

## Ronald J. McDougald

March 5, 1939 - January 16, 2020 Revised 3/25/2020



Ronald McDougald

Ronald Jean McDougald, born March 5, 1939, lived 80 athletic years until his death on January 16, 2020. A lover of family, trees, running, and Scottish Country Dancing, he was born in the town of Crockett, Houston County, Texas. Moving 14 times while growing up, he graduated from highschool in Redondo Beach, California. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree, on a full scholarship, from Dartmouth College and his J.D. from Harvard Law School. At Dartmouth he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. After studying and receiving a Master of Laws in Taxation from Boston University, he went on to become a CPA, Ron was a tax attorney until his gradual retirement. He raised a family in Lincoln, MA where he lived until his recent move to Cambridge, then Waltham for care.

Ron was an athlete who ran 27 marathons, including 17 Boston marathons, in addition to many road races and triathlons. He was an avid swimmer who regularly swam across nearby Walden Pond. He enjoyed tennis, kayaking, canoeing, cross country skiing, wilderness adventures, and other travel. Ron was highly inquisitive, playful, an avid reader, and a poet. He loved movies and he loved to laugh. He spent the last 29 years as an active member of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston. He also attended the Church of The Covenant. Ron's zest for life was infectious, and he will be missed by a large community of family and friends.

Ron leaves behind his beloved companion of 29 years, Joan Hill, of Cambridge, MA; his daughter, Ruthie Kinch, of Brooklyn, NY; his son, Douglas McDougald and his son-in-law, David Glauner, of Stow, MA; and his grandchildren, Olivia, Bella, and Savannah Kinch, of Brooklyn, NY. He is also survived by the mother of his children, Kathleen McDougald-Lee, his nephew David Sutton, many cousins, and the children and grandchildren of his companion. Ron will be interred in his family plot at the Doulass Cemetery, in Houston County Texas later this spring.

In his entry in our 50th reunion book, Ronald showed a whimsical nature. He quoted Moliere, "All the ills of mankind, all the tragic misfortunes that fill the history books, all the political

blunders, all the failures of the great leaders have arisen merely from a lack of skill at dancing." This quote was followed up by noting that George Washington was "quite a good dancer."

He noted that his Extra-Career Activities included "at various times, tennis, squash, running, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, camping, biking, swimming," and Scottish country dancing.

Finally, he mused on our future, "Where will earth and human civilization be in 70 million years or even a million years? Extinct? Does it matter? We have this beautiful planet, and maybe nothing like it exists in the rest of the universe or is ever reachable. But it seems that the perceived needs and wants of earth's present population(whatever it is at a given time) will usually trump whatever is required to sustain as yet unborn generations."