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# Kenneth R. "Pete" Weber



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Kenneth R. "Pete" Weber passed away peacefully at home on October 6, 2022. Pete was born in Akron on October 20, 1934 to Rose and Arthur Weber.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Gwen, and his children: Toby (Jon Bluebond), Judy, and Gary (Jill). He also leaves four grandchildren: Alex Bluebond, Andrew Bluebond (Rachel), Ryan

## Weber (Caroline) and Joanie

Weber (Alex D'Angelo). He also leaves his sister-in-law, Betty Steckman and his nieces, Kim Messenger and Debbie Weber. He is pre-deceased by his brother, Arthur, Jr. (Mary).

Pete graduated from Hower High School and attended Otterbein College. He joined Teamsters Local 348, where he served as a business agent then as the local's president for many years. He worked hard to ensure that the people he represented were treated fairly and had the opportunity to make a decent living. Following his own advice to "save your money," Pete was able to retire at age 57. He wanted to spend more time in South Carolina, where he enjoyed golfing, eating out with friends and staying out of the cold.

Pete was competitive by nature and enjoyed all kinds of sports and games, but he loved nothing better than baseball. He started playing as a boy, often riding his bike to ballfields all over Greater Akron. He was the all-city shortstop in high school and the lead home run hitter at Otterbein. He also played on local AA teams and was inducted into the Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame in 1991. He loved coaching youth sports—especially Gary's teams. Unlike many coaches who say that winning isn't everything, Pete saw it differently—he thought that winning was the only thing.

Growing up during the Depression, Pete didn't leave Ohio until he was 18. He made sure that his own children got to see as much of the country as possible, and there were many road trips with three kids crowded into the back of the Olds 98. There were delightful destinations (Disneyworld!) and disappointing ones (boring giant redwood trees!), but every trip was memorable.

Pete was always up for an adventure. He and Gwen bid on every chance to win a ride on the Goodyear blimp—and finally won. They also took a hot air balloon ride for their 25th anniversary and went midnight ziplining for Gwen's 80th birthday. Pete also went parasailing, took a glider ride (at 78) and went skydiving (at 84). Even as his health declined in the past year, he talked about riding a luge and taking another skydive.

Boats were a big part of Pete's life. On more than one occasion, he came home from work towing a new boat (to Gwen's surprise). He took the family waterskiing on Portage Lakes and pontoon-boating on Leesville Lake and even took his boat for a long trip on the Intercoastal Waterway.

Babies and children brought a special joy to Pete. He enjoyed raising his daughters and his son and took great pride in their accomplishments, and having grandchildren only added to that joy. He loved playing with his grandsons and granddaughter, but he especially enjoyed teaching them important life skills—hitting a pitch, pounding a nail, driving a car and sealing the edges of ravioli so there were no leaks.

The most important lesson Pete taught all of us was to live a big life—spend time with those you love, work hard, eat good food, do your own repairs, wear shorts in winter, get a dog (or even a cat), help those who need a hand, and always say ‘yes’ to new experiences.

There will be no calling hours or service, per Pete’s wishes. We honored Pete/Dad/Grandpa with a family dinner of homemade ravioli and raised a glass of his own “Weber Cellars” red wine in gratitude for his life. We shared favorite stories about the man who loved his family above all and was always there when we needed him—for advice, for help with a home improvement project, or for the extra cash he knew we could use.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105-9959, or at [www.st.jude.org](http://www.st.jude.org). To leave a special message for the family, visit our website at [www.schermesserfh.com](http://www.schermesserfh.com).

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