

Bobby K. Kilgore | 1935-2016

Published Saturday, May 21, 2016

Tags: Bridgeport



Bobby K. Kilgore

Bobby K. Kilgore, 80, of Akron, Ohio, formerly of Bridgeport, died Thursday, May 12, 2016, in Akron.

He was cremated. No official services will be held, as per Bobby's request. He said he will see you all on "The Next Big One," wherever that might be.

Bobby Keith Kilgore was born Oct. 25, 1935, in Bridgeport to William LaNeal and Belva Shawn Kilgore. He married his best friend, Audrey Kilgore. Bobby was from Bridgeport and moved to Ohio in 1957 from a little, arid, hot, sandy town in West Texas strangely called Big Lake. Strange, because it contained no water. When he came to Ohio for a job, Bobby had never seen so much green, lush growth. Deciding to settle here, he never lost his dislike for hot, dry, blowing and drifting wind.

A 58-year member of Local 219 Plumbers and Pipefitters, Bobby worked on many projects throughout the Ohio area plus many other jobs in Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Jamaica.

Bobby was general foreman at the Ric-Wil plant in Barberton for many years. A number of buildings in the Akron area, as well as other Ohio cities, were projects he pointed to

with pride because he helped build them, fabricating (his first love), welding and installing miles of piping.

One of his last jobs was removing and replacing Ric-Wil pipe that he had installed at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton more than 40 years ago. When asked how he could be sure it was his, he proudly pointed out his distinctive signature on each pipe unit. There were many astounded observers that day.

Bobby Keith was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife; children Beverly Kilgore Hutson and husband, David, Keith Kilgore and wife, Gail, Glen Kilgore and wife, Amy, and Layne Kilgore and wife, Lisa; stepchildren who also love him as their dad, Suzanne DeFratis, William (Chip) Chamberlin and Amy Slovonsky; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and brothers Wayne and Jim Kilgore and their families, who still live in Texas.