh, or a cup of coffee.

Ron is survived by his daughters, Megan (Mike) Bartholomay-Berreth of Fargo, ND, and Bethany Bartholomay of Fargo, ND; grandson, Aavery Garrett of West Fargo, ND; step-grandsons, Dylan Berreth of Denton, TX, and Dayton Berreth of Moorhead, MN; granddaughter, Maxwell of Fargo, ND; great-granddaughter, Emina of West Fargo, ND; brother, Rick (Lee) Bartholomay of Horace, ND; sister, Claudia Mueller of Davenport, ND; along with many extended family members, lifelong friends, fishing buddies, snowmobile companions, and countless people lucky enough to know "RB."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jean and Roger; his grandparents; many aunts and uncles; and far too many treasured friends.

Ron's family will forever cherish the laughter, stories, music, meals, adventures, and love he brought into their lives. A special thank you to the wonderful nurses and caregivers on the memory care unit at Bethany on University, as well as Ethos Hospice. The compassion, patience, and kindness they showed Ron in his final months was a true gift to both him and our family.



# IN LOVING Memory



RON BARTHOLOMAY  
July 25, 1942 - May 17, 2026

"SWEET FREEDOM"

Michael McDonald

No more runnin' down the wrong road  
Dancin' to a different drum  
Can't you see what's goin' on  
Deep inside your heart  
Always searchin' for the real thing  
Livin' like it's far away  
Just leave all the madness in yesterday  
You're holdin' the key  
When you believe it

**Chorus**

**Shine sweet freedom  
Shine your light on me  
You are the magic  
You're right where I wanna be  
Oh sweet freedom carry me along  
We'll keep the spirit alive on and on**

We'll be dancin' in the moonlight  
Smilin' with the risin' sun  
Livin' like we've never done  
Goin' all the way

Reachin' out to meet the changes  
Touchin' every shining star  
The light of tomorrow is right where we are  
There's no turnin' back  
From what I'm feeling

**Sing Chorus**

'Cause there'll be starlight all night  
When we're close together  
Share those feelings dancin' in your eyes tonight  
They're guiding us  
Shinin' till the mornin' light

**Sing Chorus**

Shine sweet freedom  
Shine your light on me  
You are the magic  
Magic baby  
Oh sweet freedom carry me along  
Come on, on and on

Shine sweet freedom  
Shine your light on me  
On and on, on and on, on and on  
Oh sweet freedom carry me along  
We'll keep the spirit alive on and on

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Friday, May 22, 2026 - 3:00 PM  
Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home  
Fargo, North Dakota

OFFICIANT

Fr. Jamie Parsley

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Prayer

First Reading

Reile Jordheim

Second Reading

Amy Jo Hendrickson

"What a Wonderful World" Maxwell Bartholomay-Berreth,  
Sadie Flattum, and Rosemary Myhre-Walsh

Eulogy

Megan Bartholomay-Berreth

Video Tribute

Sermon

Music

"Sweet Freedom"

The Lord's Prayer

Commendation

Music

"God Only Knows"

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Rick Bartholomay - Aavery Garrett  
Mike Bartholomay-Berreth - Dan Skjonsby  
Denny Skjonsby - Lee Jordheim  
Marc Johnson - Jim Lokken - Kim Beckius

INTERMENT

Sunset Memorial Gardens  
Fargo, North Dakota

*All are invited to a reception following the service.*