



Ronald J. Hughes

December 28, 1937 - February 25, 2016

COLEBROOK – Ronald J. Hughes, 78, of Colebrook, passed away at the Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital early on Thursday morning, Feb. 25, 2016, surrounded by his loving family and after a long battle with failing health.

He was born Dec. 28, 1937 in West Stewartstown the son of the late Homer J and Florence (Blais) Hughes. He attended local schools and was a 1955 graduate of Colebrook Academy. Ron was drafted into the Army and served with honor from 1961-63.

Upon returning to the north country, Ron held various jobs. He worked as a heavy equipment operator for Audley Construction until going to work for the Prudential Insurance Company, where he was awarded for being a top agent multiple times, but was forced to retire due to his failing health. He later refused to retire and worked various jobs to include driving truck for the Lewis Oil Company.

Ron was a well-known figure in the local community as well as in the state. He served 38 years on the Colebrook Fire Department in every position to include 11 years as chief. He also served for 24 years as a NH forest fire warden and 23 years as a director for the NH Fireman's Association. Ron was also recognized for the major role he played in establishing the current New Hampshire Fire Academy in Concord. Ron also served on the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee, making sure the land stayed open for future generations.

Ron was a lover of music and was an accomplished drummer. He loved to march in parades, to dance, and to play in local bands. In addition to his love of music, he enjoyed his camp on Whipple Ridge and was considered by most to be obsessed with his blue 1978 International Scout II.

He is survived by his wife, the love of his life, Helen (Fraser) Hughes, of Colebrook; his three children, Stephanie (Hughes) Cross and husband Bradley Cross of Fort Hood TX., E.J. Hughes of Singapore, and Christopher Hughes and wife Melissa of Deland, FL; five

step-children, Kimberly Martin and husband Sean, Jason Fayta and wife Leiah, Lori Merrill and husband Michael, Suzanne Merrill ,and Robbie Merrill;. three brothers, Dean Hughes of Colebrook, Alan Hughes and wife Cathie of Charlotte VT, Robert Hughes and wife Lucille of Harvard, MA. Ron was a proud grandfather of Ashlie Cross and fiancée Travis Lynch, Nathan Cross, Michael, Audrey, Elizabeth, Colin, and Isabella Hughes, as well as 8 step-grandchildren and a young lady who held a special place in his heart, Chelsea Tillinghast.

Calling hours will be on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, from 2-4 and 5-8 p.m. at the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook, NH. A graveside committal service with military honors will be held later in the spring in the Colebrook Village Cemetery of which notice will be given.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the Colebrook Fire Dept., P.O. Box 273, Colebrook, NH 03576; or the Colebrook School District Music Dept., 21 Academy St., Colebrook, NH 03576; or to the North Country Band, % Cecil Hikel, P.O. Box 16, Canaan, VT 05903.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Funeral arrangements in NH are under the direction of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook.

Car 1, ... all clear.

Cemetery Details

Colebrook Village Cemetery

North Main Street, U.S. Route 3
Colebrook, NH

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home
103 Main Street
Colebrook, NH 03576
(603) 237-4311
info@jenkinsnewman.com

Visitation

MAR 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home
103 Main Street
Colebrook, NH 03576
(603) 237-4311
info@jenkinsnewman.com

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *my thoughts and prayers are with you all
Becky (Laramee) Borry*

becky (laramee) borry - June 12, 2016 at 06:45 PM

ST

“ *Have a blessed first Easter in Heaven Dad. I feel your spirit and presence and love all around me and although you are gone from my sight I know you are still with me. Love you Dad, until I see you again keep sending the owl ;)*

stephanie - March 27, 2016 at 03:51 PM

ST

*4 years later. 2 great grandsons you would absolutely love and lots of positive changes. We love and miss you every minute of every hour of every day.
~Rondella*

Steph - February 25, 2020 at 05:19 PM

CB

“ *We are comforted in knowing that during this season of bereavement for the family: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. Psalm 121:8 (ESV)*



CSM(R) Harold and Brigitte Burleson - March 20, 2016 at 10:24 PM

SH

Thank you RCSM your words and condolences provide comfort. He was a great father...the best. I was blessed.

Stephanie Hughes-Cross - March 23, 2016 at 08:19 PM

NF

“ *Ronnie was one of my favorite cousins. I remember our fun in the Colebrook Academy marching band and his great drumming keeping us all in step. Thoughts and prayers go to his family and older brothers and all. Love, Bill & Nancy Hughes Field*

Nancy Field - March 09, 2016 at 03:02 PM

CR

“ To the family and friends of Ronnie. What a huge loss to you and to the community. Ronnie was a steadfast asset to the Colebrook area. His fun "antics" are also well ingrained as part of the memories of early snowmobile years at Diamond Pond. A fine man who will be missed.

Cindy Roy - March 05, 2016 at 06:12 AM

TJ

“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to Stephanie, Brad, Ashlie, and Nate. The entire family will be in our prayers for comfort, strength, and peace.

With love,
Jon, Taleen, and Ryan Jackson

Taleen Jackson - March 04, 2016 at 10:28 AM

DK

“ My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Hughes family and especially to Stephanie, EJ and Chris. Your father was so proud of you and loved you so much. My fondest memories will be dancing with Ronnie and watching him play the drums in the band or in the parades. He was a wonderful man who will be greatly missed but is now dancing with the Angels in heaven.

God bless you all,
Donna Keazer

Donna Keazer - March 03, 2016 at 07:42 AM

JM

“ Ronnie taught me how to double clutch the old tanker, he had a lot of patients! Great guy who gave a lot of his time to the community.

Julien Marquis - March 02, 2016 at 06:19 PM

AG

“ My deepest most sincere condolences to the Hughes family. Growing up Ronnie and I always celebrated our birthdays together, he loved that we shared a birthday.

Ashlee (Kenney) Goulette

Ashlee (Kenney) Goulette - March 02, 2016 at 12:34 PM

RN

“ I would like to express my condolences to the entire Hughes family for their recent loss.

Robert Noyes - March 01, 2016 at 03:19 PM

WH

“ Ronnie had a way about him, something that can't really be put into words. He was virtuous and talented yet humble and gracious. He had a calming demeanor and always had something funny or wise to say. I will always cherish the memories of playing music with him and I know he's up there now showing them all how to do the "Two Step".

Miss You Ronnie

Wendell Hughes

Wendell Hughes - March 01, 2016 at 08:31 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Hughes.



February 29, 2016 at 04:58 PM

DC

“ My heart felt condolence goes out to the Hughes family. I met Ronald J in 1982 when I went to work for Prudential Insurance co in Littleton, NH. Right from the start we hit it off and have been good friends ever sense. I spent a lot of nights at camp with Ronald and even used it a few times with my family and friends. Ronald will be missed and I will always cherish the time that we spent together. Oh and yes I have many stories that include Ronald J in them.

God Bless.

Donald H Clark

Donald H Clark - February 29, 2016 at 03:11 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Hughes.



February 29, 2016 at 02:30 PM

SB

“ *Sad to hear of his passing. Ron was a well known and respected member of our community. Sorry for your loss Stephanie and family.*

Steve Bissonnette - February 29, 2016 at 01:28 PM

 Jo Ann Serna

“ *Our sincere condolences Brad, Stephanie, Nate and Ashley Cross. Sorry for your loss. Sensing our thoughts and prayers. 💖 God bless.*

*Love,
Jo Ann and Bernie Serna*

Jo Ann Serna - February 29, 2016 at 01:14 PM

JC

“ *Sorry for your loss Stephanie, Brad and family. Our memory of your is Dad is always seeing him outside being busy.*

Uncle Carey + Aunt Jane

Jane Cross - February 29, 2016 at 09:01 AM

 Jo Ann Serna

*Our sincere condolences. Sending our thoughts and prayers. Love you guys 💖
Bernie and Jo Ann Serna*

Jo Ann Serna - February 29, 2016 at 01:06 PM

PH

“ *So very difficult to find the perfect words to express this deep loss for so many of us. Ronnie was truly one of a kind. A great leader and Chief who guided many with good old fashion common sense. A very proud life long member of our small community, proud of where he came from, becoming woven into the fabric of this special place we call home.*

Rest In Peace my great friend, and know that when the time comes for all of us to be together again foolish trickery and laughter will not be far behind.

Rest easy "Ronald J." A special place in my heart belongs to you. "Penelope"

Penny Henry - February 29, 2016 at 08:19 AM

ST

“ We had the best father, mentor, friend, and hero. We were blessed beyond belief. The void and emptiness can't be measured or filled. The peace comes from the genuine love we have felt in the days leading up to and after your passing. You are gone from our sight, but never from our memories and remain in our hearts. Rest in God's perfect peace now Dad in the dance hall in the sky to the beat of the rythum of a pain free heart. We love you and will miss you....until we see you again. ~Steph (Rondella)

Stephanie - February 28, 2016 at 10:08 PM

AG

Very sorry to hear of the loss of Ronnie. You are in our prayers. Lindsey and Ann Gray

Ann Gray - February 29, 2016 at 01:35 PM

LW

“ I am sad to hear of the passing of Ronald Hughes. I had the pleasure to see and talk with Ronald at the Lancaster fair. My wife, Mary and myself sends our deepest condolences to the Hughes family and we will keep you in our prayers.

Larry Wahl, Retired Fire Chief Newington
Owner of Wahl to Wahl Sound

Larry Wahl - February 28, 2016 at 06:22 PM

DW

“ I will miss you Uncle Ron , you're trips to Tx I always enjoyed.. RIP. David.



david wright - February 28, 2016 at 01:26 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Hughes.



February 28, 2016 at 12:06 PM

GM

“ had occasion to work briefly with Ron while in Concord, dedicated man . george moynahan Chief (ret) Rye Fire Dept.

george moynahan - February 28, 2016 at 10:59 AM

HB

“ Sincere sympathy to the Hughes family.

Hasen and Jeannine Burns

Hasen and Jeannine Burns - February 28, 2016 at 08:26 AM

RH

“ Sure had some good times at Fire Dept. functions and conventions over the years.

Rest in Peace my friend.

Richard (Hezzie) Heselton, Fremont Fire Chief Retired

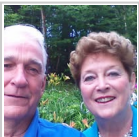
Richard Heselton - February 27, 2016 at 09:08 PM

YF

“ Your USAA SIU family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ronald J. Hughes.



Your USAA SIU family - February 27, 2016 at 08:02 PM



“ So sorry to learn of Ronnie's death, we had great times together in our younger days. He was a close friend and was best man at our wedding. We send our love and condolences to his family. Sorry we aren't home for his funeral. Charles O & Shirley Stevens

Charles Stevens - February 27, 2016 at 07:49 PM

JL

“ We extend our deepest and heart felt sympathy for the loss o f your dad. May your memories help soothed your loss. Love John&Christiane Lanctot

john lanctot - February 27, 2016 at 03:53 PM



“ Ronald and I go back many many years.
He was a true friend.
Spent alot of time in camp summer And winter, can never
take away the good times.
When Steph called to tell me of Rons passing it knocked me off my feet.
Steph and EJ. have special place in my heart along with Christopher.
To me Ron is a big loss.
They don't come any better.

Tom Minickiello

Thomas L. Minickiello - February 27, 2016 at 03:43 PM

TM

“ Tom and Waltraud Minickiello purchased the Enduring Grace
for the family of Ronald J. Hughes.



Tom and Waltraud Minickiello - February 27, 2016 at 03:34 PM

JG

“ Sincere condolences to the family of Ron Hughes. He was a great drummer and I
always enjoyed playing with him and Carolyn's Friends. I've been playing bass
guitar with them for about 3-4 years and I always sat next to him keeping time
with his drums. He sure will be missed

JoAnne Gilman and Duane

JoAnne Gilman - February 27, 2016 at 02:26 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronald
J. Hughes.



February 27, 2016 at 09:29 AM



“ My deepest condolences to Steph, EJ, Christopher and their families. I will never forget going to camp with Steph and Ron giving me guff for putting ketchup on my steak. He fed me plenty of dinners after I'd already eaten and was always a good sport. And of course his yellow snow machines! Great memories for this girl who grew up next door. I'm so very sorry to hear of his passing but know he was so very loved by all.

Jenny Chenevert - February 27, 2016 at 01:26 AM

AS

“ I did not know Ron Hughes personally but I know his daughter Stephanie Cross. She is an amazing woman, mother and friend. My heart hurts for her. We choose who we want to become but our parents can definitely influence us. Stephanie adored her dad, so without ever meeting him I know he too was an amazing character !

My heart, thoughts and prayers are with her and her family. As I was praying for her today all I could see and hear was a figure (her dad) singing and dancing to "I'm in Heaven".

James and Amy Salyers

Amy Salyers - February 26, 2016 at 08:13 PM

AM

I Met Stephanie's father Ronnie while Stationed at Fort Leonard Wood he was an amazing man an a honor to know! I am so sorry for your loss. My heart breaks for Stephanie and her family I know the bond and love her and her father shared. My thoughts and prayers are with you. I'm so sorry for your loss. Stephanie, Brad, Ashley, Nate and Riley. I'm sure Ronnie is singing and playing the drums looking down on all of you sending my love and prayers!!

Ann Mears

Ann Mears - February 27, 2016 at 02:02 AM

HR

“ Stephanie and family, sincere condolences. My prayers are with you..



Helen Robertson - February 26, 2016 at 07:10 PM

PW

“ It was a pleasure and honor to have met Chief Hughes and compare notes while visiting his brother in Harvard, MA. My thoughts and prayers are with the Hughes Family at this difficult time. Chief Peter E. Warren Retired, Harvard Fire Dept.

Peter Warren - February 26, 2016 at 07:05 PM

SC

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Ronnie. I will miss his smiling face when trick or treating with my children or just seeing him out and about in town. He was my favorite person to wait on while waiting tables years back. He had a beautiful soul and smile. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Sue Carlsob - February 26, 2016 at 06:51 PM

RB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Hughes-Cross families.



Richard & Judy (Hunt) Budge - February 26, 2016 at 06:07 PM

RP

“ Rosalie King And David(Tink) Parker lit a candle in memory of Ronald J. Hughes



Rosalie King and David(Tink) Parker - February 26, 2016 at 04:43 PM

TB

“ The Soldiers of The 89th Military Police Brigade purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Ronald J. Hughes.



The Soldiers of The 89th Military Police Brigade - February 26, 2016 at 03:31 PM

BA

“ Paul and I have many fond and fun memories of spending time up North with Ronnie and his friends and family. One that particularly sticks in my mind is the time we all piled into a school bus and trekked down to the Lancaster Fair. Before we left Colebrook, however, we made a lightening trip to Pleasant Street to put out an oven fire in someone's kitchen---that someone turned out to be Ronnie, the Fireman!!!! RIP, Ronnie.

Barbara and Paul MacDonald

Barbara - February 26, 2016 at 02:45 PM

KL

“ Such sad news. So sorry to the family! Such a great man, and loved by all that knew him.

Kathie Lamontagne - February 26, 2016 at 02:02 PM

SM

“ I would like to offer my condolences to Stephanie, EJ and the whole Hughes family. Ronnie was in school and on the Colebrook Fire Department with my dad Steve Colby. We even lived on Pleasant Street together. He was a great man and will be greatly missed.

Shori McKinnon - February 26, 2016 at 12:11 PM

CF

“ Our deepest sympathy to the Hughes-Cross family. Please know we are thinking of you and keeping you close in our hearts. Love to all, Cindy & Mark Faria

Cindy Faria - February 26, 2016 at 11:21 AM

JM

“ My sincere sympathies to the family. Ronnie was a wonderful man and I am sure he will be greatly missed. RIP Ronnie

Joanne Mathieu - February 26, 2016 at 10:36 AM

JM

“ The North Country has lost a great one.
Our condolences to the Hughes family.
Rest In Peace Ronald Hughes. You will be missed.
John and Sue Morrissey

John and Sue Morrissey - February 26, 2016 at 09:50 AM

TC

“ sorry to hear of ronnie passing. he was one of the great men and he will be missed. i was so glad to have been in his life. my condolences to the family

Tammy Cross - February 26, 2016 at 09:31 AM

MA

“ So sorry to hear of Rons passing . He was a great guy and will be missed

Mariolyn - February 26, 2016 at 09:25 AM

JM

“ Jane Murch sent a virtual gift in memory of Ronald J. Hughes



Jane Murch - February 25, 2016 at 09:23 PM

JM

“ I will always think of Ronnie as being my 2nd dad, we have so many memories we have shared over the years that I will never forget. Praying Steph, Brad, Kive, EJ, Ashlie, Nate, Rylie and Helen find peace and comfort in the near future. I will always be here for you all, Love Always, Jane and Bill Murch xoxo



Jane Murch - February 25, 2016 at 09:18 PM

LB

“ To the family of Ronald J. Hughes, we share our deepest sympathies with all who knew him. With warm regards and blessings. The Boruff Family (Killeen, TX)

Lori Boruff - February 25, 2016 at 08:47 PM

SP

So sorry to here about Ronnie, We had so much fun when he went to the northland or the legion when George Kenney played. Didnt he ever love country music and he sure knew how to dance. Sympathy to his family. Steve & Wanda Patnaude

steve & wanda patnaude - February 26, 2016 at 10:10 AM

HH

“ Our deepest condolences to the entire family on your loss. Ronnie's presence was felt throughout the entire North Country Community and his loss leaves a hole in the community.

Haven & Peggy Haynes - February 25, 2016 at 06:50 PM

FC

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family of Ronny. Francine & Andre Champagne

francine champagne - February 25, 2016 at 06:23 PM

RB

“ To cousins Stephanie and E.J., and your children and families, we send our love, condolences, and prayers for your strength, knowing hearts are breaking.

Rest in peace dear Uncle Ronny, and drum on! "Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."-- Henry David Thoreau

With much love,

Renee Bucciarelli and family

Renee Bucciarelli - February 25, 2016 at 03:16 PM

TT

“ The Thivierge family sends their deepest condolences and prayers to Ronny's loved ones.

Tammy Thivierge - February 25, 2016 at 08:01 AM

RM

“ Rosemary Mulliken lit a candle in memory of Ronald J. Hughes



Rosemary Mulliken - February 25, 2016 at 07:59 AM

RM

Will miss him and our 'Colebrook stories'- many good memories. Prayers and caring thoughts to Ronnie's family.

Rosemary Mulliken - February 25, 2016 at 11:50 AM

LC

“ *Linda Clogston lit a candle in memory of Ronald J. Hughes*



Linda Clogston - February 25, 2016 at 07:10 AM

JP

“ *Jan & Phil lit a candle in memory of Ronald J. Hughes*



Jan & Phil - February 25, 2016 at 06:03 AM

JP

Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this most difficult time.

Jan & Phil - February 25, 2016 at 06:04 AM

DR

Our deepest condolences to the entire family on your loss.

Donne & Rita - February 26, 2016 at 12:36 PM

LB

Ronnie will be missed by everyone. Prayers for his family and condolences. He was a man who loved to dance..he was an excellent dancer. Rest in peace Ronnie.

Linda & Ronnie Beloin - February 27, 2016 at 12:01 PM