



Obituary

Born: Friday, June 13, 1969

Died: Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Robert "Bob" "Bobby" Best (June 13, 1969 - January 8, 2019) Bob was born in 1969, the son of Carol (Best) Boord and the late Gene Best in Canton, Ohio. Bob spent most of his childhood in Canton and most of his adulthood in Kent, graduating from Canton McKinley and Kent State University. Bob was someone who worked to live, and did not live to work. He occupied a variety of jobs throughout his adulthood from managing the Quonset Hut to bar-slinging at Horner's Corner, Joseph's Bar and the Imperial Room.

While bartending is not traditionally a noble profession, Bob dispensed more joy to more people than the grandest of men. Even if his often surly exterior would never reveal it, he took pride in making his regulars happy — in providing a reprieve from the tumult and banality of their own lives. Bob seemed cynical and aloof from the outside, but in truth he was incredibly gentle, utterly devoid of cruelty, and lovably goofy. Bob resented authority figures and cherished his independence and privacy. Although Bob would never exult in it, he was an idol to those who admired his cool character, diligent nonchalance and covert kindness.

Bob was on a lifelong mission to never grow up, a source of consternation to his sister and mother, but a source of veiled pride to his late father and nephew. To some, Bob's life looked frivolous, but it was meaningful social benchmarks that Bob found frivolous and the frivolous things that he found meaningful. Among the things Bob found meaningful were music (particularly late 80s to mid 90s alternative rock), fantasy baseball, real baseball, old Simpsons episodes, good movies, beach vacations, Las Vegas, friendly gathering places, Kent, Ohio, his dog Bill, sister, mother, girlfriend, nephew, niece and his "GFC Crew."

Eventually time began to gain on Bob, as it does everyone. Faced with the inexorable mandate of growing up to grow old, Bob likely would have chosen neither. In this way, Bob's passing from diabetes-related ketoacidosis at the age of 49, while premature to those who loved him dearly, is both a tragedy and triumph. He will be missed.

Bob is survived by his mother and step-father Carol (Don) Boord, his sister Robin (Best) Welch, his nephew and niece Kyle and Alexa Welch, uncles David, Michael and Alan Tomey, girlfriend and soulmate Abbey Denzinger, numerous cousins, "Crew" members and patrons.

Family and friends will be received at the Rossi Family Funeral Home on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. A memorial service will begin at 1 p.m. in the funeral home.

Service Summary

Visitation

11:00 AM to 12:45 PM, Sat Jan 12, 2019

Rossi Family Funeral Home, Inc.

730 30th St. N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44709

Memorial Service

1:00 PM Sat Jan 12, 2019

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Rossi (330)492-5830

www.rossifuneralhomeinc.com