



About the Artist, Ronald Lester

Ron Lester, better known as Coach, was born in Haleyville, Alabama and raised in Miami, Florida, along with 2 younger brothers. He joined the United States Navy in the early 1960s and became a Navy UDT-Seal. After five years of service, he mustered out of the Navy to go to Florida State University where he realized his lifelong ambition of becoming a physical education teacher and sports coach.

A friend and mentor suggested he move to Richmond, Virginia, for his teaching and coaching career. There he met his wife, Barbara. They settled in Bon Air where they remained for most of his career.

Ron was a person who was always “on the go” and had a hard time sitting still. While in church each Sunday, he would draw on any available paper to keep from fidgeting. He was a well-known pack rat and kept his church drawings in a large folder in his file cabinet, unbeknownst to Barbara.

Ron's drawings were found after he passed away on June 29, 2022. His family was surprised and amazed at his vision and imagery and are proud of his untrained artistic skills. His son, Brock and daughter-in-law, Tiffany, put all the drawings into a keepsake album and presented it to Barbara at Christmas in 2023.

The Lester Family is excited to share and celebrate Ron's “semi-secret” creative side with friends and the rest of the world. Those who knew him either as a great coach and teacher, or as the man who always had his dog with him and wore shorts all winter long, now get to see his artistic side.

Please join us in celebrating Ron by supporting the nonprofit organization he and Barbara co-founded in 2017 called *Joy House RVA*, an organization that helps single women transition from homelessness to stable housing in a program backed with mentoring and one-on-one counseling that enables them to get back on their feet financially and spiritually.

You can learn more about Ron from his obituary on the In Memoriam page at www.joyhouserva.org.



Calder Comorant – an inspired doodle by Ron Lester

All proceeds from the sales of Ron's Doodles benefit Joy House RVA
Helping women on their journey from homelessness to independent living.

