



## Gilbert Laverne Kellmer

December 25, 1936 - March 3, 2022

Longtime Scott Valley resident, Gilbert "Butch" Kellmer passed away March 3, 2022 at the age of 85. Butch was born on December 25, 1936 in Longview, Washington to David and Evelyn Kellmer. Only a few years later, David passed, and Evelyn married Arnold Tschopp.

After graduating high school in 1955, he moved to Scott Valley with his parents. He worked in the gold mine that his stepfather, Arnold Tschopp, had bought down the Klamath River. Later on that year he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served his country for four years. Following the Navy, he worked for Union Oil Company in Oakland from 1960 to 1965. He moved back to Scott Valley in 1965 to work for his stepfather, who owned Tschopp Excavating. Butch became owner/operator of Tschopp Excavating in 1982 after Arnold passed. Butch eventually started his own business, Kellmer Trucking.

In 1992, Butch married Wilma Franklin. They were married for 29 wonderful, adventure-filled years.

Butch was an incredibly driven, hardworking businessman who stayed active well into his 80s. Right up to the end, most days you could find him running equipment, working on equipment, building, or making deals.

Butch is survived by his wife, Wilma; his daughter Rebecca (Jerry) Bowles; his

grandsons Joshua and Nathan Bowles; his stepchildren, Raine, Greg, and Darren (Trisha) Franklin; step grandchildren Buck and Travis Franklin, Melissa (Ed) Johnson, Jilinda (Tyler) Farrington' and great grandsons, Alan, Jeremiah, Charlie and Joshua Johnson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David Kellmer and Arnold and Evelyn Tschopp and his son, Christopher Kellmer.

Graveside services will be held at the Fort Jones Cemetery on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 2 pm.

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Obituary Wall



Girdner Funeral Chapel - April 27 at 03:58 PM

HM

“ Butch was a hard working man that loved his family. He was always kind to me.

Helen Williams Morehouse - June 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Sincere Condolences to your Family Butch 🙏❤️🙏



KimLen Perreira - March 17, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Butch become a friend when we bought our place on Lighthill Rd in Fort Jones. He operated our quarry and become well-known as the guy that could get that beautiful red rock in Scott Valley. He also kept our roads maintained as well as being a wealth of information to us, so many things that he surprised us with We're grateful to have a known both Butch and Wilma his sweetheart.

Dahls - March 12, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for Gilbert Laverne Kellmer - March 10, 2022 at 12:00 AM**

KG

“ Butch's daughter Becky and I met in 1981 and have been best friends ever since. Butch was like a second dad to me. For 5 years I practically lived at their house. Butch probably should have charged my parents rent for the amount of time I spent at their house. Butch had a quirky sense of humor with a Cheshire cat grin. He made you wonder what he was going to be getting into next. In a lot of ways he reminded me a lot of my dad, an extremely hard worker and such a jokester. I have many memorable moments of Butch from shopping at Gil's Market to Butch dropping us off at rock concerts. One memory I will never forget is the day Becky got married. After I caught the bouquet, Butch stood up and took his jacket off. As he handed his jacket to my dad he said, "Here, you're going to need this." That was Butch, always a jokester. It's always hard for those of us left behind, but I have no doubt that Butch is up there with my dad discussing what job needs to be done next and plotting out their next joke. To the Bowles, Kellmer and Franklin families, you all are in my heart. Love, Karen G.

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**Karen G - March 10, 2022 at 12:00 AM**