



Ronald Klerk de Reus, CEC

April 8, 1933 - January 6, 2016

Ronald Klerk de Reus, 82, Hoyt, died Wednesday, January 6, 2016, in the House at Midland Care.

Ron was born April 8, 1933, in Bandung, Indonesia on the island of Java, the son of Rene' Francois and Waleska Flohr Klerk de Reus.

As a young boy, Ron spent the WW2 years in Holland. During that time he was separated from his family, without food and interned in a children's camp. Though the war years were very difficult, he was fascinated with them and he continued to study, learn and talk about those years until he died. He also enjoyed reminiscing about St. Nicholaas, life in Holland and his five years sailing the "high seas" in the kitchen on board passenger ships from the Netherlands. Ron graduated from the Schools for Cooks and Confectioners (Banketbakkery) in Holland.

Ron was a naturalized US citizen immigrating to America in 1958. He believed strongly in American values and freedom and was very proud to be an American, always wearing a flag pin on his lapel. He sponsored his mother and she was also able to come to America.

Ron was a Certified Executive Chef who served such dignitaries as President Nixon and Vice-President Agnew. He worked in industrial food service all

around the Midwest and owned and operated the Dutch Treat Restaurant in Muscatine, Iowa for 22 years. Customers remember his Split Pea Soup, Indonesian Pork Sateh and the delicious chicken salad “Dutch Boy” sandwiches. While in the kitchen, Ron enjoyed singing along with the music, cracking jokes with his customers and listening to their problems. Ron’s wonderful sense of humor and cute stories will be missed. Ron died during the dinner hour on Wednesday (Spaghetti Day) – this would have pleased him greatly.

Ron was a nationally acclaimed Bench Rest Precision Rifle Sharp Shooter and the Membership Director for the Cast Bullet Association for twelve years. He enjoyed taking close up photographs of people, nature and food, driving his 6 wheel Argo ATV, working on his computer and being with his cats. Ron was a volunteer for Midland Care. When asked why he ended up in Kansas after such an adventuresome life, Ron answered “Life - Life just happens.”

Survivors include daughter, Mary Rose (Scott), son, Ron Klerk de Reus II (Laura), and grandchildren, Ron III, Kelly, Jason and Katherine.

Thank you to all the customers, co-workers and friends that enriched Ron’s life and special thanks to the Topeka medical community for all their care for him.

“Keep the Music Playing.”

Memorial contributions are suggested to Wounded Warriors or Helping Hands Humane Society, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald Klerk de Reus, CEC*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *I had the privilege of caring for Mr. Klerk de Reus in the hospital. Let me start by saying that I do not remember all of my patients, but he was a special patient that I will always remember fondly. Mr. Klerk de Reus never had a frown on his face, even when he was at his most sick. He made sure to share little candies from Holland with all of the staff. This world will sorely miss such a generous and kind man.*

Madison Krehbiel - January 30, 2016 at 05:07 PM



“ *I remember Ron from many years ago when I made repeated visits to his restaurant in Muscatine. Always delicious food, and I absolutely loved his homemade croutons! I have never had any that equaled the taste of his. Ron was always happy, pleasant, courteous -- and a wonderful chef. Although you do not know me, I wanted to let you know that Ron touched my life and I am glad of that -- and through food, of course, along with his great personality. My condolences to all of you on your loss.*

*Dona Pearce
Muscatine, IA*

Dona Pearce - January 25, 2016 at 09:07 AM



Thank you for sharing your memories. Daughter, Mary

mary - January 25, 2016 at 10:03 PM

MA

“ Besides Rons amazing food I will always remember his smile, wonderful stories and special Dutch candy! Loved seeing Ron on the hillside at weed park taking pics of ball games! So many great memories! RIP Ron!

Mary - January 24, 2016 at 08:27 PM

MA

Thank you for sharing a memory. Daughter, Mary

mary - January 25, 2016 at 10:04 PM

CI

“ Cindy lit a candle in memory of Ronald Klerk de Reus, CEC



Cindy - January 24, 2016 at 07:10 PM

MA

What a wonderful thing to do for my father. Mary

mary - January 25, 2016 at 10:05 PM

BW

“ We've missed him so much since Dutch Treat closed...he was a fabulous chef and such a fun guy!!!! Loved loved his chicken salad!!!!

Brenda White - January 24, 2016 at 07:02 PM

MA

Thank you for sharing. Daughter, Mary

mary - January 25, 2016 at 10:05 PM

LS

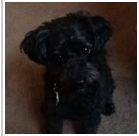
“ I am so sorry to hear of Ron's passing! I frequented Dutch Treat a few times a week back in the 80's. I always got a salad with lots of croutons because they were his specialty. He always winked at me when I asked for extra. He was such a great man, and always brought a smile to my face. My he rest in peace.

Lori Shield - January 24, 2016 at 02:28 PM

MA

Thank you for sharing, daughter, Mary

mary - January 25, 2016 at 10:06 PM



“ Ron was a great guy. He would call a person by name when you would go to Dutch Treat! I would have a salad and a piece of cake as that would cancel each other out. He was the best chef! He will be missed.

Jo Carlson - January 24, 2016 at 02:03 PM

MA

Thank you for sharing a memory. Daughter Mary

mary - January 25, 2016 at 10:07 PM

JB

“ Ron Jr.,
I'm sorry to hear of your father's passing. He was certainly a wonderful chef and he had a personality that truly lit up the room. It's been a few years, Ron, but I also remember you. We shared a few laughs at Casey's Lounge, at the Hotel Muscatine.
Many blessings to you and your family.
Joe Beckey

Joe Beckey - January 24, 2016 at 12:42 PM

MA

My brother and I thank you. Mary

mary - January 25, 2016 at 10:07 PM

JW

“ *I only knew Ron for a short time but his friendship was felt to be that of a lifetime. He was such a kind man and truly touched my life. I was actually just thinking about him the other day and wondered how he was doing. My heart breaks for his family because I know there will be a huge void in your family without him. I pray that you find some comfort in your precious memories of him. I know I will. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.*

Julie Wheeler

Julie Wheeler - January 20, 2016 at 10:07 PM

SG

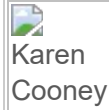
We were very fortunate to have the Dutch Treat in Muscatine. Not only enjoyed Ron's food but spent my waiting time to view Ron's photographs on the walls! Thank you Ron and may you RIP.

Steve Garvin - January 24, 2016 at 12:18 PM

LS

I always enjoyed having lunch at the Dutch Treat. Ron was a special person -I had special ordered some of his cakes -they were awesome. Sorry to hear of his passing it was a sad day when he left Dutch treat and it is a sad day to hear of his passing.

Lisa Starkweather - January 24, 2016 at 04:40 PM



Karen
Cooney

Ron was a good man. I have thought of him periodically since he closed "Dutch Treat" and moved away from our river city of Muscatine. I can remember times I was in such a rush at lunch I would forget my purse. He would just put it on my tab and paid it next time. His special cake was heavenly. He had a very good camera eye. He once presented me with pictures of me playing fast pitch softball and I didn't even know he was anywhere around. They were beautiful and such candid prints of the life of a softball player - me as a young adult. And Ron Jr, we enjoyed a few laughs and a few drinks while you were around as well. Your father always seem to care about everyone that came through his door. He will be missed. RIP my friend.

Karen Cooney

Karen Cooney - January 24, 2016 at 05:29 PM

RH

I was one of Ron's customers back in the 80's. I would have take out from Dutch Treat several times a week. Such a kind man. My condolences to his family.

Roberta Hilton - January 24, 2016 at 06:05 PM

TT

I worked for Ron at the Dutch Treat in the early '90's. I loved listening to his stories from his past, unbelievable the way so many children were treated! I too enjoyed his music, loved his croutons, and some special pork? or beef? grilled with some kind of sauce with peanut butter in it, he would never tell what it was, Ron Jr. if you know would you tell me? It was so yummy! Ron was definitely an interesting man! My condolences to the family, I had wondered where he had gone when he left Wilton! The store front downtown has never been the same since he left! Working for Ron was a great experience I will never forget. He will be missed. Tressa Townsend

Tressa Townsend - January 25, 2016 at 08:52 AM

RF

I remember Ron and his great salads and especially his chicken salad. We always had a good name talking about a German coming into a Dutch restaurant. RIP

Rob Fiedler

rob fiedler - January 25, 2016 at 01:35 PM

BB

Ron Jr ,Laura & Family

Sorry to hear about Ron.Remember so manyvisits with him while he worked. Great Stories. He would come to our business (yesterday & Today Video) and we would walk around talking about all the movies and what it was like to own a small business.

Bart & Cherie Brown Chattanooga, Tn

Bart Brown - January 25, 2016 at 05:10 PM

MA

Thank you so much to all for your kind comments. So many wonderful people my Papa knew. Thank you all again. Daughter, Mary

mary - January 25, 2016 at 10:13 PM