



RONALD TIMOTHY DENNY
b. 5 December 1950, Cookeville, TN
d. 15 December 2004, Bellevue, WA
Eulogy by his sister:
Audrey June (Denny) Lambert



Ronald Timothy Denny was the oldest child of Tim & Geraldine Loftis Denny. He was born in Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN at Cookeville General Hospital on the 5th of December 1950. He was a beautiful baby and according to his Aunt Burton he could crawl faster than any baby she ever saw. Even then he was hard to keep up with. He was named after his grandfather, Virgil Timothy Denny. Virgil's father's name was Timothy Denny. Ron's oldest son, Reed's middle name is Timothy, so the name Timothy has been passed down from generation to generation. Ronald's second son was named after him, Grant Ronald Denny.

Ronald has two living brothers, Richard Lewis & Joe Nelson Denny and one sister Audrey June (Denny) Lambert. Ron married Leslie Habu and their children are the only descendants of Tim Denny, their names are Reed Timothy Akira Denny & Grant Ronald Teiji Denny. Wonderful boys anyone would be proud of. He asked me to take care of them in case something happened to him and Leslie.

Tim Denny moved the family in 1953 to East Detroit, Michigan where he found work. We lived in a very small house on Donald Street for many years and then moved about a mile away to Tuscany. My brothers had a loft room upstairs at the house on Tuscany which they painted all black with a florescent green peace sign on the ceiling that glowed in the dark. Psychedelic posters hung on the walls that peacefully glowed in the dark.

Most of our memories are centered around growing up on Donald Street and the children we all played with. Ronald had the dream to build a tree house in the back yard and he did. Girls were not allowed but I was an exception. Once Ron tricked me into closing my eyes and opening my mouth so that I could get some candy he said he had in his pocket. I did as he suggested and he proceeded to put a big worm in my mouth and I swallowed it whole. This was one of Ron's favorite childhood stories he told his kids to make them laugh. We had water balloon fights, watched for "Pops" the ice cream truck driver to come and had fun with the neighborhood children. In the winter we made snow castles and had snowball fights and Ron liked to make really big snowmen and go ice skating.

He was baptized on 14 January 1962 at the East Detroit Church of Christ in MI by Allen Killom. Ronald was active in the church in his teens and sometimes led the congregation in prayer. He made some friends at the church and since his death many have called me to express their condolences on his passing. My mother would read us Bible stories every night before we went to sleep. She used to quote scripture from the Bible to Ronald, he would quote her a verse right back and a hot debate would follow. One of Ronald's ancestors Rev. Joel B. Anderson was a minister at the Church of Christ in Leiper's Fork near Franklin, TN. Rev. Joel B. Anderson & Rev. Andrew Craig preached

for the Franklin Church, which was started in 1833. The congregation at Leiper's Fork became a strong force in the Restoration movement in this area of the state. It grew steadily in spite of persecution. You can read more about this in the book called: The Restoration Movement And The Franklin Area by Mary Trim Anderson. Many of Ron's ancestors were devoted ministers and followers from the circuit rider days to the present.

The Denny's and Loftis families related to Ronald have a rich American heritage. Many of his ancestors fought during the American Revolution against the British. Many of his ancestors were pioneers and some of the first families to settle Tennessee.

Our father always took us to Tennessee for the summer to see our grandmother, Audra Anderson Denny. Ronald liked to go exploring up the hills behind our grandmother's house. Ronald would be the expedition's leader for me and my brother Richard up the hill. I was going to be the leader down the hill. I was leading us down stepping over rocks and slippery areas. I heard a noise and looked back and saw Ronald falling down the hill. He was rolling down the hill at a fast speed pulling up small trees as he went unable to stop his fall. When he finally got to the bottom of the hill he landed smack into a thorn bush and stopped. When he got out of the thorn bush he went looking for me. I tried to hide but he found me. He showed me his cuts and bruises and punched me a few times and said I would never be the group leader again.

Lots of things happen at the farm, like the time Ronald and Richard let the mules out of the barn and couldn't get them back in and the time Ron almost shot his grandmother. Ron and I were upstairs in my grandmother house and Ron found a gun that belonged to my dad. Ronald didn't think it was loaded and he took aim out the window and it went off. My grandmother and father were in the back yard on the family swing. The bullet missed my grandmother and hit the swing post. That was scary. Ron liked to swim in Little Indian Creek and catch what we called crawl dad's. He loved to shoot dad's shotgun and feel the kickback. We all had fun on grandmother's farm.

One year Ron brought Leslie, and the kids to help celebrate his parents 50th wedding anniversary. We all went to the water park and the kids loved to go down the water tubes. When Ron went down the water tube the whole thing shook and when he flew off the end and into the pool I was waiting and laughed at how much water splashed out of the pool. We all had sandwiches and watermelon on the picnic grounds and it was a wonderful family affair. Ron and the kids were having watermelon seed contests to see who could split the seeds the greatest distance. We all had a good time.

Ronald always loved food! He would be the first to sit down at the table and grab the best that was being offered. Ron and I would fight over who got the pulley bone of the fried chicken my mother cooked. Ron used to sit down and eat a pound of bacon and a dozen fried eggs for breakfast. He said he was in training and needed the energy. He used to practice weight lifting in his parent's basement. He loved food so much that it was fun to watch him prepare a meal being very precise in its presentation and appeal. It was even funnier to watch him enjoy his meal.

Ron and his brother Richard liked to watch The Three Stooges and then whack each other during the program. We would watch Popeye, and the Road Runner cartoons. Ronald had a paper route, played football, baseball and was in the Cub Scouts. He loved listening to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. He had a jacket that was the same style that the Beatles wore.

I was the family punching bag and if I did something my brothers didn't like I received my punishment as Ronald put it. "Do you want it now or later?" he would say. "I'll take it now why wait," I would say. Later in my teens he would decide if he liked who I was dating and would monitor me. If he seen me a party he would tell me to go home. He was always my big brother.

Joe our youngest brother was born ten years after me. When he was born we were at school and after school we couldn't wait to get home and see the baby. Ronald ran all the way home to be the first one to see the new baby. He loved Joe and would voice his concerns about him, wishing the best for him. He protected Joe from harm and played and talked to him when he was growing up.

Ronald had the pioneer blood in his veins. He was always dreaming about how to start a business even in his early teens. He was a smart man and very handsome in my eyes. I always knew he could accomplish just about anything if he put his mind to it.

He was in the army working as a clerk in Germany during the Vietnam war. He was trained in Fort Knox, KY. He used to write home about his experiences in boot camp. He wrote "I get no sleep, I get no food, and I get 25 cents an hour, big deal, the army is a big bummer." He said, "Tonight we get to watch TV, oh boy! How sweet it is! I'm sore all over from marching and exercising, my gun looks like a Mattel toy." He wrote in another letter "Today I was screwing around and this crummy buck sergeant sent me to the company commander and he said I would get an Article 15 or 5 days extra duty, he gave me a choice. I was smarting off to this sergeant but he's a real punk. So now I can't have a weekend pass." So needless to say a military career was not in Ronald's plans.

He traveled other countries after he left the military. He would sit around airports and catch a free ride on military aircrafts. Sometimes he told me he would wait for days. He told me that his most inspiring experience in another country was when he caught a plane that was going to Jerusalem. He said he got on a bus full of people and when the bus approached the city of Jerusalem he told the driver to stop the bus and let him off. He told me he wanted to walk into Jerusalem like Jesus and his followers did a long time ago.

He took up residence in Hawaii and attended school and got married to Susan Knight. He raised Irish Setter dogs and when he moved back to the mainland he sent his two dogs, Erin and Dolan in crates to his mother's house. Ron was planning on breeding his dogs and selling the pups. He always seemed to have a business in mind. At one time he was thinking of starting a ranch in Tennessee and raising Longhorn cattle.

I went to visit Ronald in Hawaii and he showed me around. Ron was a good swimmer and he would dive off the cliffs and bring me up a piece of coral or a shell. He had natural blond curly hair, blue eyes and the long eyelashes. He looked just like a life guard on the beach. He lived with various artists and they shared rooms. One of his roommates was a jewelry designer and created jewelry using the old wax method. Ronald became interested in jewelry, semi-precious stones and diamonds. He signed up for mail order gemologist courses and became well educated in various precious stones.

One time he gave me a pretty gold ring set with an emerald stone. I lost it when I took it off to go bike riding and set it on the top of my car. I never did find it. One year when Ron was visiting for the holidays he surprised me with the same ring that I had lost. Another time when he won money at the horse races he took me shopping and bought me a pretty long black dress that had a print of big red cherries on it. I loved that dress.

He took up residence in Seattle, WA and was always very proud to live in Seattle. He attended Washington State University. He got married to Leslie Habu and they have two wonderful boys. Ron was very proud of his sons Reed & Grant. I would watch him brush their hair and you could tell he loved them very much. He wanted to be a good father and husband to his family and he succeeded in that. He would take the kids skiing and golfing. They would go on bike rides together and on vacation to his favorite ocean resort to fly his stunt kite. He truly loved his sons.

We all have our ups and downs in life and Ronald shared in life's rewards and defeats. He raised two boys and did a good job of it. Ron and Leslie had a dream of opening their own jewelry business and their dream came true.

He enjoyed planning the construction of the L.T. Denny Jewelry Store. I remember when Ron was just starting out and was selling gold chains and some rings out of boxes he would take anywhere he thought someone would buy his wares. One time he came to the Post Office where I work and went in the lunch room to lay out his jewelry. He was amazed at how much money people were carrying around to buy jewelry at work. Before the jewelry business caught his eye he was trying to start a business in leather goods while living in Germany.

He was excited to show me his new residence on Mercer Island. He loved trees and told me all about the trees on his property and how beautiful they were in the spring when in bloom. Ron loved items made of wood and sent me several as gifts.

Ron's legacy will live on through his wife and children. He was a good man and will always be remembered as such. Even though we did not always see eye to eye he was always family to me.

The last time I saw my brother was January 2002 at his mother's funeral.

The last time I spoke to my brother was on his birthday the 5th of December 2004. He was in such a happy mood and talked to me about coming to see him in the spring of 2005. I did not know then that that would be the last time I would ever speak to him.

The night he had his heart attack and the phone rang I knew he had passed. As I lay in bed crying I saw a vision of a rose bud and slowly it opened and bloomed, then I saw my mother open a garden gate and reach out for Ronald's hand and I knew he had found his mother.

Ronald was a dreamer and he worked to make his dreams come true. Ron was taken from us too early but his dreams will live on through the works of his family

I would like to end with a poem by Edgar A. Guest called "Dreams".

DREAMS

One broken dream is not the end of dreaming,
One shattered hope is not the end of all,
Beyond the storm and tempest stars are gleaming,
Still build your castles, though your castles fall.

Though many dreams come tumbling in disaster,
And pain and heartache meet us down the years,
Still keep your faith, your dreams and hopes to master
And seek to find the lesson of your tears.

Not all is as it should be! See how littered
With sorry wreckage is life's restless stream.
Some dreams are vain, but be you not embittered
And never cry that you have ceased to dream!

Letter to friends:

Ronald Timothy Denny Memorial Service in Washington

Mike, Joe and I are home from Seattle, WA. We had a smooth trip on Northwest. Lots of people but it went fast non-stop to Seattle. We rented a car and using my GPS was able to get around pretty good.

My sister-in-law had made arrangements at the Bellevue Church of Christ and they church was electronically equipped. At the back of the church was an area where there was a sound and projection setup. A technician played the music selected by my brother's family and I was able to use the microphone at the booth to give my eulogy. As I spoke pictures were displayed at the front of the church. It was amazing once I started to speak I tried to relax and the slide show of pictures Mike and I had made on a CD

started showing on the screen. I tried not to rush and as the last picture was shown on the screen I had two more lines to say and I was done.

Ronald's best friend, my brother Richard, and Ronald's son Reed then took turns reading a poem or telling a story. Ron's ashes were in a wooden shaker box set on a table at the front of the church with many flower arrangements and a picture of Ronald by the box. The flower arrangements were made up by Leslie's family who own a florist shop.

The church was full of people. After the program we went next door in a nice hall that belonged to the church and set up posters with pictures of Ronald and his family and served coffee, tea, muffins and sandwiches. I met some of Leslie's family, business associates and contractors.

Later on that night Leslie had made arrangements at a restaurant and pizza, shrimp and finger food was served with pitchers of beer, bottles of wine and pop. A lady bagpipe player came and played several tunes on her bag pipe. Ron was there setting on a table and I gave him a glass of beer. As the night progressed one by one people that knew Ronald told stories about him. The night broke up and we went back to Leslie's house.

The next day Mike and I rode around Mercer Island and marked several places with my GPS and took pictures. I visited with my sister-in-law and my nephews Reed and Grant and then it was time to go home. My brother had a very nice home with a Japanese garden that included a nice landscaped water fall and pond. The view from his upstairs was wonderful looking out at the water and mainland.

We are home now and had a good trip. I still don't know where Leslie is going to put Ronald as his final resting place.

GPS locations documented by Mike and Audrey Lambert relating to Ronald T. Denny:

Ronald T. Denny was being treated for pancreas cancer at the Virginia Mason facility, November 2004. On the 5th of December 2004 he was celebrating his 54th birthday and the chemotherapy treatments were helping to shrink his tumor. On the 9th of December 2004 Ronald suffered a massive heart attack and was rushed to Overlake Medical Center Hospital in Bellevue, WA. He went into a coma and after emergency heart surgery was put on life support. On December 13th Ron was pronounced to be brain dead. On the 15th of December 2004 Ron was taken off life support and his body ceased to function.

Ronald T. Denny's body was cremated. A memorial service was held in his honor at the Church of Christ in Bellevue, WA, David Yasko officiating on the 27th of December 2004. Later on that night a private party was given in his honor at the Pyramid Alehouse & Restaurant in Seattle, WA not far from Ron & Leslie Denny's jewelry store. This was one of Ron's favorite haunts for food and beer.

Ron's final resting place is still being determined by the family. Ron had suggested Sunset Hills Memorial Park Cemetery to his best friend when he was still living.

Name	Message	Latitude	Longitude
Bellevue Church of Christ	10419 SE 11th St., Bellevue, WA	N47°36.006'	W122°12.010'
Sunset Hills Memorial Park Cemetery	1575 145 th Pl. SE, Bellevue, WA	N47°35.775'	W122°09.029'
Old Denny Residence: Beacon Hill, WA		N47°34.541'	W122°19.045'
Virginia Mason Cancer Institute	1100 Ninth Ave., Seattle, WA	N47°36.557'	W122°19.686'
Overlake Medical Center Hospital	1035 116 th Ave., NE, Bellevue, WA	N47°37.304'	W122°11.219'
LT Denny Jewelry Store	515 Occidental Ave., S., Seattle, WA	N47°35.886'	W122°19.985'
Pyramid Alehouse & Restaurant	1201 First Avenue S., Seattle, WA	N47°35.533'	W122°20.070'

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



Ronald Timothy Denny
Frankfort, Germany, U.S. Army
2 August 1971