



The Loss of a True Friend of Rural Water: Ron Grage

Ronald John Grage passed away on May 12, 2017, in Fort Pierce, Florida. Ron Grage was a true friend of the waterworks industry and a loyal friend to Kansas Rural Water Association. I write this with a tremendous sense of loss of a friend, personally and professionally to so many of those who have attended training sessions that Ron presented through KRWA training venues. I recall the first session I organized as a new employee of KRWA. It was a very hot July 27, 1983 in Medicine Lodge, Kansas. There were 35 people attending from 15 different water systems. Ron was the main presenter.

Ron Grage was involved with chlorination and water treatment

Remembering Ron's caring personality and his dedication to the water and wastewater system operations will remain forever in many hearts.

equipment since 1971. He retired as Senior Sales Specialist, with Chlorinators Incorporated, manufacturers of REGAL Gas Chlorinators in Stuart, Florida.

Ron's training sessions were vibrant experiences. He was knowledgeable on all brands of chlorination equipment. He presented seminars for colleges, universities and training sessions such as Kansas Rural Water Association in all 50 states and all provinces of Canada. He has also conducted seminars in Korea, Taiwan, Saipan and Guam during his employment with Chlorinators Incorporated. In Kansas, Ron participated on scores of training sessions sponsored by KRWA.

KRWA recognized Ron in 2014 with its "Friend of Rural Water Award".

His hobbies included boating, wood sign making and being an avid racing fan who has driven on the Atlanta Motor Speedway, Disney World Track



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Hello Elmer,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well. Ron very-much wanted to write this letter to you himself, unfortunately, the battle he is waging with cancer has robbed him of the strength to do so.

Enclosed with this letter you will find Ron's notes, and a complete PowerPoint presentation that he spent weeks diligently compiling and arranging. Ron did this in the hope that his vast knowledge of gas chlorinators, and the ability to explain them, would not be lost. It is Ron's, and our family's, sincere hope that this information gets disseminated again and again.

Ron requested we send this information to you, to do with as you see fit. If you know of someone with the knowledge and public speaking background to continue making this presentation to the Kansas Rural Water Association, or other associations, we hope that they do so. If you have contacts with other Associations that could benefit from his knowledge, please pass it along to them as well.

Ron has always held you and Kansas Rural Water in the highest regard. Ron spoke of you and your organization often, and truly enjoyed his speaking engagements there. It was actually his great desire, yet inability, to come back again that prompted him to sit down and create this presentation. Ron loved public speaking, and passing along this information to others, we hope that you will continue to do so for him.

Sincerely,
Gwen Grage
The Grage Family

hearts. During Ron's illness the past several years, his regular calls to the KRWA office or his texts to several staff members were always a joy to receive and to return. We would discuss his illness and treatment. But when we would talk, he would always ask about others first: "How's Greg doing; what's Metz up to these days; I was thinking of the great conference you all likely had; I want you to know I miss you all so very much."

Always positive and hopeful of again presenting at another KRWA conference someday, Ron also prepared for the challenge of maybe not being able to return. He told me he was going to assemble all his training materials and present them to KRWA for use in future training sessions. It was humbling to receive the package of materials in hard copy and in digital format in early May. Ron passed away May 12. Ron was interred at the Jacksonville National Cemetery during a private family service. He is missed. I share the letter at left from his wife, Gwen.

in Richard Petty's cars, Skip Barber School of Racing at Sebring Fla., Daytona Speedway Road Course and a modified race car in BeBee, Arkansas. He was a believer that you can do anything you set your mind to, if you

want it bad enough. As an example, he cut his own hair since 1968.

Remembering Ron's caring personality and his dedication to the water and wastewater system operations will remain forever in many

Elmer Ronnebaum is KRWA General Manager; he has been employed by KRWA since 1983. He served seven years on the KRWA board of directors prior to that. He also helped develop a large RWD and served for fourteen years on a water district board of directors.



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