



Ronald R. Thill

October 17, 1936 - March 17, 2026

Ronald R. Thill, 89, of Rensselaer, Indiana, passed away peacefully at home on March 17, 2026.

He was born on October 17, 1936, in Clayton, Wisconsin, to William F.G. and Ruth (Bruss) Thill. Ronald graduated from Stockton High School with the Class of 1955. He earned his bachelor's degree at Olivet Nazarene College in 1961 and then earned his master's degree from University of Michigan in the mid 60's. In August of 1957, he married Harriet E. Orr, the love of his life, who preceded him in death in 2024.

Ronald devoted his career to education, working as a teacher and track coach for 31 years with the Piper City, Clarkston, and Mt Gilead School Corporations. He took great pride in his students and athletes and remained in touch with many of them over the years. He was also a faithful and active member of Risen Community Church in DeMotte, Indiana.

Ronald had a lifelong appreciation for cheese, a passion passed down from his father, a cheese maker. He enjoyed watching sports—especially cheering on Ohio State—along with birdwatching and fishing, hobbies he loved sharing with his grandchildren. Above all, Ronald cherished time spent with his family and serving his Lord.

Ronald is survived by his children: Rolland (Valerie) Thill, Rodney (Ambre)

Thill, and Rhonda (Edward) Kuhn; 13 grandchildren: Jared (Kristin), Alexia, Payton (Madeline), Rodney (Melanie), John (Elizabeth), Elizabeth, John (Andrea), Michael (Mayfawny), Jeffrey, David (AnneMarie), Julia, Elizabeth, and Sarah; and 12 great-grandchildren: Rodney III, Hugo, Johnny, Andrew, Henry, Alex, Grace, Benny, Samuel, Theo, Isabelle, and Evangeline. He is also survived by his brothers, Lowell and Carlyle Thill.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife, Harriet Thill, and 3 brothers: Wesley, David, and Marvin Thill.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2026, from 2:00 to 6:00 PM at Jackson Funeral Service in DeMotte. A funeral service celebrating Ronald's life will take place on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 11:00 AM also at the funeral home, with Pastor Kerry Robinson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Journey Church at 2861 Waldron Rd, Kankakee, IL 60901, to help with repairs from the recent storms.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **12.** 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Service of DeMotte
200 3rd Street, SW
P.O. Box 681
DeMotte, IN 46310
(219) 987-5300
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

APR **13.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Service of DeMotte
200 3rd Street, SW
P.O. Box 681
DeMotte, IN 46310
(219) 987-5300
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Jackson Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Ronald R. Thill



Jackson Funeral Chapels - April 10 at 12:27 PM



“ 63 files added to the album Life Tributes



Jackson Funeral Chapels - April 10 at 12:04 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronald R. Thill.

April 09 at 09:21 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Ronald R. Thill.*



April 09 at 05:40 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald R. Thill.*



April 07 at 10:55 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronald R. Thill.*

April 07 at 10:55 AM

TH

“ I have warm memories of Coach Thill. A 1973 Graduate of MGHS, I was a student in his Biology class and I ran Cross Country. It was Coach Thill that encouraged my brother and I to run for him, and so we did. We didn't come from a poor family, but our parents were very frugal and there wasn't money for extras, much less for running shoes. We therefore ran in our tennis shoes. One day, Coach Thill called me into his office. He handed me a box and told me to try on the track cleats in the box, to see if they fit. I told him that I couldn't afford to buy them and he told me that I didn't need to, I could borrow them. My brother also wore these cleats in the Spring for Track, while I played Baseball. We were both encouraged and lifted up by his compassion and generosity. Coach Thill was a great teacher. He taught me a life lesson, “You never know how much your words and actions can impact another human being”. I walk now with Brothers in Christ to minister, mentor, and give encouragement. I make sure they have good athletic walking shoes to show my support, and I tell them who inspired me.

May God comfort you and give you peace.

Tim and Tom Halt

Tim Halt - March 22 at 07:09 PM

JT

“ To All The Thill Family,

Ron was an outstanding teacher, coach, and mentor. Most of all he was an outstanding man. He took great pride in all he did. He led by example and tried to lead his students to success. He will be missed. Prayers and comfort to all of you!

Jim Trainer - March 20 at 09:58 AM

TC

“ *Mr. Thill was a Mount Gilead treasure, a great man that had a profound impact on countless lives. He was always so supportive of Mt. Gilead student athletes. To the Thill family and especially my friend Rollie, you should all be very proud of the wonderful life that your father lived. He showed us all what it meant to be a father, educator, and coach.*

Tom Cooper - March 20 at 09:43 AM

MB

“ *I lived across the street from Mr Thill and he would walk me to school most mornings so I didn't have to walk alone in the dark. He showed me where the shortcuts were and the load dogs . He was a wonderful teacher, coach and above all a wonderful person. Prayers for peace and comfort.*

Mary Bowers - March 20 at 06:52 AM

EB

“ *Mr Thill received respect from students wherever he encountered them. I tagged along with Ron and my brother in law Rick Campbell where they were officiating a XC meet. We stopped on the way at a Waffle House for a bite to eat. When we walked in the door several students that he taught as a substitute teacher in that school district all together yelled “Mr Thill!” ! He had a huge smile! Mr Thill lived a life that Jesus is proud of!!!*

Earl Boehm - March 19 at 08:43 PM

LP

“ To all of Ron’s family—You have my deepest sympathy. He was really one of the good guys. His athletes, fellow teachers, students, friends, church family always knew he cared about them. He is held in high esteem in Mt. Gilead. Everyone who knew him loved and respected him. May God bless you and give you peace in the days ahead. Sent with love and sympathy...

Laura Pearce - March 19 at 03:21 PM

MG

“ I’m sorry for your loss. I’m Mark George. My dad ran track under him all my years . Ron was a good coach good motivator for all of us at Mount Gilead . Always enjoyed catching up with him at our cross country meet we had his name every year such a nice man.

Mark George - March 19 at 03:15 PM