**Ronald Schaefer**

Ronald (Ron/Ronnie) Charles (Chet) SchaeferRonald Charles (Ron/Ronnie/Chet) Schaefer passed away on Sunday, December 27, 2020, following an accident in Moore, OK.  Ron was born on February 6, 1965, in Dubuque, Iowa, the youngest son of Francis and Calista Schaefer.  He joined eight other brothers and sisters on the family farm in Potosi, Wisconsin.  He attended Potosi High School and graduated in 1983.  After high school, Ron attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.  In February 1988, he enlisted in the United States Navy and spent 21 years on active duty.  He is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Southern Watch, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

While training at the Naval Air Station on North Island, San Diego, CA, he met the love of his life Lette. They married on March 6, 1999, in San Diego CA.   On November 15, 2001, Trevor, a son was born in Yokosuka, Japan while Ron was on deployment to Afghanistan following the September 11, 2001 attacks.  Upon completion of his deployment on Operation Enduring Freedom in late 2001, Ron and his young family moved to Tinker Air Force base in Oklahoma City, OK.  A second son, Tyler, joined the family on May 17, 2004. He retired in 2009 as Chief Petty Officer. In the Navy, he found his purpose and his place.  His pride in his service was palpable. To his fellow sailors and crew members, know that he treasured you all. At the time of his death, he was teaching as an instructional systems designer instructor at the Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma City, OK.

Despite his purposeful Navy career, his greatest treasures and joy in his life were his wife and two sons.  He was a loving and committed husband to Lette and father to Trevor and Tyler.  An active dad in the boys’ sports, through coaching and attending their activities.  Dad and husband were his true callings.  Ron loved and cared for his family with every ounce of his massive heart. He maintained, “I am the luckiest man alive because you said yes” when he spoke of Lette…the true love of his life.  When he spoke about his boys, his voice changed and its pace quickened as if he knew he would run out of time to tell you everything he wanted you to know about the boys. He will still be there for you when you need him - don’t forget to ask for his help.

Ron was also an active member of St. Andrew’s Catholic Church in Moore, OK, and in the Knights of Columbus.   Ron will be missed greatly by his wife and sons, his large extended family, and many friends in the Navy and greater Moore, OK, and Potosi, WI communities.  Ron had a huge personality and a great sense of humor. He made deep friendships everywhere he went. He loved to have fun! But he was no clown. He knew pain of his own and he was very sensitive to the pain of others. He helped wherever and whenever he could.  Ron’s smile would light up the room and he always made you feel welcome.  He would have a joke for you and could make you laugh, sometimes so hard it hurt.  He left us way too soon.

Ron is survived by his wife, Lette Schaefer, two sons, Trevor and Tyler, and his beautiful dog Buddy. His loving mother-in-law Teresita Cawed whom he adored, Lette’s aunt Chato Gutierrez.  He is survived by five brothers and three sisters.  Gary (Barbara) Schaefer, Hatfield, MA; Mark (Darlene) Schaefer, Reedsburg, WI, Alan Schaefer, Independence, WI, Luann Droessler, Potosi, WI, Karl (Nancy) Schaefer, Efland, NC; Patrice (Eric) Streicher, Crested Butte, CO; Amy (Patrick Muller) Schaefer, Melbourne, FL; Michael (Val) Schaefer, Mt. Horeb, WI, and many nieces and nephews.  He was preceded in death by his parents Francis and Calista Schaefer of Potosi, WI, and a brother-in-law Joseph Droessler, Potosi, WI, and sister-in-law Sandra Schaefer, Independence, WI.  Rest in Peace Ron.