



## Ronald J. Alfs

May 4, 1935 - April 12, 2025

Ronald John Alfs, a beloved son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend, passed away surrounded by family on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at York General Hearthstone in York, Nebraska. Ron was the third of four children and was born at home in Shickley, Nebraska, on May 4, 1935, to John and Erma (Ketchum) Alfs. Ronald lived a life full of love, integrity, and devotion.

Ron was a lifetime resident of Shickley. He was an active, life-long member of the Shickley United Methodist church where he was baptized and confirmed. He graduated from Shickley High School in 1952 and attended Nebraska Wesleyan for one year. It just so happened that Ron was ushering in church when Merrill and Sherrill Larson came to Shickley with their Wesleyan friend for the weekend. This was the beginning of a life-long, loving relationship. Ronald married Merrill Faye Larson on March 24, 1957, in the Potter United Methodist Church. They recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. The devotion and respect Ron and Merrill showed each other was a testament of their love for each other. To this union, six children were born: Jacalyn, Judith, Amy, Bryan, Timothy and Nancy.

Spending most of his life as a farmer and well driller, Ron valued the resources of land and water. John B. Alfs, Ron's father, began Alfs Well Drilling in 1940. By the time Ron was 16 years old, he was driving the water

truck and grew up as his dad's right-hand man. Ron learned much from his father and he joined John in running Alfs Well Drilling in 1953. Both Ron and his father had mechanical minds and calculated, designed, and fabricated their own test rigs and drillers. Employees, customers, and vendors were important relationships he valued. Ron and his father also sold Case equipment until 1965, and Ron was a Reinke Pivot dealer when they first became available in the 1970's.

Ron served on the Nebraska Well Drillers Association board of directors and was always interested in innovations in the industry. He was recently honored with an award of Achievement and Community Service by his peers at the Nebraska Well Drillers Association. He has been quite proud to share his love and knowledge of the well drilling business with his sons, Bryan and Tim Alfs. Ron's legacy will live on through his sons, who are also training up Ron's grandsons, John and Adam Alfs, in the business.

As a lifetime resident of Shickley, Ron spent his years enriching the lives of those around him, leaving an indelible mark on his family, friends, and community. Ron was very active in his "Big Little Town". In his earlier years, he served on the Rescue Squad and was a member of the Shickley School Board of Education. He was a member of the Shickley Lions Club and was an active member of the Shickley Commercial Club.

Ron was a faithful member of the Shickley United Methodist Church and served in many capacities, from usher to trustee. Many a batch of homemade ice cream was churned in the Alfs' garage for the annual church ice cream social.

Ron took pride in his community and was so pleased to see the construction of the Community Center, the improvements to the Shickley Cemetery, and the creation of the War Memorial. He knew the value of the small businesses

and was always looking for ways to help Shickley and Fillmore County to thrive.

Ron's kindness and dedication were evident in his actions and unconditional love for his family. Ron and Merrill were inseparable and shared many fun times together. They loved attending Nebraska Football games; getting to know new friends with card games and fishing as Winter Texans at the Dunes; and took many travel adventures together. Alaska and Australia were just a couple of their favorites. Ron and Merrill moved to Willow Brook Assisted Living in York in 2017 and gained even more friends and the staff that became like family as well.

Raising six children meant there was a LOT of activity going on at the Alfs' House. Ron's children gained a wealth of knowledge from their dad. He would never give them his direct advice, but he would use guided questions to help them think about, and come to their own decisions. Ron modeled to his children how to treat others. Be kind, take the high road, don't be boastful. Ron's face would light up anytime he had a chance to be around his grandkids and great grands. Birthday celebrations, basketball games and graduations were just a few highlights. All were his pride and joy!

Ron never knew a stranger and his sense of humor was always appreciated. He always had a positive attitude and never complained about anything. Even when he had setbacks or struggles with his health, he always maintained, "I've had a blessed life".

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, John and Erma Alfs; his siblings, Mary (Al) Gay, Kenneth Eddy and Viola Ann who both died in childhood; and his daughter-in-law, Marti Alfs.

Ronald will be deeply missed, and his legacy will be carried forward in the memories and stories shared by those he held dear.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Merrill; his children, Jackie (Patrick) Pope of Columbus, Judy (Dave) Smith of Graford, TX, Amy (Rodney) Bear of Kearney, Bryan (Kari Jo) Alfs and Tim (Jody) Alfs of Shickley, and Nancy (Victor) Alfs-Caballero of Calca, Peru; Ron's 14 grandchildren: Michael (Amy) Pope, Erin (Matthew) Welsh, Mitchell (Maggie) Pope, Nicholas (Ashley) Bedlan, Angela (Koby) Styles, Ryan (Erin) Bear, Amanda (Nathan) Pfeil, Ashley Bear, John Alfs, Regan Alfs, Adam Alfs, Abby Alfs, Megan (Josh) Erickson, Emily (Andrew) Votipka; and 27 great grandchildren and another on the way.

A Funeral Service for Ron was held on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Shickley, Nebraska. Pastor Monica Magoola presided over the Funeral Service. Holly Schoming accompanied the congregation in the singing of "How Great Thou Art" and "On Eagle's Wings" The recorded selection "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" was also played during the Funeral Service.

Pallbearers included grandsons, Michael Pope, Mitchell Pope, Nicholas Bedlan, Ryan Bear, John Alfs, and Adam Alfs.

A Private Graveside Service was held in the Shickley Cemetery following the Funeral Service.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com)

Memorials are suggested to the Shickley United Methodist Church, Shickley Community Foundation, or the York General Dialysis Center.

The Alfs family would like to express our deepest gratitude to all who provided unwavering support, kindness, and compassionate care to our beloved father and our family before and since his passing. Your generosity and dedication brought comfort during a difficult time.

A special thank you to Dr. Brady Fickenscher, Dr. Leslie Spry, the wonderful staff of Willow Brook Assisted Living, the York General Dialysis staff, the Hearthstone staff, Pastor Monica Magoola, Hanke, and all our beloved family and friends. Each of you went the extra mile, showing unparalleled compassion and care for our dad and our family.

Your kindness will never be forgotten. With sincere appreciation,

Merrill Alfs

Jackie Pope, Judy Smith, Amy Bear, Bryan Alfs, Tim Alfs, Nancy Alfs and Our Families

# Cemetery Details

## Shickley Public Cemetery

Shickley, NE 68436

# Previous Events

## Family Present for Visitation

APR 16. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

APR 16. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## **Funeral Service**

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APR 17. 10:30 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church  
611 Swartzendruber Dr  
Shickley, NE 68436  
(402) 627-2045

## **Private Graveside Service**

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APR 17 (CT)

Shickley Public Cemetery  
Shickley, NE 68436

# Tribute Wall



“ 106 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - April 17, 2025 at 02:48 PM

JG

“ Jason george lit a candle in memory of Ronald Alfs



Jason george - April 17, 2025 at 02:19 PM

MD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary DeLay - April 17, 2025 at 01:02 PM

MD

“ My sincerest sympathy to the whole Alfs family. Ron was a wonderful friend and neighbor to my entire family. My dad said, "He's a man a person could count on to keep his word and deal honestly with you." I remember Ron as the man who lived next door to me as a child and then as the father of the children I used to baby sit for across the street from us. He impressed me with how he interacted with his kids and showed them so much love. Throughout the years growing up, he was a steady caring presence in our church and a pillar of our community. - Mary Johnson DeLay on behalf the Don W. Johnson family



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**Mary DeLay** - April 17, 2025 at 11:27 AM

WC

“ Warm regards, Jenny Elliott & Mike Cline purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.



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**Warm regards, Jenny Elliott & Mike Cline** - April 17, 2025 at 02:44 AM



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



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April 16, 2025 at 03:54 PM

BK

“ Alfs family. I am so sorry for your loss. Ron was a great guy. Only person I knew that could swim backwards 🌀. When I taught adult swimming lessons he had trouble pointing his toes therefore when he flutter kicked he went the wrong way. Fond memories



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**Bev Kipper** - April 16, 2025 at 03:51 PM

DG

“ Dick Grosch purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.



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**Dick Grosch** - April 16, 2025 at 02:29 PM

DR

“ We bring our deepest sympathy to the Alfs family. We have many great memories of Ron. He was a great man. Don and Shirley Rytych

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**Don Rytych** - April 16, 2025 at 10:45 AM

MS

“ Mid-America Pump & Supply planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald J. Alfs.

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**Mid-America Pump & Supply** - April 16, 2025 at 09:34 AM

MS

“ *Mid-America Pump & Supply purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.*



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**Mid-America Pump & Supply** - April 16, 2025 at 09:34 AM

TC

“ *The Ohio Cousins purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.*



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**The Ohio Cousins** - April 16, 2025 at 08:02 AM

TC

“ *The Ohio Cousins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald J. Alfs.*

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**The Ohio Cousins** - April 16, 2025 at 08:02 AM

TD

“ *The Dunklau's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald J. Alfs.*

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**The Dunklau's** - April 16, 2025 at 07:06 AM

TD

“ *The Dunklau's purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.*



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**The Dunklau's** - April 16, 2025 at 07:06 AM

JD

“ Janet Larson Davis lit a candle in memory of Ronald Alfs



Janet Larson Davis - April 15, 2025 at 08:11 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.



April 15, 2025 at 07:29 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.



April 15, 2025 at 01:49 PM

DM

“ Dan Mackin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronald J. Alfs.

Dan Mackin - April 15, 2025 at 12:05 PM

DM

“ Dan Mackin purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.



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Dan Mackin - April 15, 2025 at 12:05 PM

IN

“ Dear family of Ron, Sincere sympathy on the loss of Ron. He is a legacy in the Town of Shickley. Condolences to Judy who helped us when we lost our daughter. Peace and blessing from Ila Mae Frieden Nelson

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Ila M Frieden Nelson - April 15, 2025 at 11:05 AM

AF

“ Ann and Hank’s family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.



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Ann and Hank’s family - April 15, 2025 at 10:48 AM

KS

“ Ken, Jolene, Jessica, Kayla, Megan Svoboda purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.



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Ken, Jolene, Jessica, Kayla, Megan Svoboda - April 15, 2025 at 10:05 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.*



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April 15, 2025 at 09:47 AM



“ *My deepest loving and caring on your heart Nancy, and the hearts of all of your family on your Father's passing. I never met your Dad but I know what an incredible man he was through knowing you and what a wonderful person you are my friend. I am with you in heart as you navigate this time. You are so loved. ☐. Praying God's Peace fill you all right now.*

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**Andrea Himes** - April 15, 2025 at 09:33 AM



“ *Such an incredible man  
He left a legacy in Shickley no one can repeat  
I owe so much for the life he helped me enjoy  
RIP Ron*



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**Jim Bedlan** - April 14, 2025 at 08:51 PM



“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory  
of Ronald Alfs*



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**Kent & Rose Theobald** - April 14, 2025 at 06:11 PM

TG

“ *The Grones purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Ronald J. Alfs.*



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**The Grones** - April 14, 2025 at 03:57 PM

VJ

“ *Condolences to all the family! Ron was a very kind man!*



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**Virginia Johnson** - April 14, 2025 at 03:34 PM

RS

“ *Randy & Rhonda Schlick lit a candle in memory of Ronald Alfs*



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**Randy & Rhonda Schlick** - April 14, 2025 at 03:05 PM