



Ronald James Sell, native of Clements, Redwood, Minnesota, joined the U.S. Air Force on 14 July 1969. He served as an Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) repairman in the Field Maintenance Squadron. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant (E5) and got out on 13 January 1974.

After four (4) years in the Air Force, Ron was a local constable and later became an architectural designer in Arnold Ca. The earthquake in October 1989 caused state officials to rewrite the

California building codes. So, instead of starting all over with his designs and blueprints, Ron packed up and moved to his old stomping ground in Thailand. After settling in Udonthani, Ron started teaching English. He also lived in Nong Khai for a while. Ron enjoyed going out with the boys, having a few and talking about the good ole days.

Ron also served one term as the VFW Post 10249, Commander. While serving in this position he researched and was able to update our history about the nine (9) airmen that lost their lives when a battle-damaged F-4 crashed into the AFTN station on 10 April 1970.

During his tour of duty at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base 1971-1972, Ron met David Dwiggin. David had already written several books about Indiana History and together they started collaborating on a book titled *Udorn and the Secret War*. David started the Udorn research group website and together they collected hundreds of pictures, tales and personal accounts of veterans associated with URTAFB and the Vietnam War. David lived in the Philippines and did all the writing. Ron provided modern day pictures and other inputs from Udorn. They also posted a Video about Udorn on YouTube, Unfortunately David passed away a while back and the book was never completed.

Ron also enjoyed working with his hands. Some of his projects include restoring a Honda 250cc motorcycle and a vintage SAMLOR. In 2010 he designed and built their home in Laos. It was the first home in the village to incorporate built-in cabinets, running water and indoor plumbing.

Ron was cremated in the local custom at a Laotian temple near his home in Nong Phong Village, Laos on what would have been his 72nd birthday.

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.