

Roland C. Fritts

October 7, 1951 - March 4, 2015

Roland C. Fritts, 63 of Markle passed away on March 4, 2015 in Kauai.

Roland was born on October 7, 1951 in Bluffton to James Fritts and Esther M. (Gerard) Fritts.

He graduated from Blackford High School in 1970 and went on to earn a M.S. in Physics and Mathematics from Ball State University. He was a teacher at Southern Wells High School for 5 years, an engineer at Raytheon and other companies before becoming the president of Ultra Electronics – U.S.S.I. where he retired in 2013. He was an active member of the First Church of Christ in Bluffton.

His wife is left with warm memories of a man who was driven and intelligent, but more importantly the most loving, kind, and gentle husband, father, and grandfather anyone could ask for, whose thirst for knowledge and passion for life inspired the lives of everyone around him. An unrelenting dreamer.

His children considered him the resident expert in just about everything. He was the ultimate teacher who would drop anything to help or plan their many projects. His presence in their lives is unreplaceable and he will be sorely missed.

He was able to spend the last five years with his grandchildren who completely adored their “PaPa RoRo.” He taught them to always dance at the end of a movie at the credits and how to nap anywhere.

He will be remembered as a man of many hobbies. Horses, rebuilding cars with his brother Paul, traveling, lake living, helping friends and family, big

bowls of ice cream, music, garage sale shopping, and so much more.

On November 25th, 1972 Roland and Kathy S. (Moore) Fritts were married. Kathy survives in Markle along with children and grandchildren: Ryan (wife Karla) Fritts and children Dessie (5) and Korbin (2) of Ossian, Tyson (fiancé Christina) Fritts and son Atlas (4 months) of Indianapolis, Amanda (husband Chris) Esterling and children Harper (5) Finley (4) and Whittaker (2 months) of Morton, IL. Along with siblings: Paul (wife Margaret) Fritts of Montpelier, IN and Pam (husband Greg) Dubach of Geneva, Indiana.

A service to celebrate Roland's life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday (March 14, 2015) at the First Church of Christ in Bluffton. Pastor Larry Sprinkle will officiate. Calling hours will be held from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, and for one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at Stahl Cemetery in Wells County. Memorials may be made in Roland's memory to The Steve Kelly Cancer Relief Foundation through the funeral home. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Stahl Cemetery

3191 E 700 S
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 13. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
<http://www.thomarich.com>

Visitation

MAR 14. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First Church of Christ
909 W Spring St
Bluffton, IN

Service

MAR 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Church of Christ
909 W Spring St
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - March 13, 2015 at 03:47 PM



Nice tribute

Deborah Picek - March 13, 2015 at 04:14 PM



Kathy and family, so sorry for your loss. There are lots of memories from those swimming days. Wish we could be there to give you our condolences in person. We will keep you all in our prayers.

Deborah Picek - March 13, 2015 at 04:20 PM



Kathy and family, so saddened to hear of your loss. Thoughts and prayers are with you. Good memories from swimming family. Russ and Brenda Mayer and family.

Brenda Mayer - March 14, 2015 at 06:26 PM



Our sincere condolences go out to the Fritts family we're deeply saddened to hear of a fellow classmate and neighbor's passing Orty was one of the nicest kids that I grew up with. So long to you my old friend , Doyle Ruble and family

Doyle Ruble - March 17, 2015 at 09:07 AM

KA

Such an amazing tribute showing Rolland's passion for everyone he loved and everything he did! A Life Lived to the fullest! Until we meet again "Over the Rainbow" <3 Steve and Karen Aschliman

Karen Aschliman - March 18, 2015 at 08:11 PM

FH

*This is great.
What a man!!!!*

Fonda Hook - March 19, 2015 at 12:54 AM



“ *Roland C. Fritts*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM

PO

“ *My condolences to Paul and Pam in regard to Roland's death. My sympathies also to his wife, children and grandkids. I used to babysit for the Fritts kids before school each morning. My Mom and Esther knew each other from Blackford Hospital. My memory of those mornings were of chaos trying to get the 3 kids on their way to school. Roland hated to brush his teeth and comb his hair. May God sustain you all as you deal with this loss. It sounds like he become an awesome husband, Dad, and grandfather.
My sincere sympathy to you all.
Pauline O'Hern-Fraiser*

Pauline O'Hern-Fraiser - March 22, 2015 at 02:03 PM



“ Last summer I stopped to see our dear neighbors of a few years ago. Kathy wasn't home but Roland and I had a good chat about years gone by and how we were planning to continue to have fun in the years ahead. Yes, the Fritts family liked to have good ole fashion fun and believed that every day was important. Kathy, Ryan, Tyson and Amanda, those good memories mean so much. God's blessings to you.

Norma Ploughe

Norma J. Ploughe - March 16, 2015 at 01:31 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Roland C. Fritts.



March 13, 2015 at 08:03 PM



“ Kathy, Stan and I are very sad over the loss of Roland. We are keeping you and your family in our thoughts and our prayers. Sorry for not being there but we are in Florida at this time. This has triggered my thought from way back when I watched Ryan and how much I enjoy you guys.

Carolyn and Stan Gilbert - March 13, 2015 at 12:54 PM



“ Dan and I were saddened to hear about your hubby. We have fond memories of our dinner at The Bull Shed in Kapa'a, Kauai with you two. God's blessings to you and your family.

Christine and Dan Hunt - March 13, 2015 at 11:08 AM

DM

“ I work at USSI and had the privilege to work for Roland. He was very driven and did a lot to help with the success of USSI. I remember him as a very strong person who was not afraid to get his hands dirty and help out. My prays and thoughts go out to his family during their time of loss. Deb

Deb Marshall - March 13, 2015 at 10:30 AM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Roland C. Fritts.



March 13, 2015 at 10:22 AM

DM

“ Mr. Fritts was my Algebra II teacher. He had such a love for math that it seemed to me that he truly wanted to help everyone in the class to understand. He instilled the love of learning.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Diane (Scott) Michael, SWHS Class of '80

Diane Michael - March 13, 2015 at 10:13 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Yellow and White was purchased for the family of Roland C. Fritts.



March 13, 2015 at 07:55 AM

RS

“ Kathy-the thoughts of all the people at Ultra Electronics are with you and your family at this sad time. I had the honour and privilege of working with Roland. He was a visionary and his vision transformed the USSI business. His legacy lives on through the people he mentored and helped to be successful. I personally will always be indebted to him for his support, commitment and above all his friendship. The picture on this page is the mental image that I have of him and the toothy smile that he always wore no matter how hard life became. He was an inspiration to everyone he came into contact with. He is in God's care now and may God bless you and your family and give you comfort and help you to see through your grief and remember the great man that he was. Rakesh Sharma

Rakesh Sharma - March 13, 2015 at 04:20 AM

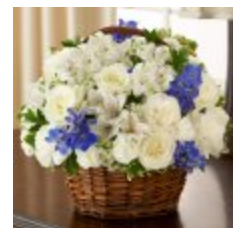
DR

“ Kathy-our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Roland was a great leader at USSI and a good friend. I have a lot of good memories with Roland on business trips, motorcycle rides, and with the kids at swim meets. Heartfelt prayers.
Doug and Duree Randol

Doug Randol - March 12, 2015 at 04:19 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Roland C. Fritts.



March 11, 2015 at 11:39 PM



“ *Mr. Fritts was the best algebra teacher ever! He helped me to understand it when no one else could. I remember comparing it to a light going on!*
I am sorry to hear of his passing! ”

Becky Roop-Schlichter - March 11, 2015 at 09:50 PM



“ *I taught with Roland through the years he was at Southern Wells. Many great memories of a wonderful teacher, co-worker and friend. My sympathies to his wonderful family. You are in my thoughts and prayers...* ”

Sally Mittlestedt - March 11, 2015 at 02:00 PM



“ *52 files added to the album Life Tributes* ”



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - March 11, 2015 at 11:39 AM

T(

“ *The Employees of Ultra Electronics Maritime Systems (Canada) purchased the White (Large) Sympathy Vase Arrangement for the family of Roland C. Fritts.*



The Employees of Ultra Electronics Maritime Systems (Canada) - March 11, 2015 at 09:44 AM

Person icon

“ *Peaceful Wishes was purchased for the family of Roland C. Fritts.*



March 11, 2015 at 09:34 AM

TB

“ *I worked with Roland at Magnavox/Raytheon--- a true gentleman with integrity at a company with few of them. Unfortunate that he has been taken from his family so early. Sincere condolences to his family and friends.*

God bless,

Tom Biggs

Tom Biggs - March 11, 2015 at 09:12 AM

BG

“ I had the pleasure of working with Rolland from 2010 until his retirement in 2013 while he was President of USSI. My deepest sympathy and condolences go out to all of his family. Rolland's service to our country and the men and women in uniform as part of the team at USSI is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brian Gallinger
Defense Contracts Management Agency

Brian Gallinger - March 11, 2015 at 06:12 AM

CS

“ *Carolynn Settle lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Carolynn Settle - March 10, 2015 at 11:46 PM

MH

“ *Max Hood lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Max Hood - March 10, 2015 at 06:51 PM

CH

“ *Cheri Hall lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Cheri Hall - March 10, 2015 at 04:44 PM

RA

“ *Ronda Able lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Ronda Able - March 10, 2015 at 02:41 PM

RA

Mr. Fritts was my favorite math teacher at SWHS. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Ronda Gentis Able - March 10, 2015 at 02:47 PM

RS

“ *Kathy & Family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and everyone in your family. We are very sorry for your loss.*



Ryan & April Schisler

Ryan & April Schisler - March 10, 2015 at 02:20 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Roland C. Fritts.*



March 10, 2015 at 01:45 PM



“ *Douglas Grover lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Douglas Grover - March 10, 2015 at 11:56 AM



“ *Brenda Wiles lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Brenda Wiles - March 10, 2015 at 10:52 AM



“ *Fonda Hook lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Fonda Hook - March 10, 2015 at 10:29 AM

AS

“ *Alice Schueller lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Alice Schueller - March 10, 2015 at 09:36 AM

SM

“ *Kathy, so sorry hear of Roland's passing. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*



Scott Mills - March 10, 2015 at 09:05 AM

SK

“ *Kathy, you and your lovely family are in my thoughts at this time. Roland will be missed by so many.*

Susan Kahn - March 10, 2015 at 08:59 AM

DS

“ *Kathy and Family, you are in our prayers. May God grant you peace and comfort.*
Steve & Deb Shumaker



Deb Shumaker - March 10, 2015 at 08:39 AM

AG

“ Kathy and Family, you are in my thoughts and prayers.



Andy Gebhard - March 10, 2015 at 08:27 AM

JP

“ Find love and comfort in the memories you shared. My thoughts are with the Fritts family at this time.



Jeff Prentice - March 10, 2015 at 06:55 AM

DG

“ Denny And Karen Gerbers lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts



Denny and Karen Gerbers - March 09, 2015 at 09:33 PM

RH

“ Ron And Lee Ann Harnish lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts



Ron and Lee Ann Harnish - March 09, 2015 at 09:20 PM

DD

“ *Denny & Rusty Dailey lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Denny & Rusty Dailey - March 09, 2015 at 08:50 PM

SD

“ *Always a first class guy... So sorry for your loss. Sue Freds Dowling*

Sue Freds Dowling - March 09, 2015 at 08:36 PM

PK

“ *Pam & Rick Kaylor lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Pam & Rick Kaylor - March 09, 2015 at 08:32 PM

CS

“ *Roland was a very special person. I will always remember the love and care he gave to my mother. He will be greatly missed. Our love and prayers to your whole family. Carol Morrival Schreiber*

Carol Morrival Schreiber - March 09, 2015 at 08:29 PM

MP

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Fritts family. Mary Porrata*



mary porrata - March 09, 2015 at 08:04 PM

MK

“ *Michael G Kracium lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Michael G Kracium - March 09, 2015 at 03:56 PM

SE

“ *Susie And Stan Ellison lit a candle in memory of Roland C. Fritts*



Susie and Stan Ellison - March 09, 2015 at 11:31 AM

VB

“ *My prayers are with the family of Roland Fritts, he will truly be missed. A great farther, and wonderful grandfather, but most of all he loved his wife dearly words can' express how he felt about his family. You have great memories always cherish them.*

Veniece Barnes - March 09, 2015 at 07:04 AM

DE

We are sending our sympathy and prayers to the family of Roland Fritts. So sorry for your loss! Joe and Debbie Elkins

Debbie Elkins - March 10, 2015 at 05:20 AM

CY

*I always admired you and your family. What a great example you set for our students. Strength and blessings to all.
Lynn & Carolyn Yager*

Carolyn Yager - March 10, 2015 at 02:09 PM

MH

*We are sending are sympathy and prayers to Kathy and the family. We are so sorry to here of this news,we just wish we got to know him better,Roland will be missed here at the lake enormously.
Max & Joyce Hood*

Max Hood - March 10, 2015 at 06:50 PM

DH

so sorry for your loss

Donna Hubble - March 10, 2015 at 10:34 PM

DC

My thoughts and prayers are with your family. I have Tyson and his family in my prayers.

Deniece Carmean - March 11, 2015 at 05:57 AM

GS

Dear Ryan and the Fritts Family -

Please accept my sincere condolences. May God bless you all.

Greg Sutter

Greg Sutter - March 11, 2015 at 11:13 AM

IC

Indiana Data Center wishes to express our sympathy to Kathy and your family. Roland was always a friendly customer and a real gentleman during all of our conversations. We are so sorry for your loss.

Indiana Data Center - March 12, 2015 at 08:29 AM

GL

I have worked with Roland for many years at Raytheon (Magnavox) and later at Ultra Electronics - USSI and always had great respect for the unique capability that he brought to all the jobs he had in the commercial world, after leaving the teaching profession. I am sure he will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathy, condolences and prayers go out to all of his family and associates.

George Lewis

George Lewis - March 12, 2015 at 03:11 PM

BJ

My condolences to Kathy and family as I considered "Ort" my best friend in High School. I remember all the great times we shared. We appreciated the finer things in life as teenagers, fast cars, motorcycle road trips, lots of laughs, and tacos. My mother wanted to adopt him because he liked eating the tacos she made so much. Instead of discouraging me he was actually the inspiration for me to follow my dream. RIP Orty

Bob Johnson

Bob Johnson - March 14, 2015 at 04:33 PM