



## Ronald Jacob Couri

March 1, 2023

Ronald Jacob Couri of Fort Lee, formerly of Tenafly, New Jersey passed away unexpectedly at his residence on March 1, 2023, at the age of 70. His family, friends, and employees are all deeply saddened by his passing.

He is survived by his sons Evan Brett Couri and Ronald George Couri, his daughter Cristina Couri Salit, her husband Eric Stephen Salit, and his grandchildren Elle Harper Salit and Star Grey Salit.

Born on October 8, 1952, in Brooklyn, New York, to George Jacob Couri and Eleanor Veronica Shehab, Ron grew up in Dyker Heights with his three brothers George, Robert, and Steven. He attended Poly Prep Country Day School, class of 1970, where he lettered in wrestling and lacrosse. He continued his education at Villanova and Temple Universities earning a business degree in 1974.

Ron was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Couristan, Inc., a 97-year-old family-owned, business that imports and manufactures fine, quality area rugs, residential carpeting, and custom contract carpeting. Ron served at the company for over 50 years. He was recognized by his peers and employees as an innovative leader in the area rug and home furnishings industries, whose passion and creative vision helped to secure his family's business legacy.

Publicly acknowledged for the work he had done in support of “No Child Labor” laws, Ron structured strict “No Child Labor” policies within Couristan by implementing internal and third-party inspections of each facility where handmade area rugs were made. After confirmation, each area rug was verified with a “No Child Labor” tag on its backing assuring the company’s policies were being followed.

He diligently explored new business opportunities and ventured into initiatives that would forever change the landscape of how area rugs were manufactured, marketed, designed, and colored. Through Ron’s vast knowledge of the floor-covering industry, he was able to structure licensing agreements with renowned and highly marketed brands under the Couristan umbrella including Vanderbilt, Forbes, Disney, CARE, and Marvel.

Perhaps, his greatest business accomplishment, and one that continues to grow within the industry, was his vision of manufacturing and marketing indoor/outdoor area rugs. In 2001 under his guidance, Couristan launched its first outdoor area rug collection with its award-winning Recife Collection. At the time many of his peers in the industry looked at the outdoor segment as a quick trend that would dissolve within 5 years. However, Ron’s perseverance and ingenuity would prevail; the outdoor area rug segment continues to grow exponentially with Couristan at its helm.

Anyone who knew Ron knew he had a tremendous passion for the arts which he instilled in his children and grandchildren. The soundtrack of his life, and his favorite band, was proudly the Grateful Dead. Ron was a former board member of the Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood, New Jersey, and was named an Honoree in 2015 for his long-time generous support and contributions. He appreciated how the Center offered something to everyone in the community and how positively the arts education program impacted the lives of its students.

A world traveler Ron particularly loved to vacation in Spain and Colorado. He also enjoyed the simple comforts of his mother's home in the Poconos and kept his heart in San Francisco. He taught his children to be avid skiers, instilled in them a love of their Lebanese heritage with its food, and brought them back every year to his beloved Dyker Heights to see the Christmas lights on display. He was a family man through and through. He loved his children and grandchildren so intensely and wanted to show them the world. Ron will be missed more than words can express in a world that needs more people like him.

Visitation at Barrett Leber Funeral Home, 148 Dean Dr., Tenafly, NJ on Wednesday March 15, 2023 from 3 PM - 8 PM. Funeral Service, Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 10 AM at St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church (8100 Ridge Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11209), with burial to follow at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial donation to the Ronald J. Couri Legacy Fund for the Bergen Performing Arts would be greatly appreciated.

<https://www.bergenpac.org/support-bergenpac/donate>

"Bergen Performing Arts Center (bergenPAC) is a theater of and for the community that it serves throughout northern New Jersey, by being a creative focus, educational resource, and engine of economic vitality. A nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization, bergenPAC's mission is to make live performing arts and arts education accessible to its diverse community by building a creative home for artists and teachers of excellence and relevance who entertain, enlighten, inspire, and inform their audiences and students. bergenPAC, as

the leading cultural and arts educational institution in Northern New Jersey, shall guide and liberate the imagination of our youth and expand the lives of our adults."

# Cemetery Details

## Green-Wood Cemetery

500 25th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11232

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 15. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home  
148 Dean Dr  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
(201) 568-8043  
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

MAR 16. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Mary's Orthodox Church  
8100 Ridge Blvd  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

# Tribute Wall

MS

“ Ron has been a wonderful friend since we first met in 1971. You are greatly missed!!!

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**Michael Sabbe** - June 12, 2024 at 04:33 AM

CS

“ I' ve known Ron since I was fifteen !  
We shared a lot of joy and grief together trough a long standing business and friendship relation ship .  
Fare well , Ron.  
All my condolences go out to his children and family!  
Katy Sabbe

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**Catherine Sabbe** - July 04, 2023 at 05:38 AM

RC

“ I just learned about Ron's passing. I'm going to miss our Fridays Face Time. My heart goes out to Ron's family. I will always keep my memories of Ron in my heart.

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**Richard Check** - April 25, 2023 at 12:01 PM

MN

“ I just heard about this, and wish to give my condolences and prayers to Ron's family. We were literally 1 day apart in age and new each other since 1975 when I was the carpet & rug buyer at Gimbels in Milwaukee. Even though we haven't spoken for some time since I retired, I feel a real sense of loss. RIP my friend.

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**Mike Nicotera** - April 07, 2023 at 06:34 PM

BG

“ My Prayers & Condolences go out to the Couri Family, Ron was a very Kind person. My pleasure to have gotten to meet him while at my time with Couristan. RIP

Benita Johnson Griggs - March 16, 2023 at 09:35 AM

SW

“ Gone but never forgotten.



Schemara Wright - March 15, 2023 at 03:43 PM

DM

“ Our sincere condolences to the Couri family on the loss of Ron. Heartfelt comfort to Cristina, Evan, and Ronnie. I know what a wonderful father he always was to all of you. Also to his brothers, George, Stevie and Bobby. It's not easy losing a brother especially one like Ron. His kindness, generosity, and pure loving nature will be missed and never forgotten. God be with you. Diane McGrath and family.

Diane McGrath - March 15, 2023 at 02:48 PM

RW

“ Our most sincere, heartfelt condolences to Cristina, her brothers and her family on the loss of her beloved father, Ronald Couri. With love, Rony & Eric Weinstein & Family

Rony Weinstein - March 15, 2023 at 01:50 PM

JZ

“ *Piceces of the good time we spend together since 2003 is flashing in my mind... In the past 3 years, I kept thinking the scence we met when you back to Beijing -should be the duck restraunt you loved as my guest...*



*May the V.I.P in my life, Rest In Peace.*

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**Jian Zhang** - March 15, 2023 at 11:05 AM

DT

“ *To Evan and the entire Couri family, Our deepest condolences on the loss of a wonderful man and father. May you navigate through this loss with courage and peace and know you are in our thoughts and prayers. We are so happy to have met Ron. What a wonderful person. God watch over you all, Love Darlene and Dave Tiftickjian and family.*

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**Dave Tiftickjian** - March 12, 2023 at 01:57 PM

FP

“ *We are so sorry for Ron's sudden passing. He was a big part of so many people's lives. A larger-than-life man. We are honored to have the wonderful memories of time together with him & his family. We love you all.*

*Filip Poelman & All at Balta*

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**Filip Poelman** - March 11, 2023 at 08:54 AM

HG

“ Dear family,

*We send our condolences to the family, and send our prays and strength for the coming time and the future for this loss.*

*Ron, what I always will remember is the smile, humor but also sometimes the fight we had for service or rates.*

*But always with respect for each other and whatever was the fight after 5pm we walked thru the same door home.*

*That's what I will always remember about Ron a gentlemen.*

*Henk Groenewegen*

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**Henk Groenewegen** - March 10, 2023 at 03:20 AM

TS

“ To the Couri Family,

*On behalf of Mike and Andrew Seaman of Manchester Carpet in Houston, Texas, we are sending our condolences and praying for peace during this time for all. In reading through Mr. Couri's obit, I found this verse from Ecclesiastes that is pertinent to all of his accomplishments with family, friends, business and community. "A good name is better than a good ointment, And the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth." (Ecclesiastes 7:1). May the Lord wrap his loving arms around each of you and know that God has received HIS servant in heaven for all he has done to help others in their journey of life.*

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**Tina Seaman** - March 09, 2023 at 09:54 AM

TS

“ *Day by day, we will let go of this loss, but we will never let go of our love.*



Tarun Sehgal - March 07, 2023 at 11:42 AM

TS

“ *Tarun Sehgal sent a virtual gift in memory of Ronald Jacob Couri*



Tarun Sehgal - March 07, 2023 at 11:26 AM

RS

“ *Ron, I will never forget you taking time out of your busy schedule to come work with me and some of our customers here in Texas as well as joining me to a Houston Rockets game. You were a very special person and always a joy to be around. You will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing you. May God bless your family during this difficult time and may your soul rest in eternal peace. Russell Stacy*



Russell Stacy - March 07, 2023 at 09:40 AM

PJ

“ Ron, i have amazing memories from your various trips to india. I will always miss you and your smiling face. You will always be in our heart. Pankaj Jolly



Pankaj Jolly - March 07, 2023 at 03:34 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Ron-RMC Relation



Shahid Jamal - March 07, 2023 at 12:21 AM

ML

“ Ron....I have so many memories streaming through my mind of our friendship and time together including when we camped with Ronnie and Charlie in cub scouts and you dropped your hair gel outside and it got run over by a car and when you woke up you looked like Jerry Garcia. Anyway my dear friend I will miss you until hopefully we meet again. Love Michael .....ps I always dug that we were both born in 1952

Michael Laginestra - March 06, 2023 at 05:31 PM

NT

“ *I've always called you 'Antique Ron' and you were smiling. You will be remembered in our memories like precious antiques..Nimet*



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**Nimet Tuzuner** - March 06, 2023 at 04:05 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Ronald Jacob Couri.*



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March 06, 2023 at 03:56 PM