

Ronald Ray Meachum  
"Ron or Ronnie"

By Reese

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I am going to tell you about a soldier, a miner, a dad, and my grandpa, Ronald Ray Meachum born in 1953.

He grew up in Milford, Utah with eight brothers and sisters in a cabin. He had a dirt floor, a small bed and at night his family had to hunt for food. Years later started mining, he learned to love it and became a treasure hunter. Using his metal detector he found one hundred year old war rings, arrow heads, many, many fossils, an old train lock, and much more.

He joined the army to serve in Germany and after that he married Yvonne. He had three kids Jenna, Levi, and Tyler the oldest, which is my dad, who also served in the army.

In 1994 Ronald survived being in an explosion, making rocket fuel was thrown twenty feet, and the mushroom cloud could be from across the state and almost across the country. He burned over fifty percent of his body and was in the hospital for two years. His heart stopped several times but got revived. He fought for his life to see his kids grow up and succeeded! He had to relearn to walk, eat and many other things. He had seven grandchildren and lived a very happy life and was the funniest grandpa ever.

He died this school year in 2021, it was the hardest thing I have ever experienced in my entire lifetime. I missed three days of school and stayed up past midnight with my dad because we couldn't sleep. My family went to his funeral at the Grace Christian Church Parowan Utah. They gave my family papers that had a poem that he wrote when my dad was a little kid, it was called "The Rose". People told stories and watched a slide show. Then we had a celebration for him serving in the army with a gun salute with soldiers who also gave the bullet shells and an american flag to my grandma Yvonne. During that is when I remembered him always saying, "Enjoy the moment " and even though it was sad, it was just what I did. I wrote this essay in honor of Ronald Ray Meachum.