

The Office of University Housing celebrates the life of FAMU graduate and three-year Resident Assistant, Ronnie Burns

The Office of University Housing was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Ronnie Burns, a former student staff member whose presence left a lasting impression on our team. In a department with over 100 student employees, it can be difficult to stay connected with everyone—but Ronnie stood out.

He greeted others with genuine warmth, always offering a handshake and his signature, radiant smile. Ronnie had a way of making people feel seen and valued, and his positivity was contagious. He brought light into every room he entered and touched the lives of many around him.

We take this moment to honor Ronnie's memory and the joy he shared with us. His spirit remains a part of our collective story, and we are grateful for the time we had with him.

Herb Johnson
Director of University Housing



I met Ronnie through FAMU housing, and from the start, we became fast friends. We shared countless group trips and moments of laughter, always checking on each other and lifting each other up. Ronnie had a pride about him, always wearing a smile and confident in who he was, knowing his worth and never letting anyone tell him otherwise. We were excited about the future and the new journey that awaited us after graduation. Ronnie, you will forever be missed, but the memories and the light you brought to our lives will never fade.

-Tamira Moore, Former Residence Hall Association Executive Board Member

**My dear brother Ronnie, I will always cherish the good times and wonderful memories we shared. I miss you deeply and will love you forever.
Sincerely,**

-Eric Bell, Former Village East Desk Assistant

I was blessed enough to know Ronnie during my time in Housing, and his kindness, leadership, and encouragement always left an impression on me. He had a way of making people feel supported and valued, and I will always be grateful for the impact he had on me and so many others.

-Kahri Willcot , Former Senior Resident Assistant Village East

There's so much I could say about Ronnie, from his infectious smile and constant anime references to the way he always knew how to ground me on days when life felt heavy. He was the kind of person you'd hear before you saw, who'd say exactly what you didn't expect him to, and who never stopped trying to grow into a better version of himself. While his time here was far, far too short, knowing him remains one of the greatest gifts; he was truly one of a kind, and I knew it the minute he pulled out the pearls and cowboy boots. His warm spirit left a lasting impression on every soul he encountered, and I'm forever grateful he was part of my chosen family.

-Nausicaa Imuzai , Former Village Resident Assistant

Ronnie was truly a one-of-one person. The type of person that was supportive of every moment and opportunity I came across, through and through. The type of person that could always tell if something was off no matter the mask I put on and knew exactly what to say. The light that Ronnie was will shine on forever through everyone that was blessed by his presence.

-Sydney Smith, Friend and Classmate

Dallas, you were a light, one of my best friends, and the one who always knew my heart. From our late-night talks that turned into early morning snores, to our plans of leaving our mark on campus, or even arguing almost every month; every moment with you was real and unforgettable. You reminded me and everyone you touched to be authentic, to be unapologetic, and to embrace life fully. There's no me without you , forever my Dallas

-Demi Howard; Coworker, Sister, Court Buddy and Best Friend

To Ronnie Burns II a brother in every capacity of the word from being across the hall from my freshman year, to being a brother to the end of time there was probably not a single person on this campus I've spent more time with. You always wanted to be an inspiration to everyone around you and show them they can do anything they put their minds to. You were not just a voice you were a light that was loved by many. You always told me your goal was you wanted to be remembered when you left FAMU and I promise I'll do everything in my power to keep that dream alive.

-Miles Sharpton, FAMU Village

Ronnie was a ball of light. The life of every room, space, and connection. He always knew exactly what to say in every encounter, no matter what, and that's probably what I adored most about him. One in a million, unforgettable. I love you forever.

- Regan Wilson , Former Village East and Towers North Resident Assistant

Because of Ronnie's enthusiasm and commitment to FAMU Housing and his genuine effort to create relationships not only with his residents, but with fellow RA's, I was inspired to become an RA myself. I'll always remember Ronnie's bright energy, patience, and willingness to help. Rest in Love and Peace, Ronnie. You're already missed.

Andrew Warner, SRA VLN - Ronnie was my first Resident Assistant as a freshman on the 6th floor in Village East during the 2022-23 academic year.

I met Ronnie during my freshman year @ summer B. Ronnie wasn't an RA but he was always here and willing to sit down and give advice. I remember telling Ronnie how scared I was to apply to be an RA and he encouraged me beyond belief that I was a good candidate and to push away my fear. I'm an RA in the same building he was at and I hope and pray every day he watches over me and guides me.

-Jorryn Alleyne, RA PV-E

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-Jorryn Alleyne, RA PV-E

Thank you, Ronnie for always giving me words of encouragement when I was down. You never failed to light up a room. I'll miss all the jokes and laughter we shared. Miss you forever! (Good Friend)

-Zy'Qeria Dixon, Resident Assistant PV-W

Ronnie, you will truly be missed. The impact you've had on me and everyone on campus is something that will never be forgotten. From your random off-topic conversations and your humorous personality, to our talks about life and the way you constantly uplifted others, you brought light wherever you went. You were always sunshine in dark spaces, never letting anything bring you or those around you down. I knew you had such a bright future ahead, and I was excited to see you continue to grow and thrive. It hurts deeply knowing that chance was taken away. You were truly one of a kind, and because of that, I will miss you forever.

-Justen Smith, Area Coordinator

Ronnie was my housing little brother, he always managed to put a smile on my face no matter how many times he was late to a staff meeting. I'm blessed to have worked with Ronnie because he was always unapologetically himself and lifted those around him up. I'm truly going to miss being able to chat or just laugh with him. I love you forever Ronnie.

-Mai N. Graves, Former Village Senior Resident Assistant

Ronnie, you weren't just my co-worker — you were my Greek IZ. You always told me to "keep trying, twin," and I'm forever grateful I listened to your advice. You were such a down to earth person, and I'm so glad I got the chance to be your friend. To the guy who only ever called me by my nickname, KAM, I love you and will keep your name alive forever. 13 x 13 4L

-Kailah Moore, Former Village Resident Assistant

Thank you, Ronnie, for always keeping us on our toes with your creative mind and great energy. You were the one we could always count on to be the life of the party, and the impact you made on and off campus is unforgettable. Even in your hardest moments, you still managed to light up every room and lift every heart, and I know God is holding you tight up there because you never missed a chance to remind us of His plan. Keep smiling down on us, we love you Burns forever and always.

-Tammy McGhee Residence. Hall Association (RHA)

Ronnie Burns was more than a friend, he was like a little brother to me, and losing him leaves a space that can never be filled. From our days working together as RAs in the village, we always lifted each other up, speaking life into one another no matter the situation. I am so proud of the man he became and the light he brought into everyone's life. I miss him deeply, and his memory will always inspire me to live with the same kindness and strength he showed every day.

- Makiah Charles Former Village Resident Assistant

I will never forget the conversation we had about how I came up with my son's name, and how he shared that when he had a child, he wanted to name them Roman because Romans was his favorite book from the Bible. Ronnie always carried himself with such kindness and positivity, and his presence made housing feel like a family. His impact will never be forgotten.

-Arianna Cromarty Former Village Desk Assistant

To know Ronnie was to know joy. He inspired us, made us laugh, and lit up every room he walked in. His smile and spirit are unforgettable. We'll love him eternally and carry him always.

-Va'Quel Junious & India Woods

I had the joy of meeting Ronnie through the housing department/RHA. From the start, his kindness and humor felt like such a blessing in my life. We've shared so many special moments from traveling together to dyeing his hair in my apartment (and no, I didn't suggest the blonde) and it's the simple times of just sitting and talking that I will treasure forever. Thank you God for sharing Ronnie with us and for nurturing in him a heart filled with love and the word of God.

Aminah Byrdsong Residence Hall Association (RHA)

Ronnie was ball of fire in any room he walked it, great spirit and such a caring and helpful young man. he was always smiling and would have everyone around him laughing. He would go out of his way for his friends and he would do it with such a loving heart and conviction. If we were at set Friday or any event for that matter and he notice i would struggling to get a shot he would pop and say, “E I got you let me get that camera i will get what you need.” I miss Ronnie but his legacy will live on though all is friends and myself included.

Assistant Marketing & Communication Director

As a Student Affairs professional, you work with and meet a vast number of students each and every day. However, there are a select few that you just know will be your kid throughout their time in college and after – Ronnie was one of mine! As his supervisor turned big brother, Ronnie kept me on my toes. Sharing many good memories, tough conversations, and endless laughter, Ronnie is a person you will never forget. One of my favorite memories is Ronnie starting an unspoken game of painter’s tape tag during move-in. While we are welcoming 800 students into our residence hall, Ronnie is tagging me and other RA’s with tape and yes of course I got him back. However, he had the last laugh when he gathered all of the RA’s to ban against me and cover me in painter’s tape. Its memories such as this, while what could be considered a high stress day, Ronnie found joy and the brighter side of everything; truly a special individual. I’m going to miss my brother, I’m going to miss the calls asking him why he not at the desk, going to miss the out-of-pocket statements, going to miss the prayers, going to miss the encouragement. Typing this is one of the hardest things, I’ve ever had to do. Although it hurts, it gives me peace to know that Ronnie is with the lord now. Ronnie Burns was a light on and off campus, and we will ensure that his name and legacy forever live on! “Ronaldo” I miss you man, we’ll take it from here. Rest well my friend!

Jairus R. Williams Former Resident Director & RHA Advisor
#FAMUForever

