

Celebration of Life Story
of
Ronald Timothy Denny
Recited by David Yasko
On the 27th of December 2004
Church of Christ, Bellevue, WA

Ronald Denny was born in Cookeville, Tennessee, December 5, 1950 to Tim and Geraldine (Loftis) Denny. He lived his early years in East Detroit, Michigan a suburb of Detroit. He had many friends in the area and was a member of the football team at Grant Junior High School where he won a sport letter for football, which made him popular with the girls.

Ronald joined the army in the mid 70's and served his country in Germany in the army newsroom. After his discharge from the Army, Ron spent a short time in East Detroit, then went to Alaska seeking his fortune building the Alaska pipeline only to end up at the Sears Department Store in Anchorage.

A friend from his army days convinced Ron that Hawaii was where he should be living and so Ron moved there for three years. There he met Jim Wills, who Ron always spoke fondly of, you see, not only did Jim save Ron from drowning in the dangerous waters of Hawaii, but Jim also introduced Ron to the jewelry trade. Jim taught Ron to make waxes and cast gold jewelry.

Ron's dexterity and patience convinced him that selling colored stones was more interesting. There on the beaches of Hawaii, big Ron spent his life scuba diving and learning the jewelry trade when puka shells and gold plated maile leaves were in vogue. Ron was a long haired, buff and tanned haoles in Hawaii when he decided it was time to move back to the mainland.

Ron attended Washington State University in Pullman and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. Ron also attended law school at University of Puget Sound School of Law for a year before realizing that the jewelry trade was really where he wanted to be.

He took the correspondence course from the Gemological Institute of America and Ron's amazing memory made him the perfect student for knowing and remembering the chemical components and properties of the vast variety of colored stones and every crown and pavilion angle to cut a perfect diamond.

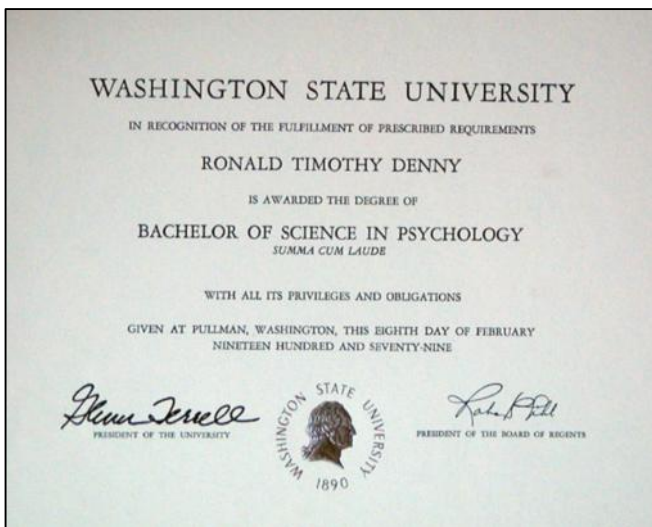
From the early 80's until 1992 Ron owned and operated RT Denny Diamonds in downtown Seattle where wholesaled diamonds to the jewelry trade. In 1989 Ron married Leslie Habu Tanaka and they had their son Reed Timothy, who is now 15 years old. Two years later they had Grant Ronald Denny, now 13 years old. The family enjoyed trips to Ocean Shores, running in the water, flying kites and riding go carts. The family made trips to Hawaii in the summer every couple of years. In September of this year, Ron and

Leslie bought two timeshares at the Westin in Maui and were looking forward to spending more vacation time together as a family.

In 1991, Ron had his eye on a old building now known as the Florentine Building in the historic district of Pioneer Square. At the time it was being renovated into condominiums. Ron and Leslie purchased a commercial condominium on the back side of the property near the Kingdome. Ron acted as general contractor and orchestrated a very complicated and quality constructed jewelry store with lots of curved lines. The project took almost two years to complete. As you could imagine, Ron would come home tired and frustrated with how long it was taking and how complex it had become and Leslie would remind him that this was a building not a diamond so it all didn't have to be quite so exact when it came to the measurements. However, if you knew Ron, you knew that it was his style to do something perfect or don't bother with it at all. Ron knew the job was complete when he had a painter with a tiny touch up brush turn to him and say, "Ron, if no one has told you this, I'm going to tell you now – you are finished." Ron was the co founder and partner with Leslie of the L.T. Denny Jewelers. This month marks the 11th Anniversary of the Grand Opening.

In 2003 the family moved to Mercer Island into the "perfect" home. It had lots of room, a beautiful Japanese garden, and a deck with a peaceful view of the lake where Ron spent a lot of time reading the newspaper and drinking libations (which if you knew Ron, you know that means beer). He loved having his friends join him for a cook out where he would grill steaks and ribs and pretend the he was semi-retired.

The family would like to thank all of you who have given their support and friendship through the years. One of Ron's favorite sayings was "Life is Happy Moments." Thank you for making his happy moments.



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