



## Clarence Ronald "Ronnie" Thornton

August 13, 1944 - December 21, 2014

Mr. Clarence Ronald "Ronnie" Thornton, Sr. of McDonough, Georgia passed away on Sunday, December 21, 2014 at the age of 70. Ronnie was born on August 13, 1944 to Clarence and Thelma Thornton of Jonesboro, Georgia. Upon graduating from the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville and the FBI Academy in Washington, DC he became an officer for the Clayton County Police Department. He served for 14 years where he rose from the rank of patrolman to Chief. He was considered by many in the law enforcement community to be a visionary thinker who helped transform the small rural department into the professional law enforcement organization that it is today. After his retirement from the police department in 1980, he became a prominent businessman and philanthropist with numerous developments around the metropolitan Atlanta area and US Virgin Islands. Some highlights of his career were helping to bring the Beach Volleyball Venue to Clayton County for the 1996 Olympics, playing a major role in the development of Henry County Airport in Hampton and Hartsfield Jackson International Airport in Atlanta. Ronnie was also known as someone with a giving heart supporting numerous charities. Ronnie is survived by his wife, Margie; children and their spouses, Stephanie (John) Turpin of Atlanta, Ronnie, Jr. (Christie) Thornton of Locust Grove, Andrew (Mimi) Thompson of Atlanta, Leslie (Beau) Nelson of Covington; grandchildren, Gadson, Kalee, Marley, Julian, Mason, Ella, Drew, Anabelle, Maddox and Madeline. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, December 27, at Stockbridge First United Methodist Church at 2:00 pm with

Elder Eldrin Bell officiating. The family will receive guest from 1:00 pm until time of service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Clayton County Humane Society at [claytoncountyhumane.org](http://claytoncountyhumane.org) or the Kensley Grace Aquatic Center at [kensleygrace.com](http://kensleygrace.com).

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ I had the honor of working with Mr. T , as we called him, directly at his Deerfield Estate. throughout my time there I learned about kindness giving generosity and sharing with others along with how a person should truly love those around them. Ronnie Thornton was one of the most shining examples of all of that that I've ever witnessed, and he will be sorely missed by world who celebrates his life but can't help but mourn his death. I love you mister T. See you when I get there..

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**Chad Simon** - December 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ See you at the Gate my friend and former boss!! Praying for you and your family Mrs. Margie. God received a wonderful Angel!!

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**Lynda Vickery Fine** - December 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Praying for you and your family Margie! Ronnie was a good friend to Richard and me and he will be dearly missed. May God comfort you in the days ahead.

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**Nancy Vickery Morgan** - December 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Our deepest sympathies to everyone. May Sweet Jesus surround you all.  
Love, Chris and Diana Knight

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**Chris & Diana Knight** - December 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ *Grief is the last act of love we have to give to those we loved. Where there is deep grief, there was great love. May you find peace and closure from your loss.*

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**Ted Penrod** - December 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TO

“ *We have lost "one of a kind" in Ronnie. While I am saddened by his passing I know his last years have been very tough on him. May he rest in peace and dwell in our thoughts .*

*Regards*

*Tom "Slug"*

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**Tom** - December 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM