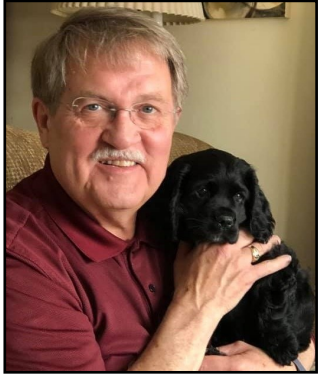


## Memories of Dad - Angela House Gritton



Dad (Ronald Wayne House) was born on Thursday, April 7, 1949, just outside of Duluth in Proctor, Minnesota. His parents kept their two boys active, playing sports and music. Dad took accordion lessons and played the drums before joining the football team. He played football and basketball and ran track with #13 as his lucky number.

Dad worked as a short order cook at the Target store restaurant in Duluth. He noticed Mom (Charlotte) from across the store and the rest is history. He graduated from University of Minnesota Duluth, married his beloved Char, and moved to the Twin Cities in 1972.

The young couple found a local church, and Dad joined the choir. He was self-taught on the acoustic guitar and played in the church folk group. He and Mom learned how to square dance (complete with the costumes!) and later he became a square-dance caller! He learned the banjo (and the rest of us in the house learned to tolerate the banjo.) A local community theatre always needed tenors and asked if Dad would be interested – he nervously auditioned but made it! Dad and Mom loved being in shows together – his theatre resume includes Oklahoma, Camelot, My Fair Lady, South Pacific, The Music Man and more.

Yet another of Dad's passions was only discovered in the last 25 years: Barbershop singing! He joined the Croix Chordsmen in 2003 and became a 'lead' (this is the 2nd tenor part and the part that usually has the melody.)

Dad embraced this group wholeheartedly and they embraced him – he loved being a part of this community more than they know. He served on different committees and was in a quartet for many years. Our family loves to attend shows – our favorite is the July show in the Como Park Pavilion.

One of Dad's favorite annual traditions with the Chordsmen was the Singing Valentine – where a quartet would be "hired out" to deliver "singing telegrams". He got to surprise Mom with a serenade at her workplace, sang for Mom's mom Betty and for his own mom Gerry!

In Dad's last few months with us after a particularly rough week of chemo, a group of Chordsmen came over to Dad and Mom's apartment. They met in the townhouse lobby and sang and sang and sang! Dad joined in the singing with all his usual passion – Mom has video to remember this special day!

To The Croix Chordsmen: as Dad's family, we thank you for how you and your songs have touched our hearts. May you continue to share your gifts of music and community with the St. Croix Valley and beyond.

With Gratitude,  
Angela House Gritton



## Croix College Glee Club Reunion

SATURDAY | APRIL 26, 2025 | 3:00PM

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Stillwater, Minnesota