



## Russell Ray Love

January 17, 1957 - December 8, 2023

Russell (Russ) Ray Love departed this world on December 8, 2023 at the age of 66 years. Russell was born January 17, 1957 to Raymond and Sadie (Lindsey) Love in Kansas City, Missouri. At the time of his death he resided in his home of Butler, Missouri with his wife Mary (Byrum) Love of 46 years.

Russell was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers-in-law, and two sisters-in-law. He is survived by his wife and four sons; Dustin (Beth) Love, Harrisonville, MO, Jordan (Teresa) Love, Lee's Summit, MO, Ben (Lisa) Love, Piper, KS, and Jake (Marnie) Love, Overland Park, KS. Also surviving are five grandchildren, many bonus grandchildren, along with numerous siblings and in-law siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Russell lived his childhood in Independence, Missouri attending many church functions, living summers at the swimming pool, going to the fire station, BVAC volleyball, and serving as William Chrisman High School photographer. He graduated high school in 1975 before attending CMSU in the fall. It was there at Liahona that Russ and Mary met, sparks flew and they were married August 5, 1977 in Kauai, Hawaii. To this union four sons were born and a life of attending and taking part in their many activities was greatly valued. Over time the family lived 9 years in Grain Valley, MO, 33 years in Harrisonville,

MO,

before moving to Butler in 2021. Russ worked as a printer until following in his dad's footsteps and landing his dream job in 1985 as a firefighter with the Independence Fire Department where he worked until retiring as a Captain in January of 2012. Russ was a lifetime member of Community of Christ and served in the priesthood as a Deacon. He was also a member of the Cass County Elks Lodge and there participated in many charitable works. As honored member of the elite group of the Roaring River fishing buddies he was always ready for the whistle. Russell very much enjoyed spending time with family and friends, spoiling grandchildren, traveling, fishing, listening to music, watching old war movies, charity work, preparing meals for large crowds, and setting/visiting on the front porch.

Russell will be greatly missed by many and in his honor a Memorial Service will be held Saturday, January 20 at 1pm at East Independence Community of Christ located at 823 South Elizabeth Street, Independence Missouri 64056. His ashes will be spread in private at one of his favorite places, the banks of Roaring River at the sound of the opening day whistle.

If one desires, the family asks that in lieu of flowers contributions are made to some of Russell's favorite organizations/charities: Butler Food Pantry Independence 76 Fire Company Butler Cub Scouts Pack 4237 Central USA Mission (Family Camp)

