



Ronnie Dean Erven

May 30, 1946 - September 9, 2025

Born on May 30, 1946, Ronnie Dean Erven was the only child of Roscoe and Mildred (Jenkins) Erven. He attended Bolivar schools, graduating in 1964. He enrolled at Southwest Baptist College (now SBU) and obtained an AA degree in business. Prior to graduating, however, he became engaged to Marinell Rayfield, a little cheerleader he met in their government class.

They married on July 2, 1966, at which time Ron transferred to SMS (now MSU) and pursued a degree in industrial education while Marinell worked full-time and Ron worked part-time at Sears. During his college years he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves, where he served as a field medic for six years until he was honorably discharged. Marinell began college, as well, and both graduated in 1969. Marinell began teaching in Springfield and Ron left to serve his time on active duty.

Upon his return, both began teaching in Ellington, MO. This was a wonderful period in their lives as their two children were born while they lived there. Ron became a member of the Barnesville Masonic Lodge while there and remained a member until his death.

He had been saved at Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church when he was 11 years old. In 1973, he told of his call to preach. The family moved to Bolivar, and he was ordained at Pleasant Hill that same year. He was hired as

assistant production manager at Teters Products and later promoted to vice-president of human resources as the company grew.

As such, he flew to all 48 contiguous states, hiring, training and managing sales staff. He always returned on weekends to pastor various churches, the last two of which were Calvary MB in Bolivar and Canaan MB in Springfield. He was a beloved pastor and friend.

While in Bolivar he served on the Chamber of Commerce Board, was a member and president of the Optimist Club and helped raise funds for area Girls Scouts. He was an avid dirt-racing fan and collected limited edition replica cars. He always said, "Dirt is for racing, asphalt is for getting there".

He leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Marinell; daughter Tiffany Hockanson (David); son Derek (Candi); granddaughters Allie Moore and Cannyon Goff, grandson Zane Erven; and his cherished great-granddaughters, Rain and Noah Moore and Evy Erven.

Services for Ron will be held 11:00 AM Monday, September 22, 2025, at Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, MO. Visitation will be held 10:00 - 11:00 AM Monday, September 22, 2025, at the Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions can be made in Ron's memory to the Alzheimer's Association Greater Missouri Chapter.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

SEP **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
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Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronnie Dean Erven.

September 19, 2025 at 04:13 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronnie Dean Erven.



September 19, 2025 at 04:13 PM



“ I will always remember Ron hiring me at Teters and I enjoyed my years there. Rest well.....

Laura (Hoffer) Ritter - September 18, 2025 at 02:25 PM



“ So sorry for your loss I remember wonderful memories of worshipping our Lord together. May God be with you and comfort you. Lovedebbie(Butler)Jackson

Debbie butler Jackson - September 16, 2025 at 03:42 PM

JR

“ *Our prayers are with you in this time of sorrow. Ron will be remembered and missed by all who knew him. He was a gracious man and I was blessed to know him. Grateful he’s enjoying his eternal reward and praying for comfort and peace for his loved ones. Love, Julie and Shayne Reel*

Julie and Shayne Reel - September 10, 2025 at 04:12 PM