Ron Johnson   March 11, 1955 - April 26, 2018.

Ronald Emmett Johnson was born on March 11, 1955 in Burlington Iowa to George and Keala Johnson, and grew up with siblings Gerry, Geraldine, Donna, and Donnie. He was devastated by his mother's death when he was just 17. He graduated from Burlington High School as a member of the class of '73, before moving to Des Moines, Iowa.

Once there, he worked for a short time as a transporter in a hospital, and then in various catering and food service companies, before finding a job as a photo processor at Dean Studios.

In 1984, Ron met Kevin Shelby, and the start of a long and loving relationship began. Together they lived in apartments in Des Moines and West Des Moines before buying a house in Des Moines in 1994. A lifelong animal lover, Ron brought into their home over the years 5 wonderful dogs, 3 slightly aloof cats, and all the fur and vet bills that go with them.

In the late 80's, Ron decided to change the course of his career, spending it helping those less fortunate, taking a job with Behavioral Technologies in Des Moines as a direct care worker working with mentally handicapped adults. This led him to similar positions at Golden Circle Behavioral Health in Des Moines, On With Life in Ankeny, and Capstone Behavioral Healthcare in Newton, where he was employed when he passed.

Ron passed away April 26, 2018 at the Kavanaugh Hospice house in Des Moines Iowa after a lengthy illness.

He was preceded in death by his parents George and Keala, sister Wanda Lou who died before Ron's birth, and his older brother Gerry (Brenda) Johnson.

He is survived by his husband Kevin Shelby, sister Geraldine (Tom) Elmore, Donna (Rick) Brockett, Donald (Sue) Johnson, nine nieces and nephews, and 13 great nieces and nephews.

A celebration of his life was held June 30th in Burlington, IA, and another will be held in Des Moines on October 6th. Monetary donations will go to Kavanaugh House, the Des Moines Playhouse, and other non-profit organizations at the discretion of the family.