



# Ronald Sundell MacArthur

APR 9, 1955 - MAY 14, 2025



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# Ronald Sundell MacArthur

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**R**onald Sundell MacArthur, award-winning journalist and photographer Ronald S. MacArthur, 70, of Lewes, passed away May 14 from liver disease.

Ron's life was deeply rooted in family, career, and a love of travel. He leaves behind a lasting legacy in Sussex County through his contributions as an elected official, devoted community volunteer, accomplished newspaper reporter, photographer, columnist and local historian - most notably through his beloved column *Around Sussex*.

Born in Seaford on April 9, 1955, to Shirley and Maurice "Mac" MacArthur, Ron grew up in western Sussex County. A talented athlete, he played soccer and baseball in high school. At just 18, he launched his journalism career at the *Seaford Leader*, where he served first as sports editor and later as editor. His career continued with roles at the *Seaford Star* and as editor of the *Milford Chronicle*.

In 1987-88, Ron spent a year in France as a small-town editor for the *International Herald Tribune*, a position he earned through the prestigious John Hay Whitney Journalism Award. During that time, he attended the Tribune's 100th anniversary celebration held in the Eiffel Tower, where he had the memorable opportunity to meet broadcast legend Walter Cronkite. It would be the first of two encounters with Cronkite—the second came later at a journalism conference at the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

In 2007, Ron joined the *Cape Gazette*, where his in-depth reporting on Sussex County government, DelDOT and environmental issues became a hallmark of the publication. Over the years, he received numerous accolades from the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, including multiple Best in Show awards. His colleagues admired not only his journalistic integrity but also his unwavering dedication to the stories and community.

At his recent 70th birthday and retirement celebration at the Lewes Yacht Club, Ron was honored with proclamations from both the Sussex County Council, Delaware State Senate and the House



## Obituary

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of Representatives, recognizing his lifelong service and contributions to the Cape Region. He will be deeply missed by friends, readers and fellow journalists.

A lifelong champion for his community, Ron served on Seaford City Council from 1990 to 2005, becoming the youngest person ever elected to the position at the time. He also worked as a family coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club, coached and umpired for Seaford Little League, served as president of the Seaford Kiwanis Club, and founded the Nanticoke River Watershed Group to protect the river he loved.

Above all, Ron was devoted to his family. He met his wife, Kathy O'Hanlon, in 2004, and they married in 2014. Together, they traveled extensively across the U.S. and abroad, visiting places like Ireland and France. Ron never went far without his camera, documenting their adventures and sharing photos that brought joy to friends and family on Facebook.

He especially loved spending time with his twin grandchildren, Jenna and Colby, attending swim meets, sailing school and camping trips. He adored them. Ron was also a fan of classic rock, the Baltimore Orioles and the Ravens. Summers at Lewes Beach, afternoons at the Lewes Yacht Club, and boating with Kathy brought him great happiness.

Ron is survived by his loving wife, Kathy; his daughter, Beth; son-in-law, Eric; sister, Mary Jane (Nevin) of Milton, Fla.; stepdaughter, Michelle Bland; and three grandchildren - Jenna and Colby, students at Sussex Tech, and Adin, who serves in the U.S. Air Force. He also leaves behind a wide circle of cherished friends.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 3 p.m., Wednesday, May 28, at Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Hwy., Lewes, followed by a funeral service at 3 p.m.

All those unable to attend the services are invited to join the service via livestreaming by visiting the following link: [Click Here for Webcast Link](#)

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Ron's name may be made to Gift of Life, Howie's House, 401 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123, or to Delaware Hospice, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963.



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Please sign Ron's Tribute Page at this site.

Florist note- Please deliver any tributes to the Lewes Funeral Home by 3 PM on Tuesday May 27, 2025




# Events


**Ronald Sundell MacArthur**

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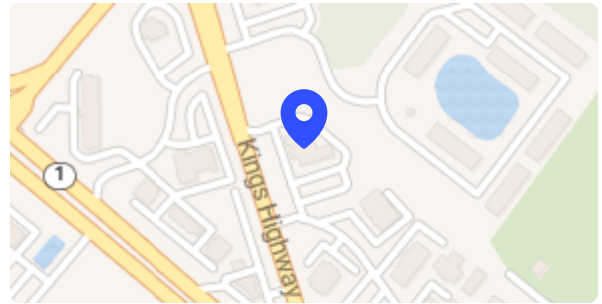
## Visitation

 **Wednesday**, May 28, 2025

 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET


 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel**


16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



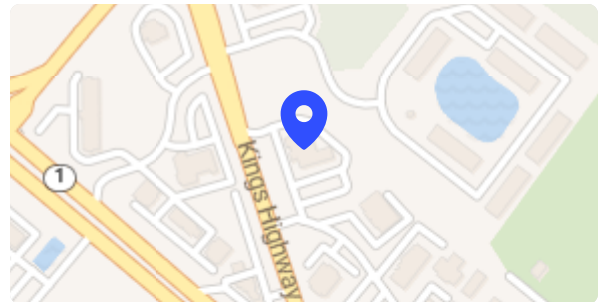
## Celebration of life

 **Wednesday**, May 28, 2025

 3:00 PM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958





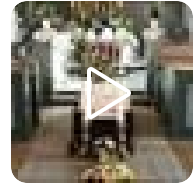
# Tribute Wall

**Ronald Sundell MacArthur**

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**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** shared a **Webcast Video**.



May 21 at 9:50 AM



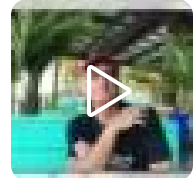
**Keith S.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Ronald Sundell.



June 6 at 8:31 AM



**Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



May 28 at 1:15 PM



**Mary Jane Macarthur** lit a candle in honor of Ronald Sundell.

In loving memory of my beloved brother.



May 28 at 12:11 PM



**Mary Jane Macarthur** lit a candle in honor of Ronald Sundell.

In loving memory of beloved brother.



May 28 at 12:10 PM



**Judy Briggs** lit a candle in honor of Ronald Sundell.



May 28 at 2:04 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Dale Massey** posted:

Ronny Mac- my friend, my mentor. Ron was a patient teacher and leader. He championed every community he served and captured the charms of each one of them, Sussex County and wherever he travelled, through his writing and camera lens. His dedication and desire to educate his readers was his hallmark. Dale Massey

May 27 at 11:06 PM



**Keena Ross** posted:

Sometimes we have lifelong dear friends, but, since we've traveled in different circles or lived in different places, we may not see them often. We're thankful for the times in which our paths crossed. Even though we may not know their spouse well, our heart aches for them and for their family, for their loss at a time like this. And then, regrets hit our hearts that we didn't know their loved one better. Kathy, it seems I remember Ron mostly seeing him when our paths crossed riding bikes, somewhere around town or a hello at LYC. He always had a smile, was congenial and conversations were interesting, showing his love for an active life, travel, for family and especially for you. We're happy that you've had this wonderful man to travel through life with and are deeply saddened for you and your extended family for Ron's passing. He'll surely be missed by many. With heartfelt sympathy and love, Keena Parsons Ross and family

May 27 at 2:57 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the MacArthur family.



May 27 at 1:14 PM



**Anne Michele Levasseur** lit a candle in honor of Ronald Sundell.

With this candle we extend our deepest condolences to Michelle (Ms. Bland) and her family. May you find comfort in memories and your shared Love for Ron. With Love, North County's IT3 Team and Students



May 27 at 1:00 PM



# Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the MacArthur family.

May 26 at 12:30 PM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Ronald Sundell.

May 26 at 12:30 PM



**Steve Schwartz** posted:

It was our pleasure to know Ronnie for most of his life – from his high school time as class president, active Key-Clubber, all-around leader. He was not a loud or demonstrative person, but he quietly led by example and had lots of good ideas. Ronnie was largely responsible for getting the Seaford River Walk started; it's too bad that he didn't live long enough to see the impact of the removal of the old power plant. His work at the Seaford Leader was a huge positive with pages and pages of great pictures illustrating the life of the town – especially the sports activities with lots of candid moments. As a Seaford City Councilman, Ronnie helped spearhead the initial "Main Street" revitalizations including Gateway Park. As a Kiwanis President, he spurred that service organization to broaden its impact – especially for youth. His work with the Cape Gazette helped newcomers to Sussex County appreciate the background history of many Sussex features which were sometimes taken for granted; he helped folks know "the rest of the story"! Despite his healthy lifestyle with lots of exercise – running and biking all over – Ron's health issues took its toll. Yet, he did not complain; he followed the advice of the doctors and fought the good fight up until the end. Most folks may not recognize "Gift of Life Howie's House" – the suggested charity "in lieu of flowers." Very much like the better known "Ronald McDonald Houses" for children, Howie's House in Philadelphia provides transplant patients and their families with lodging, meals, and hospital shuttle service as they go through the process of waiting for life-saving organ transplants. We strongly endorse that charity. Judy and Steve Schwartz

May 22 at 4:59 PM



**Kathy O'hanlon** lit a candle in honor of Ronald Sundell.

May 21 at 2:34 PM





# Tribute Wall

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**Kathy O'hanlon** lit a candle in honor of Ronald Sundell.

You are so missed!

May 21 at 2:34 PM



**Danna Palmer** lit a candle in honor of Ronald Sundell.

In kindergarten, he was Ronnie. Many of us in Seaford High School's Class of 1973 have known him since then. Some of us, even longer. He was kind, smart, thoughtful, determined, pensive, always learning, fair, respectful, and a leader to us as our class president for 4 years at SHS. Learning that he was in need of a liver, many of us volunteered to be tested, only to be turned down because we were too old to be considered. That was troubling, and as it happened, Ronnie's liver gave out on him before a donor could be found. Responsible - Ron was totally trustworthy and wiser than many of us! He knew what he wanted and focused on his goals, achieving most of them, learning and growing each step of the way. Oh my, what a great friend. He was a cherished friend and classmate to us all. Never did he neglect to thank others. He was thoughtful and kind. Now, he leaves a legacy of written documents through his work at the Seaford Leader and the Cape Gazette. I will never forget Ron's gift of photography and his love for the written word. Evermore, evermore . . . Senior English and Edgar Allan Poe . . . "because life consists of continuous loss. Poe uses "evermore" because loss will always be part of life; "nevermore," because we can never hold onto what we have or who we love." Perhaps Ron sensed this. He got on with life earlier than most of us with his decision to follow his love of writing through the newspaper rather than attend college. We will miss you, Ron MacArthur, but forget you, we shan't, and love you? Forever.

May 15 at 7:43 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the MacArthur family.

May 19 at 11:30 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Ronald Sundell.

May 19 at 11:30 AM





## Tribute Wall

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TF

**The Wheatley Family** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the MacArthur family.

May 17 at 8:29 AM



TF

**The Wheatley Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Ronald Sundell.

May 17 at 8:29 AM



PD

**Peggy, Cathy & Dave** sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the MacArthur family.

May 17 at 8:05 AM



PD

**Peggy, Cathy & Dave** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Ronald Sundell.

May 17 at 8:05 AM



TR

- **Trinity Elt** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the MacArthur family.

May 16 at 8:22 AM



KA

**Kathi Adronene** posted:

Being from Seaford, Ron was always around reporting and capturing great pictures. Taught photography classes to my father. So well respected. A great loss.

May 15 at 7:43 PM



# Media

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Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared a **Webcast Video**.

May 21 at 9:50 AM



Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium shared a video to the **Memories Album** album.

May 28 at 1:15 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ronald Sundell by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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