



Victor "Ron" Gabriel

July 7, 1947 - December 31, 2020

Victor R. Gabriel "Ron", 73, of Hudson, passed away December 31, 2020 at Columbia Memorial Hospital. Born July 7, 1947 in Hudson, he is the son of the late Victor and Angela (Viscusi) Gabriel.

Ron was a graduate of Ichabod Crane Central School and SUNY Plattsburgh. He retired after 35 years as a math teacher at ICC, where for many years he served as Boy's Bowling and Volleyball Coach.

He has been an umpire in Columbia and Greene Counties since 1969. He has served as the NYS High School Rules Interpreter and currently the President of NYS High School Umpire Association. In 2000 he was the recipient of the NYS Umpire of the Year Award.

In 1980, Ron took a hiatus from teaching to attend the Major League Umpire Camp in St. Petersburg, FL. However, upon completion, he realized at the ripe old age of 33, that he was "too old" to expand his horizons at that level of umpiring. He returned home to continue his local and state umpiring duties. Umpires are only allowed to work 2 Little League World Series in a lifetime including baseball and softball for various age groups. In the late 1990's he umpired an Eastern Regional game for the Senior League (15-16 year old) calling the game from behind the plate in the final game. In 1998 he did a Senior World Series game in Orlando, FL. In 2006 Ron umpired the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA., one of his proudest umpiring accomplishments. For many years, he was also a soccer referee.

Ron was quite a presence. With a ready smile, twinkle in his eye, and gift of

gab, his story telling captivated his audience. An avid Dodgers fan, he was ecstatic with the 2020 World Series victory. He enjoyed his pre Covid weekly card game with the boys at Glencadia Rod & Gun Club, his monthly card game with his Hudson Crew, and his monthly breakfast meetings with his fellow retired ICC teachers.

Ron was a past member of the Kinderhook Elks Club and past member of the Stockport Fire Co.

As a college student, he was pledge master for his fraternity Delta Kappa Delta at SUNY Plattsburgh, and remained active with fraternity reunion events.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughter Jyl Driscoll (Sean) of Poughquag, NY, son Zak Gabriel (Jessie) of Valatie, NY, brother Richard (Mary Ann) of Stockport, NY, sister Roberta Haag (John) of Rochester, NY, four grandchildren, Amara and Andrew Gabriel, and Rian and Gavin Driscoll, along with three nephews, Victor Gabriel of CO, Alex Haag of Rochester, Bradley Haag of GA, and a niece Mia Gabriel of Stockport, and several cousins. Ron is also survived by his significant other and loving partner for almost 40 years, Jeanne Lewicki.

Graveside funeral services at St. Mary's Stuyvesant Falls Cemetery will be Wednesday January 6, at 2:00pm.

Visitation hours at the Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home will be from 10:00am-1:00pm, prior to graveside.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to the Ron Gabriel Scholarship Fund

Ichabod Crane School P.O. Box 602 Kinderhook, NY 12106

Previous Events

Visitation Hours

JAN 6. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler
110 Green Street
Hudson, NY 12534
(518) 828-3371
<http://batesandersonredmondkeeler.com>

Graveside Service

JAN 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Mary's Stuyvesant Falls Cemetery
Stuyvesant Falls, NY

Tribute Wall

EL

“ I had the privilege of playing baseball and soccer with Ronnie at Plattsburgh. He was a character and the world will be less fun without him. He’s probably telling stories to Babe Ruth by now....thanks for the memories DG....! 🙏



Eddie LeStrange - January 06, 2021 at 10:09 PM

IP

Ron was a great friend. He and I played for SUNY Plattsburgh AND had several classes together. He always made us laugh.

Ivor Parsons - October 01, 2021 at 09:37 PM

MS

“ To the Gabriel Family,
We are so sorry to learn of Ron's passing. Please accept our deepest sympathies.
You are in our thoughts.
The Slocum Family

Maryalice Slocum - January 06, 2021 at 10:12 AM

JG

“ Ron was a great leader, baseball rules expert, and very funny guy always. Our lives were enriched by him. RIP Ron

Joe Goldsmith
Mid Hudson

Joe Goldsmith - January 06, 2021 at 10:07 AM

PB

“ As the interpreter for Eastern Suffolk Baseball Umpires, I always looked forward to Ron's rule discussions, of course, but more, to hearing all the amusing anecdotes from his umpiring career. Always very helpful and giving. He will be missed.

Peter J Biscardi - January 05, 2021 at 06:31 PM

WS

“ As a member of CGUA for nearly 40 years, I had the opportunity to work numerous games with Ron at various levels, from LL to Regional Finals to Recreational softball leagues. These memories I will keep with me forever along with the stories and laughs we had travelling to these games and the stop on the way back home. No matter where we went, Ron always knew of a place to stop and more then likely, someone in there knew him as well. I would stop at the garage if I saw his car there and go in and talk about strange plays and situations that happened in a game to see if I had made the right call or not. His presence will be missed by all that knew him. Rest in Peace

Wayne Shutts

Wayne Shutts - January 05, 2021 at 04:22 PM

MK

“ Very sad to hear of Ron's passing. Mike Kopec.



michael kopec - January 05, 2021 at 01:19 PM

MG

“ Ron was one of those people you thought would never get old, never die. He was always on the go, never slowed down, never got tired. Like a thousand other men & women I met Ron through umpiring, he was a mentor to many. He was fair & funny, strong & sarcastic, that's what made him a great leader. Think of Ron the next time you hear...strike three and a beauty!

*Mickey Gregg
Niagara Falls*

Mickey Gregg - January 05, 2021 at 11:55 AM

MB

“ Michael B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Victor "Ron" Gabriel.



Michael B. - January 05, 2021 at 09:56 AM

CS

“ Cecile Staats lit a candle in memory of Victor "Ron" Gabriel



Cecile Staats - January 05, 2021 at 09:44 AM

AC

“ *Mr. Gabriel was my favorite teacher at ICcS. I aced my math classes and SATs bcuz of him and his excellent teaching skills.*

I have fun memories of him coaching the men's volleyball team and I was the manager and only female on those rowdy bus rides to away games. He had his hands full with that bunch!

You will be missed Gabe and fondly remembered. Thank you for everything.

RIP and God Bless!



Alisa Carpenter - January 04, 2021 at 09:17 PM

BB

“ *Ron, my friend. The lucky people who had the pleasure of knowing you have lost a great mentor. I will always treasure the talks we had, always ended in laughter and good times just like on Tuesday. I was so lucky to see you that one last time. Good bye my dear friend.*

Bill Bogarski - January 04, 2021 at 08:10 PM

JM

“ *Dear Jeannie and Ron's family.. my deepest sympathies to you all at this very difficult time. Ron always had the greatest laugh and smile which everyone that knew him will agree. And that twinkle in his eye that was mentioned is so true. May all your broken hearts heal soon and smile when you think of that twinkle.*

Jane

Jane Mack - January 04, 2021 at 07:50 PM

BS

“ This is Bill Smith from Queensbury. I have been a member of the Adirondack Chapter for over 50 years . I have always enjoyed Ron's rules interpretation meetings over these many years. The respect paid to him at those meetings by umpires and COACHES was always obvious.

Part of my connection with Ron goes all the way back to our days at Plattsburgh. I was a DK as was Ron. Imagine my excitement when I would see him at our reunions.

I have always held him in the highest regard and was proud to be someone he knew. DK brothers across the State will mourn his passing.

My condolences to all members of his family.

Bill Smith - January 04, 2021 at 11:56 AM

WK

“ I knew him as a teacher when I was a kid in middle school and whenever we crossed paths, I always had a pleasant exchange of conversation with him. So sad to hear he has passed. My condolences to his whole family.

Winn Keil - January 04, 2021 at 07:15 AM

DF

“ Donna Florio lit a candle in memory of Victor "Ron" Gabriel



Donna Florio - January 04, 2021 at 05:39 AM



“ Every year Ron would visit us in Rochester and that "signaled" the official start of the baseball season for the Rochester District Umpires. "Gabe" was Mr. Baseball as far as NYSBUA umpires were concerned and "Did you ask Gabe"? if there was a ruling to be made was almost automatic and his word was accepted as law. Walking into the lobby of the hotel at the state meeting always involved finding Gabe and it left a smile on my face that he was usually there looking to greet us. I and all the members of the Rochester District Umpires Association are truly sorry for his family and our umpire family's loss. RIP my friend
Chuck Healey - President
Rochester District Umpires

Chuck Healey - January 03, 2021 at 04:44 PM

JM

“ Each year I have always looked forward to seeing Ron at the annual interpretation session. Just listening to him you could tell he knew what he was talking about, baseball. Each time that I had a question for him he would get back to you with a "yes I agree with you" or "lets look at it this way" never a "you are wrong". The baseball umpiring world has lost one of our greatest. If you ever were fortunate to attend the state tournament it will be hard to replace Ron, as he ran a tight ship, with no messing around, yet always encouraged his umpires to have fun. I will miss his smile and how he always would say to me "how are the boys from the north country doing today". My thoughts and prayers are with Ron's family in this time of sorrow. May God look over Ron and keep calling those balls and strikes.

Joe Macaulay
Massena Chapter

Joe Macaulay - January 03, 2021 at 04:34 PM

JE

“ Jeannie lit a candle in memory of Victor "Ron"
Gabriel



Jeannie - January 03, 2021 at 04:20 PM

BF

“ To all of Ron's family, I am so sorry.

Ronnie influenced and mentored so many individuals within the baseball umpiring community. On behalf of all of them, I want to share a few of my memories of Ron as I'm sure they are representative of what he has meant to so many umpires for so many years.

While many have enjoyed the baseball stories surrounding Ronnie, whether they were shared directly by him,, or communicated by a third party, I was privileged to witness some of it first hand. All of which has had a tremendous impact on my umpiring journey.

Even as kids playing little league through American Legion, we all knew how good an umpire Ronnie was. When he showed up to work a game of ours. we felt like the game had to be important because if Ron Gabriel was assigned to work it, it must be. In a way, his being there made us play better; much like those rare opportunities when as kids we got to "play under the lights" for a night game. You wanted to rise to the occasion. The same held true for me when I started umpiring just after finishing high school. It was then when I got to know and learn from him as an umpire. Ronnie was tremendously gracious and supportive of me. He made me better on the field just by association I still picture him tilting his head and staring off into the distance while listening to a manager plead his case; then with a "wince and a neck adjustment" refute everything the guy had said resulting in the manger returning to the dugout.

Ronnie was the one who encouraged me to go to umpire school. When I came back from school, I worked one of those Dave Staats/Jabbo Jablanski match ups between Melino's and Joe's Bar which Ronnie was playing in. When I ran out from home plate to pitcher's mound to view a catch/no catch in center field, guys on his team started laughing. I could hear them saying, "what the heck is this guy doing?" (guess in those days nobody was used to seeing umpires ever move from behind home plate.) Ronnie, having the

status he did as a player and umpire yelled out, "Nice job Fish" and then announced to both benches, "That "kid" has been to professional umpire school and is waiting for his season to start...he's doing exactly what he's supposed to do." From that day on, I never heard a word...ever...from anyone in the Hudson and Philmont Men's Softball Leagues...In an instant I had inherited all of the respect Ronnie enjoyed on the field. (Those familiar with those leagues may remember how cut throat the competition was. They were the best training grounds...every play at first was a whacker, and every night you were one pitch away from a brawl.)

*By "most standards," I've been pretty successful in my umpiring journey; blessed with experiences that have been very gratifying and fulfilling to me. Among those first and continued blessings is Ronnie. Anyone who ever had the chance to work a game with Ronnie knows of the "presence" he had on the field. Ronnie's "presence" will remain with me for sure. May God Bless Ronnie with His Presence eternally.
With deepest sympathy,
Bill*

Bill Fisher - January 03, 2021 at 03:06 PM

PP

“ We have been friends being members of the NYSBUA and getting together at State meetings. His trip to Buffalo and getting together became friends and spoke often. What gentleman and fun to be around. Will is him. RIP my friend ! 🙏🙏

Paul Pascucci - January 03, 2021 at 01:33 PM

RN

“ He will be so missed. Our sympathies and thoughts are with all of you. Jim and Roberta Nero

roberta Nero - January 03, 2021 at 12:26 PM

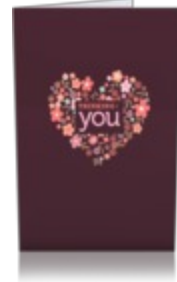
DT

“ Ron was a mentor & friend of mine for many years. He helped break me in as a new umpire in 1983. I will miss him. Condolences to his brother Richard. Rest in piece.

David Teator - January 03, 2021 at 11:42 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Victor "Ron" Gabriel.



January 03, 2021 at 11:25 AM

JD

“ I had the pleasure and the opportunity to meet Ron 6 months ago. My husband John Dunn and Ron's brother Rich Gabriel have been friends forever. So when John wants to visit one of his best at their place of work...I'm pretty much left on my own and sometimes for long periods of time. But this visit proved to be different and special because I met Ron. We starting talking and found out we had commonality, both being teachers and he shared very engaging stories about being a referee and his crowning moment at the Little League World Series. Of course I interjected by various coaching accomplishments. And the afternoon went on for quite awhile, since John & Rich can converse forever. I wanted to share this story because it is rare opportunity, as you get older, to meet new, interesting, and intelligent people who enjoy a conversation. I feel privileged that I met this engaging, kind and interesting man before God called him home. By Julia Dunn

Julia Dunn - January 03, 2021 at 11:02 AM



“ I only knew Ron for a short time, but he was always very nice to me. As an educator and sports enthusiast, we always had plenty to chat about. My thoughts and prayers to the family.

Mark Sherwin - January 03, 2021 at 08:20 AM

SB

“ So sorry to hear of Rons passing. He was my bowling coach and math teacher during my years at Ichabod and called some strikes behind the plate while at the plate. He was a great coach friend and teacher. My prayers go out to the family. He will be greatly missed for sure...

Scott Busta - January 03, 2021 at 12:29 AM



“ One of the nicest man I have ever met. Always had a smile and a little twinkle in his eye. He will be missed.

Brenda Neefus - January 02, 2021 at 10:11 PM

JB

Ronnie, will be sorely missed, long time friend and teacher always a joker!!!!

Jon Bogardus - January 04, 2021 at 10:58 AM