

From the family of Ronald Barron

Chairman Green, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Transportation and Public Safety committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 234. Ronald Barron was a lover of life. More than anything, he loved to help people. He acted as Google and was simply a plethora of knowledge on many different topics. You knew when you asked Ron, you were going to get the best answer possible. He was smart, savvy and a definite people person. He always seemed to have whatever it was you might be looking for at any given moment. So many people, from all walks of life, loved and respected him.

He was never satisfied to just sit still and do the same old thing day after day. He wanted a challenge. He needed to be doing more, learning more, being more. He took his love for people and his love of all things knowledge-based and decided he would run for Orange Village City Council. All the things he did were not for the sake of applause, but for a definite need he felt he had to fill. He actually dressed in a firefighter's uniform and went inside a burning building so that he could truly see things from their perspective. The Fire Chief stated after the funeral, that Ron was the only Councilperson ever to visit the station, meet with and get to know the firefighters, so that he could understand what they might require to be more successful and safe at their jobs. He wanted to make sure that they had everything that they needed. That was the kind of man he was.

He even helped in creating and designing Pinecrest, and some of the happiest times in his life were spent both envisioning the endeavor and seeing it through to fruition. Ultimately, he got the first pick of apartments and boy was he thrilled! He was proud to be a citizen, even more so to be a council member where he could evoke change and work tirelessly to make everyone feel like somebody special. He gave a voice to those who were in search of one, and he could always put himself in someone else's shoes. If you knew Ron Barron, you knew he would be your friend, teacher, mentor, advocate and brainstorming buddy. He was and still is one of a kind.

State Representative Brent, brought it to our attention that she wanted to introduce a bill that would rename a portion of I-271 for Ron Barron. We always knew how wonderful and special he was and how much he loved to help people and if this bill does pass, many more people will soon know too. On behalf of his wife, Laurie, his children, Alison and Ashley, his son in law, Mike and his grandchildren: Gabriel, Spencer, and Phoebe, we miss him every day, but with the passing of this bill, we truly feel like a part of him will still live on, and he will never be that far away. Ron Barron went above and beyond to help those he served and the introduction of Bill 234, is an honor that we simply can't express with words. We are so grateful, and it does make the pain of losing him, slightly easier to digest.

We thank you in advance, from the bottom of our hearts, for considering this bill and possibly bestowing such a special gift to our family.