



## Ronald Potrebic

May 26, 1946 - March 15, 2016

Ronald "Potts" Potrebic, age 69, of Portage, formerly of Hobart, passed away on March 15, 2016. Ronald was a Maintenance Supervisor at U.S. Steel – Gary for 34 years and a member of the Hobart Area Concert Band, formerly the Rusty Pipes.

He was preceded in death by his granddaughter – Leah Joyce Bilkey; nephew-Nicholas Potrebic and sister in law - Ellen "Len" Potrebic. Ronald is survived by his loving wife of 34 years - Barbara; son-Ronnie Potrebic; daughter-Donna (Stacy) Adams; stepchildren - Beth (Patrick) Eder, Mike (Lisa) Bilkey, Scott (Kimberly) Bilkey; nine grandchildren – Richie, Aaron, Jaden, Kyle, Sam, Jacob, Shawn, Matthew, Joshua; brother-Donald Potrebic; niece-Heather Isley; great niece and nephew – Taylor and Tyler Reid.

Funeral service for Ronald will be held Friday, March 18, 2016 at 12:00 p.m., at Burns Funeral Home, 701 East 7th Street, Hobart, Pastor Deb Rousselle of the United Methodist Church in Portage officiating. Friends may visit with the family from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Interment at Calumet Park Cemetery, Merrillville IN. In lieu of flowers, donations may be to Horton VNA Hospice, 2404 Valparaiso Street, Valparaiso IN. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Calumet Park Cemetery

2305 W. 73rd Ave.  
Merrillville, IN 46410

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 18. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart  
701 E. 7th Street  
Hobart, IN 46342  
(219) 942-1117  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Funeral Service

MAR 18. 12:00 PM (CT)

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# Tribute Wall

“ Barb,

*My thoughts and prayers and those of my family are with you at this difficult time. Every occasion we saw you two together, like your visit to Texas, we could see that you guys had something special.*

*When my parents and Ron's moved across the street from each other in late 1949, we all became friends and neighbors. Ron and I along with another kid on our street, Carl, rode bikes, built tree houses, fished, played marbles, Monopoly, traded comic books and such for years. Later music came into our lives and in 1962 Ron and I were part of a sax quartet that got RFHS's band the first Gold Medal in State competition in 1962. In 1964 Ron and I got a first in a tenor sax duet at State. He was the master and I was his apprentice. While this was going on our two Moms (between other adventures) led the Band Booster effort that purchased the band's first uniforms.*

*We shared the good and the bad through the years. It was Olga Potrebic that got a neighbor to drive and took me to the emergency room when my leg was gashed open in the third grade. (My Mom was in Texas at her Mother's funeral.) It was my Mom that gave first aid to Ron until the ambulance came to take him to the hospital with a serious eye injury. On the brighter side, we shared Ron's pride when he came to get all of us to see his brother Don when he came home in uniform on leave from the Army the first time.*

*When all of my family moved to Texas in the mid 1970's we kept in touch. When Ron and you, sweet Barb, came to visit one very hot summer, we had a great time. Even better than showing you guys the Fort Worth Stockyards and the Kennedy history in Dallas, was the visit with my parents in East Texas. My Mom had just started her chemotherapy, but Ron's great dry wit and humor (Passed down from his Mom) lifted her spirits more than I can express. I will always cherish that visit as you and Ron were great fun to be with. I am so glad we could visit on New Year's Day 2016. Ron was weak but had not lost his great wit. It was the fastest three and half hours I have ever experienced.*

*Ron touched so many lives with his humor, his music and his caring, that although we are sad right now, the great times we shared with*

*him will lift our spirits for the rest of our lives.*

*Patrick Fedor*

*March 17, 2016*

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**Patrick Fedor** - March 17, 2016 at 11:31 PM