Ronald Keith Garlow

May 2, 1937 – October 24, 2026



Ronald Keith Garlow, age 89, of Frederick, Maryland, died peacefully on October 24, 2026. He was born on May 2, 1937, in Salina, Kansas, to Louie F. and Thelma H. Garlow.

Ron earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Kansas State University and went on to a long career in aerospace and communications engineering. At RCA in the 1960s, he worked on the television subsystem of the Ranger 7 spacecraft, which transmitted more than 4,000 close-up images of the lunar surface before impacting the Moon on July 31, 1964. Those images helped identify safe landing sites for the Apollo missions. He later worked at Comsat Labs in Clarksburg, Maryland, from 1969 to 1993, and later at Lockheed Martin, and for a time with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Ron was devoted to Scouting. In June 1995, he received the Silver Beaver Award, given by the Boy Scouts of America for distinguished service to youth within a council, in recognition of his work in the Seneca District. He served as Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 445 while all three of his sons were members, Scoutmaster and other leadership roles of Boy Scout Troop 445, and continued to be involved with Scouting adult leadership for many years afterwards.

Ron met his wife Elsie when they were introduced by mutual friends who were dating (Ron lived with a group of engineers; Elsie lived with a group of teachers). While they were dating, they enjoyed going out to dinner and attending parties with friends, and during the week they went out for ice cream sundaes.

Besides his devotion to his family, Ron enjoyed camping with his family and Scouts (especially at Goshen), fishing, and learning about computers. He felt a particular connection to Colorado, where his father had purchased a cabin when Ron was a child. He is survived by his loving wife, Elsie; his sons Doug Garlow, Kevin Garlow (Loretta Notareschi), and Todd Garlow (Margaret Hsiang); and his grandchildren Keith Garlow (Emily

Smithwick), Quinn Garlow, Maxwell Garlow, and Finley Garlow. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Dianna Meyer.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, November 21, 2026, at the Margaretta F. Slayman Chapel, Homewood Living, 7407 Willow Road, Frederick, Maryland, followed by a private graveside service for close family. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Scouting America National Capital Area Council (9190 Rockville Pike, Bethesda MD 20814 | +1-301-530-9360 | https://ncacscouting.org/) or the Dementia Society of America (188 N. Main St, Doylestown PA 18901-3731 | +1-800-336-3684 | https://www.dementiasociety.org/