

From The Wisconsin State Journal of Nov. 19, 2008.

Romnes, Jon Roald OCALA, FLA. Jon R. Romnes (a.k.a. "The Big Guy"), age 72, passed away with family by his side on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008, following a brief but courageous battle with cancer. Born Oct. 4, 1936, in Stoughton, to Bjarne and Harriett (Tholo) Romnes, Jon moved to Longwood, Fla., in 1983 and came to Ocala in 2001. Jon received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was in the U.S. Air Force ROTC. While in the USAF, Captain Romnes flew F-100s at Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, Nev. As a younger man, Jon enjoyed skiing, track, and speed skating competitively and for pleasure. Always a car fanatic he raced competitively in SCCA and IMSA. Throughout his life, Jon loved flying and anything to do with motor sports. He was passionate about military history and enjoyed the stories and camaraderie of many of Ocala's veterans and members of the Yankee Air Force, EAA, AOPA. He enjoyed the arts and loved to draw, always hoping to pursue painting. Jon's greatest joy came from family and close friends all of whom knew his "spark" for life. Jon is survived by, sadly missed, and his memory shall always and forever be held close to heart by his wife of 32 years, Mary Romnes; son, Joel (Colleen) Romnes; daughter, Joni Welzien; daughter, Vicki Romnes; son, Jeff Romnes; son, Erik (Brittney) Romnes; grandchildren, Shaun, Garrett, Justin and Taylor; great-granddaughter, Tamryn; brothers, Paul (Barbara) Romnes and Per Hans (Becky); his former wife of 20 years, Janice Romnes; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial service will be held on Friday, Nov. 21, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. at JOY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, Fla., with Pastor Ed Holloway and Pastor Sean Ford officiating. Inurnment to follow at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Fla., at 2:30 p.m. with Military Honors provided by Angela Santos VFW Post No. 4781. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Jon's memory to Cancer Research.