



## Ronny Keith Shumate

October 23, 1956 - December 29, 2025

Ronny Keith Shumate

End of Watch: December 29, 2025

Ronny Keith Shumate was born in Arab, Alabama, on October 23, 1956. He graduated from Arab High School in 1975, where he was voted Class President, Most School Spirit, and Class Clown—traits that would follow him throughout his career and the rest of his life.

Ronny began his working life as a professional horse trainer, specializing in Tennessee Walking and Racking Horses. He later became an over-the-road truck driver, traveling to 47 of the 50 states.

In 1981, he married Denice Singleton. In 1983, Ronny began the career that would define him for the rest of his life when he joined the Huntsville Police Department. This calling led to 34 years in law enforcement, serving as a patrol officer, field training officer, D.A.R.E. instructor, and school resource officer with both the Huntsville Police Department and the Marshall County Sheriff's Department.

A lifelong servant to his community, Ronny also held various elected positions, including service on the Arab City Council and the Marshall County Commission. Known by many as the “Voice of Arab,” Ronny was truly larger than life. Ronny was always known to have a story—whether in person or on the radio as the color commentator for Arabian Knights football broadcasts.

He lived by the motto, "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story."

Despite his many accomplishments and deep involvement in the community, Ronny was first and foremost a family man. He devoted himself to being a loving husband, father, and grandfather—the latter being his favorite role of all.

Ronny was preceded in death by his father, James Doyle Shumate; his mother, Verna Louise Eddy Shumate; and his brothers-in-law, Rickey Stewart, Jimmy Randall Murcks, and Lanny Anderton; Father-in-Law, James Singleton

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Denice Shumate; his sons, Clint Shumate (Jackie) and Cody Shumate; his daughter, Mary Beasley (Mark); his sister, Judy McCollum (Harry); and his grandchildren, Harper and Nathan Shumate. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law, Sandra Estes (Jackie), Roxanne Stewart, Carol Massey (Corky), and Cathie Kemp (Forrest), Mother-in-Law, Dot Singleton; as well as a host of beloved nieces and nephews and cousins.

Services for Ronny will include a visitation time at Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel in Arab, on Friday, January 2, 2026 between the hours of 5:00pm and 8:00pm. On Saturday, January 3, 2025 Ronny will lie-in-state between the hours of 10:00am and 12:00pm at Arab First Baptist Church. The funeral service will be at 12:00pm with Charles Whisenant, Brother Clint Maze, Pastor Bill Cannon and Ms. Mary Beasley officiating. Serving as Pallbearers are Chad Robertson, Jeremy Griggs, Chris McNeece, Alex Murcks, Eddie Bomagat, Archie Anderson, Chris Stewart, and Forrest Kemp. Honorary pallbearers are All Fun 92.7 and Marshall County District 1 Shop employees. Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel is entrusted with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers donations may be mailed to Ronny Shumate "Voice of Arab" Memorial Scholarship Fund: Arab Athletic Foundation, ATTN: Annette Duncan

511 Arabian Drive, NE, Arab, Alabama 35016.

# Cemetery Details

## Arab Memorial Cemetery

565 South Main Street  
Arab, AL 35016

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 2.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel  
1340 North Main Street  
Arab, AL 35016  
(256) 586-4100

## Lie-In-State

**JAN 3.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Arab First Baptist Church  
502 N Main St  
Arab, AL 35016  
(256) 586-3153

## Funeral Service

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JAN 3. 12:00 PM (CT)

Arab First Baptist Church  
502 N Main St  
Arab, AL 35016  
(256) 586-3153

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ *Robbie D Harbin lit a candle in memory of Ronny Keith Shumate*



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**Robbie D Harbin** - January 02 at 09:33 PM

PJ

“ *Ronny was a neighbor and saw the smoke when our house caught on fire from an electrical short from porch light that blazed up into our attic, the hose was a loss. Ronny called and reported fire and firetrucks arrived and Ronny came to we all got out alive .The fireman save out cat and dog and we were so blessed by Ronnies quick actions to help us. My parents Bufford and Grace Light always talked well of him and loved Ronnie too! He will be missed!*



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**Polly Jex** - January 02 at 08:52 AM

DS

“ Ronny was my cousin on the Shumate side. His Dad was my Mom's brother. He was something else. Loved to get a laugh out of you. I would say two things that I believe to be true. Ronny Shumate made the Shumate name proud. And I truly believe that he lived his life to the fullest. There will be a huge hole in many lives. One story that I remember our PaPa Shumate telling is this: Ronny, me, and my brother Jeff were fooling around over at Aunt Martha's old house. It was located across the road from the back of MaMa and Papa's house. It needed to be torn down. It was really in bad shape and creepy. Hence why we found it so fascinating. Anyway... we come flying in to PaPa after being over there and he said "what's wrong?" Ronny, of course, our spokesperson says "we heard SOMETHING ". PaPa asks "What did it sound like?" Ronny answers " IT SOUNDED LIKE A DEAD POLE CAT!!!!". He got a big laugh from that.



*Denice, Clint and family, Cody, Mary. Please know that you are loved and can't even imagine the loss that all of you feel. He was AWESOME!!!*

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**Debbie Gann Stephenson** - January 01 at 09:16 PM

SC

“ Sherry Couch lit a candle in memory of Ronny Keith Shumate



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**Sherry Couch** - January 01 at 03:09 PM

LB

“ *La Rue Bagwell lit a candle in memory of Ronny Keith Shumate*



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**La Rue Bagwell** - December 31, 2025 at 07:24 PM

DS

*JUDY, Harry and family. Oh my goodness. I can't believe that I left y'all out of saying that you are very much loved and my heart goes out to all of you. I know that Judy and Ronny were very close as brother and sister. And he loved her, Harry, and all his nieces( and their children)*

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**Debbie Gann Stephenson** - January 01 at 09:33 PM

DH

“ *Darlene Holt-Menke lit a candle in memory of Ronny Keith Shumate*



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**Darlene Holt-Menke** - December 31, 2025 at 01:37 PM

AT

“ *Angie Tate lit a candle in memory of Ronny Keith Shumate*



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**Angie Tate** - December 31, 2025 at 10:54 AM

AT

*Ronny was definitely a one of a kind. He always was smiling. My thoughts and prayers are with the family always. You will be missed by many.*

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**Angie Tate** - December 31, 2025 at 10:59 AM

MC

*A great man has passed. A man who epitomizes what we want Arab to really be, helpful, love, honest, humor, and trust in God. Prayers for all the family and many friends who will miss him in their life*

*Glenn Cruze & Marlene Cruze*

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**Marlene Cruze** - December 31, 2025 at 12:54 PM

JR

“*Ronny was one of a kind, a true officer and a gentleman. He never met a stranger because he knew everyone and seemed like everyone knew him. Praying for God's comfort and peace during this difficult time.*

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**Jeff Reynolds** - December 31, 2025 at 03:19 AM



“*Ronny was truly an amazing man. He would give you the shirt off his back and the money in his pocket if you needed it. He was one of kind.*



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**Ashley Johnson** - December 30, 2025 at 09:54 PM

MK

“ *Ronnie had a great Friend for a lot of years!*



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**Margaret Key** - December 30, 2025 at 07:57 PM

BW

“ *Betty Whisenant lit a candle in memory of Ronny Keith Shumate*



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**Betty Whisenant** - December 30, 2025 at 07:21 PM

WM

“ *Wilda J Malone lit a candle in memory of Ronny Keith Shumate*



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**Wilda J Malone** - December 30, 2025 at 06:39 PM

NM

“ *Ronny was a good man; he served the city of Arab with so much love given to the community, he will be missed. Sending my deepest sympathy to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.*



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**Nalani McNary** - December 30, 2025 at 06:27 PM

TJ

“ Ronny was one of the greatest guys I have ever known. To know Ronny was to love him. He was so loved in our group of college friends, and was the life of the party at our gatherings. We all loved him, and he will truly be missed, but never forgotten. God bless our sweet Denice, Clint, Cody, Jackie, Mary, Harper and Nathan.

Tressa Jallath - December 30, 2025 at 06:18 PM

AB

“ Ronny has touched a lot of lives. I'm so sorry for your loss. I knew him briefly but he was one of the good ones. He was there for us and I will never forget that. He has shown all of us how we're supposed to live and care for each other. I'm keeping your family in my prayers.



Anne Ball - December 30, 2025 at 06:04 PM

DH

“ Dana M Hardin lit a candle in memory of Ronny Keith Shumate



Dana M Hardin - December 30, 2025 at 04:52 PM

TJ

“ Denise my heart hurts for your family. I am so sorry. Ronnie was one of a kind, he will be missed. Fly High Ronnie!!!!

Tina & David Jones - December 30, 2025 at 04:46 PM

CS

“ *My heart hurts for you all. So sorry for your loss*

**Carl and Peggy Brooks Saint** - December 30, 2025 at 03:33 PM

DY

*Condolences to Ronnie's family and friends.*

**Dixie Yurczyk** - January 03 at 10:50 AM