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Ronald Lawrence Fischer

Camarillo, CA

Ronald Lawrence Fischer, 89, passed away Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at his home in Camarillo, California with a heartfelt farewell from his family. Ron was born in Didsbury, Alberta, Canada on June 6, 1929 to Henry and Emma Fischer, the youngest of five. As a youngster on horseback each morning, he herded the cows in for morning milking and when he saw airplanes fly overhead, he knew he wanted a future in aeronautics. He and his brothers joined Royal Canadian Air Cadets while in high school. He attended Southern Institute of Technology and Art in Calgary (Calgary Tech.)

Upon graduation in June 1951, he and a buddy drove to eastern Canada and employment with Avro Aircraft in Ontario which led to flight tests on the CFI00 and CFI05, a supersonic fighter interceptor.

In 1955, Ron met Merlyn McKee, (Miki) who was in the in the Royal Canadian Airforce. They married in 1956, bought a home in Brampton, Ontario and had two sons, Larry and Victor. When the space industry in Canada began to conflate, Ron moved with his family to Canoga Park, where he worked as an aeronautical engineer for Aircraft Technical Services in Van Nuys for eight years. He became a Designated Engineering Representative (DER) as a coordinator with the FAA for power plant and oil systems. He enjoyed coordinating with engineers in England and Japan.

Later, he found an ideal family community in Thousand Oaks. Ron's energy, warmth and quick, dry humor attracted many friends over the years. He was an active member in the YMCA where Vic and Larry enjoyed Indian Guides.

Ron was an avid outdoorsman. He bought a tent trailer so he and his boys could enjoy hiking, camping and backpacking. Ron combined his farm-boy roots with his engineering training to be able to fix almost anything. Always with precision and a well-executed plan.

Early in 1971, Miki decided to leave the marriage. Ron carried on to raise his boys with support from friends and a wonderful neighbor that took care of Larry and Vic



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while he was at work.

Two years later, a mutual friend of Ron and Barbara Ahl, played matchmaker over a Thanksgiving weekend in Joshua Tree National Park. Barbara had five kids of her own. Ron was immediately smitten. Two years later they were married. The ages of Ron and Barbara's kids overlapped which meant Ron took on a family of seven teenagers. He introduced Barbara's two boys and three girls to the joys of backpacking in the Sierra which resulted in many memorable vacations. To introduce his new family of nine to his siblings in Alberta, he loaded them in a motorhome and headed north. Ron managed to survive ten days on the road in extremely close quarters with the five teenage additions to his family.

Ron and Barbara formed a corporation in 1982 that included consulting and writing services. Ten years later, they dissolved the corporation and Ron worked for Elsinore Engineering- DeCrane Aerospace, in Goleta, until he retired at age 79.

The couple shared a love of dancing and socializing in ballroom dance clubs for 24 years where they held board positions. Ron was also an active member of the Ventura Retired Business and Professional Men's Club where he frequently served on the board.

Ron is survived by his brothers, Clair and Raymond, his children, Victor (Kay) Fischer, Lawrence (Tory) Fischer, and his step children, Mary Ahl, Joanne (Thomas) Estabrook, Stephen (Rochelle) Ahl, Kathleen (Donovan) Driscoll, and Michael Ahl as well as thirteen grandchildren and seven greatgrandchildren. He is preceded in death by his brother, Lloyd and his sister Erna McCafferty.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the Ventura County Animal Shelter, Camarillo. An open house memorial will be held at the Fischer home on Thursday, December 6th from 2-5 PM. For additional details please email Barbara at wrdfshr@aol.com.

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