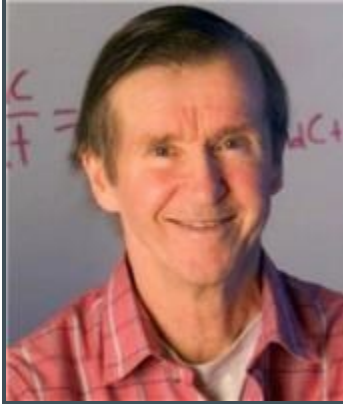


<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/newsminer/name/ronald-johnson-obituary?id=58475121>

Ronald Johnson



[Brown University](#) [Cornell University](#)

UPCOMING SERVICE

Celebration Of Life

Jun. 8, 2025

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Georgeson Botanical Garden

Ronald Johnson Obituary

Ronald Johnson passed away on April 20, 2025, in Louisville, Colorado, surrounded by family.

Ron was born to Arthur and Vivian Johnson in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, followed four years later by brother Larry. Sports were a major part of Ron's life, including little league baseball, cross country running, and track in his youth. In adulthood, he was an active member of Running Club North and remained active in cross country skiing, basketball, tennis, bicycling, canoeing and rafting, and hockey, often playing sports with colleagues at lunch.

In 1976 Ron married Carol Drewiany and they embarked on a magical 49-year journey. They became the proud parents of two daughters, Katie and Laura, with whom Ron was immediately smitten. One of their first trips was visiting family in

Fairbanks, Alaska. Ron, then employed at Avco Systems Division in Massachusetts, was soon offered a faculty position at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Having earned his aerospace engineering degrees from Brown University (B.S.) and Cornell University (Ph.D.), he credited Rachel Carson's Silent Spring with his change of focus to environmental issues. In addition to teaching and research in air quality, water resources, and energy, for 21 years he walked, skied or bicycled to work every day. Ron chaired the Mechanical Engineering department, directed the UAF energy center, and retired after 33 years at UAF. He served in advisory roles for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Aging at Home, and the Retired Public Employees Association and participated in a weekly energy discussion group.

While bicycling in 1997, Ron suffered a spinal cord injury. Despite reduced mobility, he went on to live 27 very good years as a role model and activist for sustainability and accessibility. He maintained his large network of friends and good sense of humor until the end.

Ron leaves his wife, Carol; daughter, Katie (husband Curt); daughter, Laura (husband Dan and son Calvin); brother, Larry (wife Janet); sister-in-law, Janet Taylor (husband Scott); and nieces and nephews Erik, Ellen, Chris, Bryan and Jessie, and their families. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Fairbanks or KUAC.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 8, at Georgeson Botanical Gardens.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).
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