



James Ronald Brown

November 21, 1934 - February 21, 2024

James Ronald “Ron” Brown passed away peacefully at home on February 21, 2024 surrounded by family. He was 89 years old.

Born on November 21, 1934 to Thomas Earl & Hilda Catherine Brown (the 3rd of seven children), Ron grew up on a farm in Scaggsville, Maryland. He spent his summers either working for his father’s electrical contracting business or on his uncle’s dairy farm milking cows. He always felt fortunate to have had these two experiences because, he would add with a chuckle, “It became clear that I was not cut out for dairy farming!” What Ron was cut out for was electrical contracting, like his father, and by the time he was 13, he was wiring single-family homes.

Ron was only 17 when his father passed away suddenly at the age of 46, but he stepped up to run the family business, and by the age of 21 he had earned his Master Electrician's license.

When Ron was 22, the US Army called. He served as a paratrooper in the 11th Airborne Division for four years, two of which were in Europe. He often commented that the confidence building he obtained through that experience was a contributing factor to the success he had in business.

After proudly serving in the Army, Ron returned to his hometown to found

Electrical General Corporation—a highly successful electrical contracting firm of over 300 employees that he led for 41 years until his retirement in 2001. Ron's philosophy was, "We may be beaten on price, but we will never be beaten on quality or customer service."

In addition to growing a thriving business, Ron served on several boards and was instrumental in making positive and pivotal changes in the industry, such as creating electrical licensing reciprocity, thus eliminating the need to get licensed in multiple counties. In 1984, he was elected as the first Chairman of three Maryland Statewide Electrical Licensing Boards and held that position for 8 years. In 1996, Electrical General was awarded the prestigious Associated Builder's Subcontractor of the Year Award. Those who had the pleasure of working with Ron, or "Brownie" as he was affectionately called, would often say that his "integrity was beyond reproach" and that he "treated customers like friends." As a testament to the strong business he founded, Electrical General continues to operate today.

When Ron wasn't working, he kept happily busy with his five children—Mike, Matt, Mark, Mitch, and Rhonda. For many years, he coached football and baseball for the Laurel Boys & Girls Club and taught his kids and grandkids how to hunt and fish. After retirement, his love for the outdoors poured over into many barbeques and crab feasts that he hosted in his backyard. All were welcome! His parties always inevitably led to nighttime card games with his siblings, kids, and even grandkids. He travelled throughout the United States visiting family, friends, and as many state parks and museums as he could.

Ron's memory will be forever held in the hearts of his surviving family: His devoted wife Gail Brown (Little) and her children (whom he loved as his own): Tracey & Mike Clay and Brian Feeley, his children from his former wife Alberta Brown (Gallis) and their spouses: Mike, Mark & Lori, Mitch & Janie, Rhonda & Jeff Pepper, his siblings Charles Thomas "Tommy" Brown and Gloria

Saunders, and his 17 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to:

The Wounded Warriors Project www.woundedwarriorproject.org, or
Compass Hospice 160 Coursevall Drive, Centreville, MD 21617 www.compassregionalhospice.org

A visitation will be held on Friday, February 23, 2024, from 5:00pm – 8:00pm at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 408 South Liberty Street, Centreville, MD 21617. A second visitation will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at the funeral home, from 9:30am – 11:30am. Funeral service will follow at 12:00pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 301 S Liberty St, Centreville, MD 21617. Interment will be private.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 23. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
408 S. Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

Visitation

FEB 24. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A.
408 S. Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

Funeral Service

FEB 24. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
301 South Liberty Street
Centreville, MD

Tribute Wall

Jeff
McBride

“ *" Brownie " Hired me in 1985 & I worked unde rhis son Mitch whowas a Wonderful Foreman & his brother Mike who talked me into finally taking Ljouneymas Test & passing !! Brownie also in1987 Offered me Treatment thru Electrical General health Coverage for a Drinking problem. That offer saved my LIFE !!! He also gave me aloan to fron EGC to Buy the 1st car I ever owned in my name !! I'm retired with a beautiful Wife & Daughter BUT still have my Jourman's License (Thanks again MIKE for your nagging to test - LOL) I am Forever Grateful to Brownie, Mitch & Mike !!!! Rest in Peace.*



Jeff McBride - August 14, 2025 at 08:24 AM

MK

“ *Brownie was my first real boss back when EGC only had about a dozen guys. He hired me after I persisted with calling him and asking for a job. That was 1982 and I will never forget how patient he was with me and took me under his wing. He even co-signed my first loan. I went on to become a master electrician myself mostly educated about the trade by him and his son Mike. I am sorry for your loss and may he rest in peace. What a great mentor he was to me.*

Michael Kalvaitis aka Mike K

Michael T Kalvaitis - April 03, 2024 at 04:14 PM

TL

“ Dear Gail

I was saddened to hear of Ron's passing. When we moved in at Symphony Village, Sheryl and I met you and Ron. Ron became quite a friend and mentor. We spent time learning about eachother.

Ron was a very good man and he took pride in his accomplishments, which were well deserved.

My God grant you peace and the comfort that Ron is with theLord.

My Deepest Sympathy

Tom Lepisto

Tom Lepisto - February 27, 2024 at 11:15 AM

BP

“ Norma and Bill Patton



Bill Patton - February 24, 2024 at 05:11 PM

SS

“ Just thinking about Uncle Ronnie brings up so many great memories hunting at The Farm on Polish Mountain with Uncle Ronnie, his crew and Butch Hilton. I still do not know how they stayed up until 2am playing cards, drinking Wild Turkey and smoking cigars then got up at 4:30 and successfully hunting the next day the whole week. The Wilson Family Reunions in the late 60's through 80's were the Best in part to Uncle Ronnie always making the softball games so competitive. I hope Uncle Ronnie, Big H and Butch Hilton are telling hunting stories and playing cards. We will miss you dearly,
Stanley & Terry Smentkowski

Stanley Smentkowski - February 23, 2024 at 02:30 PM

AE

“ Gail, my condolences to you and your family. Ron was a great guy and a wonderful business man.

Alan Ettman

Alan Ettman - February 23, 2024 at 01:47 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray* was purchased for the family of James Ronald Brown.



February 23, 2024 at 12:11 PM

LH

“ Love Brian Lawson " Hog Head" planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Ronald Brown.

Love Brian Lawson " Hog Head" - February 23, 2024 at 12:11 PM

YE

“ Your friends & loving employees at EGC purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of James Ronald Brown.



Your friends & loving employees at EGC - February 23, 2024 at 12:08 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of James Ronald Brown.



February 23, 2024 at 10:08 AM

LE

“ Love, Sonny, Teri, Danny & Kim Easton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Ronald Brown.

Love, Sonny, Teri, Danny & Kim Easton - February 23, 2024 at 10:08 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Ronald Brown.*



February 23, 2024 at 09:28 AM



“ *Sarah & Andrew Thigpen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Ronald Brown.*

Sarah & Andrew Thigpen - February 23, 2024 at 09:28 AM



“ *Love, Barb and Dave purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Ronald Brown.*



Love, Barb and Dave - February 22, 2024 at 11:27 PM



“ *Keith, Ashley, Evie & Eddie purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of James Ronald Brown.*



Keith, Ashley, Evie & Eddie - February 22, 2024 at 04:50 PM

KE

“ Keith, Ashley, Evie & Eddie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Ronald Brown.

Keith, Ashley, Evie & Eddie - February 22, 2024 at 04:50 PM

DF

“ Dick Saddler and Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of James Ronald Brown.



Dick Saddler and Family - February 22, 2024 at 04:01 PM



“ Ron was one of my first large insurance clients. We remained friends for over 40 years. I adored the man. RIP, Brownie.

Jeff Anderson

Jeff Anderson - February 22, 2024 at 01:54 PM

PL

“ Pete and Martha (Kalbach) Lewnes purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Ronald Brown.



Pete and Martha (Kalbach) Lewnes - February 22, 2024 at 12:16 PM

BT

“ Brother Tom purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of James Ronald Brown.



Brother Tom - February 22, 2024 at 11:43 AM

BT

“ Brother Tom planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Ronald Brown.

Brother Tom - February 22, 2024 at 11:43 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Ronald Brown.



February 22, 2024 at 11:42 AM

AW

“ Ashly, Ryan, Lydiah, Dallas & Warren planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Ronald Brown.

Ashly, Ryan, Lydiah, Dallas & Warren - February 22, 2024 at 11:42 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Ronald Brown.*



February 22, 2024 at 09:14 AM



“ *Susan and Steve purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Ronald Brown.*



Susan and Steve - February 22, 2024 at 07:12 AM



“ *Samantha Showman purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Ronald Brown.*



Samantha Showman - February 21, 2024 at 07:30 PM



“ *Samantha Showman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Ronald Brown.*

Samantha Showman - February 21, 2024 at 07:30 PM

DB

“ *Our love to Gail and family. He was a fearless card player and wonderful family man. We had some great times together. Love Dolly and Gene*

Dolly n Gene Beachy - February 21, 2024 at 02:33 PM