



Ronald Edwin Messner

January 5, 1946 - July 7, 2026

Ronald Edwin Messner passed away suddenly on July 7, 2026 in Houston, Texas, surrounded by his family. He was 80 years old. He leaves behind a legacy of generosity, friendship, authenticity, and unwavering devotion to those he loved.

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, to Sadie and Edwin "Fuzzy" Messner, Ron was proud of his New Orleans roots. He attended St. Aloysius High School and then Louisiana State University.

Ron began his professional career in Chicago with Illinois Central Railroad before going back to New Orleans to work for Hunt-Wesson Foods. In 1976, he moved to Houston to join Houston Distribution, beginning a lifelong connection with the greater Houston and Galveston communities that he would proudly call home for the next 50 years.

An entrepreneur at heart, Ron co-founded Gulf Winds International in 1996. He helped build the company into a premier logistics business operating across the US. He led the company with both ambition and compassion until his retirement in 2012, earning the admiration of colleagues, employees, customers, and friends alike.

Success never changed Ron's generous spirit. He believed deeply in giving back to his friends and broader community, freely sharing both his time and resources. He served as a board member of the Houston Food Bank and SEARCH Homeless Services, organizations he knew made a meaningful difference in the lives of countless individuals and families in the Houston area.

Ron married Janis in 1964, and together they welcomed their daughter, Kimberly ("Kim"), who was the light of his life. Kim loved her dad beyond words and will forever miss his wisdom, his strength, and the steady presence that shaped her life. She will honor his legacy by carrying his love and values with her always.

In 2010, Ron married the love of his life, Dixie, after the two had known one another for many years. Together they built a beautiful life centered in Houston and Galveston, filling their days with an active social calendar, time with family, and regular travel all over the world. At that time, Ron also became a stepfather to Andrew and treated him and his family as an extension of his own from the first day they met.

Ron was a life-long sports fan. He was a devout fan of the Houston Texans and Astros. Golf was another lifelong passion, and he treasured the friendships he cultivated at Lochinvar Golf Club and Galveston Country Club. Whether on the course or around the card table, Ron's competitive spirit was always balanced by his warmth, humor, and his ability to make everyone feel welcome.

Anyone fortunate enough to share a meal with Ron knew his love for good

food, especially when it came to seafood. He was an accomplished cook, and few things made him happier than gathering family and friends around a table for a crawfish boil in the Spring. Those meals reflected who he was—a gracious host who found genuine joy in bringing people together.

Faith remained constant throughout Ron's life. Raised in the Catholic Church in New Orleans, he later became a devoted member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Galveston. His faith guided his generosity, humility, and the kindness and dignity with which he treated everyone he encountered.

Perhaps Ron's greatest gift was his remarkable ability to connect with people. He never met a stranger and had an extraordinary talent for building lasting relationships. Friends, business associates, neighbors, and acquaintances alike knew they could count on Ron for encouragement, wisdom, laughter, or a helping hand. The hundreds of lives he touched stand as a testament to the extraordinary person he was.

Among his greatest joys was being a grandfather, a role he cherished for more than 32 years. He delighted in watching Kim's sons Shane and Luke grow into remarkable young men and again over the last 6 years with Andrew's daughters Stella and Piper. His grandchildren knew him as "Pop", and he was their favorite.

His legacy lives on through the family he adored and the countless friendships he nurtured. He left a lasting mark on the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

The world lost a great man, and we will miss him dearly.

He is survived by his wife Dixie, daughter Kim, stepson Andrew and his wife

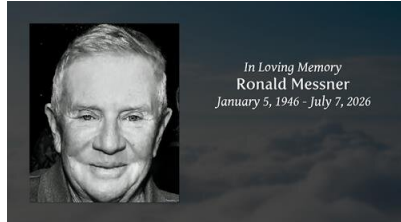
Bridget, and his grandchildren Shane, Luke, Stella, and Piper.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, July 17, 2026, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 2216 Ball Street in Galveston, Texas. A reception with the family will be held at the Artillery Club immediately following the service.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Earthman Generations created a Tribute Video in memory of Ronald Edwin Messner*



Joseph Earthman Generations - July 15 at 02:51 AM