



Benny Ray Herron

December 20, 1936 - February 4, 2022

Benny Ray Herron (December 20, 1936 – February 4, 2022)

On February 4, 2022, the world lost a man of magnitude, ingenuity, humor and wit, when Benny R. Herron (85) died in Kansas City, Missouri, surrounded by his loved ones.

Ben was born on December 20, 1936 in Gentry, Arkansas and lived in Fort Smith, Arkansas until his early 20s. He moved to Kansas City in the early 1960s, which became his home and entrepreneurial playground for the remainder of his life. Ben was a self-made Renaissance man of many pursuits. Throughout his 85 years, Ben served as Army soldier, dance studio owner, restaurateur, residential/commercial real estate investor, and liquidator/retailer/auctioneer. Anyone who knows Ben knows that his life was his work, and couldn't imagine him ever retiring. Fortunately, he was able to energetically and enthusiastically pursue the work that he loved up until his final days.

Ever the entrepreneur, Ben was always scouting out the 'Best Deal,' (the name of his retail business) right down to his hospital bed, which he somewhat comedically asked his family to sell out from under him during the final days of his life. It turns out that he was actually communicating that he had a similar bed in his inventory, now realized what a good product it was,

and wanted to be sure it made its way into the life of someone who needs it. He sincerely asked his loved ones to organize the sale and split the profit. This is representative of the kind of deal that Ben was constantly seeking - one that was unique and resourceful but, more importantly, a transaction that helped others in the process. It also represents the kind of humor that he shared until the final minutes of his life, bringing unexpected smiles to the faces of his loved ones, even in the midst of immense sorrow.

Ben viewed his work as a means to put his spiritual principles into action, helping countless people get on their feet and achieve self-sufficiency, whether they be family members, business partners, employees, friends, or simply random strangers down on their luck. He was a pillar of the KC Midtown community for the positive opportunities he created. Anyone who has been a local restaurant owner or commercial real estate professional in the KC area at any time over the past five decades has probably crossed paths with Ben.

Ben was known by family and friends as the ultimate jokester, always aiming to make people smile and never too proud to tell the corniest of dad jokes. He loved watching movies, football and boxing, and was one of the first people in the world to own a digital recording device (TiVo, circa 1999). His nearest and dearest knew better than to mention the results of a Chiefs game around Ben because he was notorious for waiting until it was over to start watching, so he could fast-forward through the commercials. It was suspected that his goal may have been to get through a game in the time it took to polish off a serving of his favorite treat – Foo's Frozen Custard.

Despite the lighthearted jest that Ben brought into the lives of so many, it was clear that his spiritual faith was at the heart of all his personal and professional pursuits, as he endeavored to incorporate Unity principles into all facets of his life. Often the voice of the spiritual blessing at the family dinner table or the

office meeting, his physical absence will be gravely felt, but his divine presence will live on. Ben's family and friends are blessed to have a guardian angel who is watching over and guiding them from his dance floor in heaven.

Benny R. Herron is survived by his wife of 43 years, Mina Herron; daughter, Calie Randazzo; stepchildren, Jerry and Angie Slavens; grandchildren, Devon and Lane Slavens, and Neo and Emery

Randazzo; sister, Linda Herron; nephew, Todd France; niece Tammy France-Pullen; and great nieces and nephew, Kendra, Lexie, Mandy and Taylor. Ben was preceded in death by his daughter, Sabrina Herron; father, Charlie Herron; and mother, Bennie B. Herron. We take great comfort in knowing that all of Ben's furry buddies who passed before him, including Malley, Mr. Boo, Sassy, Solo, Ringo, Lucky, Buddy, and many others, were anxiously awaiting his arrival at the Rainbow Bridge.

A celebration of Ben's life will be held at Unity Temple on the Plaza on March 6, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to Another Chance Cat Rescue (www.accrkc.com):

Venmo: Mina Herron @Another_Chance_Cat_Rescue PayPal:
mherron265@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

SA

“ To a great friend that’s going to be missed very much. Ben was like a Haleys comet comes around not very often hard to match a friend like that, his wisdom, positivity, humbleness he had the whole package. I called one day see how he was doing he said trying to teach my crew of workers not to tell me about problems only remedies, never afraid to get his hands dirty hard working tell the day he left us that’s what I liked most of all. When I met him Ben & Mina were doing great in life could of had any vehicle he wanted Ben was to low keyed for that exposure what a great quality love you brother going to be missed don’t hoard up to much space before I get there see you soon. Love you your friend, Sam.

Sam - March 05, 2022 at 09:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Benny Ray Herron.



February 25, 2022 at 11:34 AM

CR

“ Ben never gave up on me or Jay Moore. He taught us alot and we tried to get to see him when we came back to KC. Some of my best memories and friends not to mention I found my soulmate at Best Deal. I will miss him greatly. Jay Moore would say the same thing, ironically, they are probably standing side by side right now reliving the days gone by. I am definitely going to try to get to his celebration of life. Alone, but I'm going to try to make it. RIP Ben .much love to you and your family.

Cassandra Rohlf - February 15, 2022 at 12:32 AM

JB

“ Ben became much more than just a boss over the past 5 years; I spent almost almost everyday with him & while some days he drove me absolutely crazy most days were filled with lot of silliness. He is the only person I've ever known that liked creating a plan & at least 2 back-up plans, making list for any & everything and organizing more than I do. Ben became someone I could come to for advice, someone that would be there to help me with any problem I might have & someone who not only encouraged me but also celebrated my successes. Walking into Best Deal without seeing Ben behind his desk is both painful & surreal but while that may fade with time the love, friendship & memories will never fade. I can say with absolute certainty that I will always miss Ben.

Jet B - February 14, 2022 at 11:11 AM

JC

“ John Covington lit a candle in memory of Benny Ray Herron



John Covington - February 11, 2022 at 01:28 AM

JC

“ I have so many, but one that sticks out to me right now is, years ago when my wife and I were honored to be invited to Angie's wedding. Ben and Mina danced some kind of waltz, (looked good doing it) , after the music stopped, I talked to Ben about that, I told Ben (man I didn't know you and Mina could dance like that) he told me (John you should see us boogie). Thanks for the memories. My Condolences to Mina, and the family 🙏🙏🙏🙏

John Covington - February 11, 2022 at 01:26 AM

TF

“ Uncle Ben was the wittiest guy I ever knew. I'll share the last birthday text I got from him. He always text me on my birthday, they were always different and I could tell he was laughing the whole time he was texting me.

From Ben:

*Well it's kind of late but I've been at the courthouse most of the day petitioning to have your birthday changed to the 29th of February... That way I only have to wish you a happy birthday on leap year. If that works then I'm going to petition to have your birthday amended to February 30th... And I won't have to worry about it at all . . . but for now I guess I'll just wish you Happy birthday and hope you don't choke on eating your cake. However knowing how you eat and stuff your face all the time... I say you have a 50/50 shot... So if you make it just remember your uncle wished you a happy birthday.
Love Ben*

I LOVED getting them. Below is the last Birthday text I sent him:

HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY BIRTHDAY you old fart. I was gonna type happy for every year you are old, but my phone has a text limit on messages. I'll try to keep this short cause I realize your attention span at your age is short. I hope you had a fabulous day!! I hope it's still going! Well, the younger folks may still be going. You're probably asleep and reading this tomorrow. Just know I wasn't late, you just read it late! 😊😊 I love you uncle Ben!!! Eat extra cake for me!!!

His last text to me ever was his response to that birthday text, which was:

Todd.....who????

Perfectly fitting from my Uncle Ben. Living forever in my heart and memories.



Todd France - February 10, 2022 at 09:16 PM

AS

This is hilarious! Thanks so much for sharing, Todd. :)

Angie Slavens - February 11, 2022 at 05:02 PM

SF

“ *I met Ben when he attended our wedding. Immediately I knew I was going to love this man. He had a great personality and a joy to be around. He will be missed by many!* ”



Sheri France - February 10, 2022 at 09:05 PM

AS

“ 12 files added to the album Herron Family Photos ”



Angie Slavens - February 10, 2022 at 08:34 PM

AS

“ 12 files added to the album Herron Family Photos



Angie Slavens - February 10, 2022 at 08:31 PM