

My Friend Ron Shlensky

To Anyone Who Cares

From: David Echt

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On July 28, 2006 I lost my dearest friend and pal, Ron Shlensky. Ron's picture hangs on the wall next to my desk so that I can see my friend's smiling face daily, and seeing his face and his beaming smile warms my heart and brings back so many wonderful memories of our almost 40 consecutive year friendship together. No one can and no one will ever be able to replace this loss that I continue to feel.

If you want to know the "professional" side of Ron, just "Google" his name. Ron has more titles after his name than anyone I have ever met: M.D, J.D, FAPA, Fellow American Psychiatric Association, Fellow American College of Forensic Psychiatry, Founder American Journal of Forensic Psychiatry, Board Certified Psychiatric and Forensic Pyschiatry, Consultant Medical Board of California, Contributing Editor Psychiatry on Line, Moderator Forensic Psychiatry On Line, and the list continues.....did I forget to mention that in addition to Ron being a leading psychiatrist that he was also an attorney? And that in many ways he also reached out and ventured into any number of business relationships as well? His energy was boundless!!!! His curiosities were insatiable.

So one would think that a guy so active in his career and so involved in so many wonderful causes as well perhaps might not have "time" for a friend or two, or three or four or more? Wrong. Ron had time for everyone! He was a loving father to his three wonderful children, Aviva, Sheba, and Lincoln, he was a loving husband to his dear wife Evely, he was loved by his grandchildren, and his list of special and devoted friends are almost as long as all of those titles after his name.

Ron was one of the most giving people I ever knew, and in this respect (as well as others) he was truly a role model for me. Over the years I have mentored a number of kids and families. Ron knew of, or personally knew every one of those kids and families. Whether in the background or in the forefront, Ron always helped me with issues that were far beyond my understanding. Ron was there for me for the asking.....all of the time. All it took was, "Ron, I need some help," or "Ron, I need a favor," and he was always available to me as well as to the people with whom I was involved.....there was never ever a time that Ron was too busy to help a person in need....he would show up anytime, anywhere, and he never failed me..... never, not even once! "I can't" was simply not in his vocabulary.

I will never forget the time that my 93 year old father was suffering and needed help badly. I called Ron to discuss the situation with him and seek his advice. Here is the advice he gave me: "I want to visit with your Dad, so let's together go

over to his apartment tomorrow and spend a little time with him.” The next day we went to my Dad’s apartment. Ron met with my Dad, for three hours as I recall, and he was of great help to him. By the way, the drive to my Dad’s place from our place in Santa Barbara was three hours....each way. What I expected from my initial call to Ron about my Dad was some suggestions he might have for Dad to feel better. What I got from Ron was about 6 hours of driving and three hours of meeting with Dad, more than a days worth of his time, and he responded to my needs immediately, and that was Ron. This same kind of effort and goodness from my friend Ron can be repeated many many times over with all of the people he was willing to help and did help just for the asking. From me he wouldn’t even consider accepting anything for his time and his effort and his service.....it was just Ron’s way.

Today, January 10th is my friend’s birthday. I miss him especially today, I miss him everyday. I know a lot of people who love Ron and miss him as much I do. He was truly an honorable, intelligent, giving, lovable, unique, and “one of a kind” type of guy. He was a very special and dear friend to me, and I believe he was a gift to all who know him well. He gave so much of himself to so many.....and so many many people have been robbed of his goodness and his friendship by his tragic death.....I miss you and love you Ron.