



## Bruce Kilmer

December 24, 1940 - August 25, 2022

Bruce Victor Kilmer Sr. of Austin, Texas gave us his last breath and left us from this world Thursday Aug 25 2022 at the age of 81. He parted from us with a seemingly defiant gesture being fully aware and yet blissfully ignorant. His journey began on Dec 24 1940 in Elkhart Indiana born to Carl O and Mary Kilmer (nee: Kirkdorfer) both preceding him in passing.

As a defiant young man, dad joined the Navy April 11 1960 much to his parents disliking and shortly thereafter married our mother Jimmy Lou Rierson on June 3 1961. He spent the next 3 years in several non-war theaters around the world and ending his tours March 27 1964. Dad eventually settled (family in tow) in the Austin area in May of 1967. This was mainly due to mom hating the bitter cold and snow of Elkhart .. well also perhaps because dad's new In-Laws lived in Austin as well.

After military service he relied on what he knew a thing or two about as a career, Sign Making. His father Carl owned Kilmer Signs in Elkhart and he had learned much of the business working with him as a young man. These skills helped propel him to co-owner of Modern Signs in Austin. Eventually dad moved from what he learned from his father to joining IBM and later Solectron in the area of manufacturing.

In his last few years dad lived alone as mom was diagnosed with dementia

and is currently living in a nursing home memory unit. Much of these years were spent reflecting back on his life with mom by his side ... well likely not that much but, there was mention of her from time to time. I know it was painful for him knowing her condition was so debilitating.

Dad was a rather impatient, hard headed and arguably stubborn man. He most certainly could push your buttons and frequently did just to garner a reaction. He loved to tell stories many of which could be painfully long and laced with eloquent revisions of some version of his truth. When our sister Tanya (the daddy's girl she was) worked on projects with him one or both would end up in an argument and throwing stuff or just walking away. He seemed to be at odds with wanting to be a perfectionist, but falling short in the followthrough. He had many projects laying around in various stages of completion. Maintenance or taking care of stuff was not really his strong points, but would often explain how it should be done.

Watching TV while dad was around was a task in staying focused, he would often try making conversation during a movie ... you know the one you really wanted to watch and not telling when it was on again. It was hard to tell if having the TV up loud was what caused his hearing loss or his bad hearing was why he needed it loud, but was certainly annoying to folks as far away as Russia.

It seems dad loved the simple things in life, like sitting on the throne reading and ... well ... pooping ... for hours. We gave him his space ... for obvious reasons. Watching NASCAR was certainly one of his pleasures, but riding in the car with him after a race was not one of ours. You had to hold on for dear life, and that followed with him until he stopped driving a few years ago.

There were only a few times when his emotions got the best of him. When he found out Tanya had cancer and then when it was stage 4, it really hit him

hard. Another was when he had to make the decision to put mom in a nursing home. Im sure there are others but those are the fresh ones. Dad cared greatly for all 3 of his children (Bruce Victor Kilmer Jr., Kimberly Cay Kilmer and Tanya Leigh Kilmer) and numerous Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. He was a proud papa who loved to brag on all of his family, and sometimes in an embarrassing way like any parent would do.

All of us have our own unique and shared memories of our dad, many are good and some not so much ... but they are all cherished and will remain so until our journey ends.

In the end I think he passed exactly how he wanted ... with dignity and honor, but perhaps one day we'll be able to ask him.

While dad was passionate about a few things he was not really much for flowers or the like, so In lieu of those if you desire to give please make contributions to the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery (11463 Hwy 195 Killeen, Tx) or Hospice Austin 4107 Spicewood Springs Rd Austin, Texas.

Dad ... may your final journey have fair winds and following seas.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bruce Kilmer*

October 05, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ *Bruce Kilmer*

October 04, 2023 at 06:25 PM



“ *Bruce Kilmer*

September 26, 2023 at 10:57 PM



“ *I sure enjoyed Bruce always letting me and my brother Robert tag along when the Kilmers were going fishing or doing something else fun! Please know that we are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.*

**Diana (Dean) Trujillo** - September 02, 2022 at 09:39 AM



“ *Our sincere condolences for the loss of Bruce. The Kilmers were some of earliest friends when we settled in Austin. We had many good memories of time spent together.*

**Zack and Aurelia Dean** - September 02, 2022 at 09:34 AM



“ *We met in Austin texas in 1967 with pleasant memories, but lost track o each other. Zack and Aurelia Dean Cedar Park Texas*

**Zack Dean** - September 01, 2022 at 11:57 PM

TK

“ My dear ex FIL. He would always sneak over to the house to smoke and have coffee with my mom. He wasn't supposed to have either of them. They would talk forever. Later in life it was great to see him again when he moved into the same place my mom was living. We would all sit together for lunch or dinner before Covid hit. He would be zooming down the hall in his chair with his fur baby running along beside him. You always knew when it was race day or a football game was on because you could hear his TV all the way down the hall. He was the best FIL to me. He will be missed. Tracy

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**Tracy Kilmer** - August 31, 2022 at 10:02 PM

JK

“ My Uncle Bruce was certainly a unique man. He had a quick laughter when tickled by a comment made and enjoyed visiting with family. I appreciated how much he assisted my own mother when she moved to the same assisted living facility. I think he enjoyed feeling needed but wouldn't hesitate to complain just a little, even if it was just to garner a laugh. I know how much he loved his children, and his fur baby. I'll miss him, say hi to Mom for me Uncle Bruce.



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**Judy Klare** - August 31, 2022 at 09:12 PM