



Ron Morehead

December 22, 1974 - March 26, 2026

Ron Morehead, 51, passed away on March 26, 2026, and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Born in Norman, Oklahoma, he grew up in Washington, Oklahoma, graduating with the class of 1993.

Known as “Little Ronnie” in his younger years, Ron developed an early love for planes and the outdoors. Being raised on a farm shaped his work ethic and his lifelong passion for fishing. After graduation, he answered the call to serve and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he proudly earned the rank of Corporal.

Returning home after his service, Ron lent a hand with the family’s farming and plumbing business, though it became clear his ambitions stretched further. That next chapter arrived when he began his career with Rolls Royce, a position he would hold for over 20 years. Driven to keep growing, he pursued his education alongside his career and ultimately earned his master’s degree from Eastern Carolina University. During his first marriage, Ron welcomed three daughters into the world.

Ron was, above all else, a family man. He believed in giving the gift of experiences rather than things, knowing that memories outlast anything you can wrap. He took his children to zoos, museums, and destinations around the world. During the height of Covid, he rallied the whole family for a fishing

trip just so they could see one another. He treated his nephew and niece to a Texas Rangers game in the new stadium and to OU football games back home in Norman. He flew his dad across the country to take in Redneck Brawls and gathered everyone together to work cattle at the farm. These weren't just outings; they were the moments he wanted his family to carry long after he was gone.

That same spirit carried into every corner of his life. Remarkably handy, Ron could fix just about anything, a talent those around him came to rely on and admire. He had a quick wit and a natural ease that made him the life of any room, the kind of person who could make anyone laugh or blush with a single remark. His kindness, bravery, and quiet strength left a mark on everyone who knew him, and those qualities live on through his children.

His greatest adventure, by his own measure, was building a life with his wife Katie, stepson Grayson, and his girls, and raising their family together.

Ron is survived by his loving wife, Kathrine Morehead; his children, Renee and Emmelyn; his stepson, Grayson; his father, Darrell; his sister, Andrea Dennis, her husband Cody, and their children Cody Jr. and Ally. He was preceded in death by his mother, LaDeanna Ellis Morehead; his infant daughter, Natalee Hope Morehead; and his grandparents, Binford and Billy Morehead and Nancy Phillips.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Wilson-Little Funeral Home, 127 S. Canadian, Purcell, Oklahoma. Graveside services are scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at Washington Cemetery in Washington, Oklahoma.

Cemetery Details

Washington Cemetery

Washington, OK 73093

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 31. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wilson-Little ~ Purcell
127 S. Canadian
Purcell, OK 73080
(405) 527-6543

Graveside Service

APR 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Washington Cemetery
Washington, OK 73093

Tribute Wall

RB

“ Was lucky enough to spend time alongside Ron in Maryland whilst stationed there with Rolls-Royce. He was great to work with and even better to go out drinking with. He had a lot of knowledge and shared it freely, and made everything work better around him as a result. So sorry Ron.

Rob Barker - April 24 at 09:48 AM

CS

“ I had the honour to work alongside Ron for a number of years. Our team in the UK worked to support Ron with the relocation of his employees, and I am truly grateful for his support throughout. RIP Ron from Christy and your Global Mobility Colleagues in the UK.

Christy Storey - April 08 at 03:08 PM

RE

“ I worked with Ron on F35, we were teammates, he with RR and I at P&W. We also attended a few Marine Corps related functions together. While we are both Marines, I am a generation older so we didn't serve together. Ron was always willing to listen to other points of view and come to a collaborative solution. He will be greatly missed as teammate, Marine and friend. Rest in Peace Ron! 'til Valhalla. Semper Fidelis.

Rich Elliott - April 02 at 12:54 PM

AW

“ Ron was one of the best. He's the rare individuals that would be helpful regardless of what team you're on. He took care of everyone. He always looked for ways to include everyone in the conversation, even if you were an engineer without much field experience. Thank you Ron for always being friendly, positive and keeping us all involved. It went a long way in getting the best out of everyone. We'll miss you Ron!

Al Wong - April 02 at 11:25 AM

JF

“ Part 2

What started as a professional respect for a Marine with talent quickly deepened into something much more significant. Over the past three decades, we journeyed far beyond the flight line. We saw each other through the evolution of life and navigated careers, life changes, the joys of family, and the inevitable challenges that come with a life of service and dedication.

Through it all, the core of who Ron was in that engine shop in '95 never changed. The same meticulous dedication he applied to the Pegasus, he applied to his friendships. The same steady hand that could rebuild a complex engine is the same steady hand he offered me during turbulent times. The same quiet confidence that made him a rock in Iwakuni, a trusted Tech Rep in Afghanistan, and a respected leader at Rolls-Royce made him a rock in my life.

Thirty years is a milestone that makes a man reflective. I think back to that hot hangar in Japan and I'm filled with gratitude—not just for the Marine who could outwork anyone on the flight line, not just for the Tech Rep who supported the fleet with unwavering dedication, not just for the leader who built teams and enabled the future of vertical lift—but for the friend who has been a constant, unwavering presence for over thirty years. Ron was a testament to the best of the Corps, to the Rolls-Royce legacy, and more importantly, to the best of what a friend can be.

*You will be truly missed by all that knew you.
Semper Fi, my friend.*

John Fisher - April 01 at 10:35 AM

JF

“ There are some people you meet in life who leave an immediate impression, and then there are the rare few who, thirty years later, you realize helped shape the very core of who you are. For me, that person was Ron.

Our story began in 1995, in the sweltering heat of Iwakuni, Japan. Ron was a young Marine and I was the Rolls-Royce tech rep supporting the shop. Among the noise and jet fuel fumes of the F402 engine shop, Ron was in his element. He was a natural—a young Marine with hands that seemed to understand the Pegasus engine better than any technical manual ever could.

To watch Ron strip down a Pegasus was to watch an artist at work. That engine, with its complex vectored-thrust nozzles and labyrinth of parts, was a beast that intimidated even seasoned mechanics. But for Ron, it wasn't a chore; it was a craft. He possessed an extraordinary talent for breaking it down to its barest bones. Where others saw a chaotic mass of metal and wiring, Ron saw a precise, logical puzzle. His movements were efficient, confident, and deliberate. In the high-pressure environment of a Marine Corps maintenance bay, his presence was an anchor. If Ron was on the strip crew, you knew the job was going to be done right.

It came as no surprise to anyone who knew him that Rolls-Royce came calling in the summer of 2000. They recognized in Ron what I already knew: he was exceptional. When I hired Ron as an F402 technical representative, he didn't just step into the role—he defined it. Ron became the embodiment of the Rolls-Royce presence in the Marine Corps community, and he wore that mantle with a humility and professionalism that earned him the respect of everyone who worked with him.

His commitment took him around the globe on numerous deployments in support of the AV-8B and its F402 engine. Most notably, he spent six months forward-deployed in Afghanistan with Marine Attack Squadron 513. In that harsh, unforgiving

environment, where the margin for error was zero and the operational tempo was relentless, Ron was instrumental. He wasn't just a contractor fulfilling a role; he was a critical part of the squadron's ability to put jets in the air and bring them back safely. The Marines he supported didn't just appreciate his technical expertise—they genuinely liked him. That's a rare combination: a man who could troubleshoot the most complex engine issues under fire and still be the guy you wanted to grab a meal with at the end of a long day. He was one of them, and they knew it.

For more than 25 years at Rolls-Royce, Ron's career grew far beyond the F402. He brought his expertise to the AE1107 engine, the powerhouse behind the V-22 Osprey, continuing to build a reputation for technical excellence and unwavering dedication. But it was in his role as Manager of LiftSystem that Ron truly left his mark on the next generation of vertical lift aviation. He was entrusted with the very system that enables the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter to take off vertically and land like a helicopter—one of the most complex and critical engineering achievements in modern military aviation.

In that role, Ron proved himself to be a true leader. He didn't just manage programs; he built a team. He had a gift for bringing together the right people and empowering them to do their best work. Under his leadership, his team provided seamless support to customers around the world, ensuring that the men and women flying the F-35B had the same confidence in their aircraft that we once had in our Pegasus-powered Harriers. Ron understood that it was never just about the hardware—it was about the pilots and maintainers who depended on it. He carried that mission-first, warfighter-focused mentality from his days as a Marine through every leadership role he held.

What started as a professional respect for a Marine with talent quickly deepened into something much more significant. Over the past three decades, we journeyed far beyond the flight line. We saw each other through the evolut

John Fisher - April 01 at 09:51 AM

RR

“ I met Ron when I was working in Indy, he was one of the most driven and dedicated I'd ever met, his desire to do the best for RR and the customer was seriously impressive and it rubbed off on those that worked around him. What I will never forget was his sense of humour, quick wit, laugh with that glint in his eyes. Godspeed

Rudi Routledge - March 31 at 03:09 PM

LB

“ Fly high, Ron. You shall be missed.

Luke Brambleby - March 31 at 03:18 AM

PD

“ I first met Ron at Yuma, Arizona. I have very good memories of a hard working, dedicated man to both the USMC and Rolls-Royce. Also numerous social events with Ron. Rest in peace, Ron.

Paul Dewfall - March 31 at 03:03 AM

JS

“ Ron hired not one, but both my sons, to work with him at Rolls Royce and I was fortunate enough to meet him a couple of times, as did my mother and brother. He was always fun with the team but as a mom, I saw how he had all his guys' backs all the time. I really appreciated him for that and my heart goes out to his family, friends, and his team. We've lost a good one. Sincerely, Jami Scott-Honigford

Jami Scott-Honigford - March 31 at 12:13 AM

EE

“ Years ago, while in Japan, we found out on a Friday afternoon that we had to work that weekend. Ron kind casually chucked a large socket at the shop concrete floor, and it immediately bounced up and hit him in the eye. He fell back holding his eye and both of us were laughing so hard we could barely breathe. The karma was hilarious, rarely a dull moment with Ron.

Erik Engblom - March 30 at 11:50 AM



“ This is very sad news, worked with Ron at Rolls-Royce. Praying for all of his loved ones.

Paul Tracy - March 30 at 03:31 AM



“ 12 years ago Ron convinced me to join him in running the Cowtown marathon 15 hours before race time. I was not prepared and Ron pretty much dragged me across the finish line. The post-run beer was the best ever.

Chad Carlson - March 28 at 07:49 PM