

## **Billy Teafor** was nominated by his daughter April Hill. **This is her nomination letter.**

This recommendation is for Electrician of the Year for William Ray “Billy” Teafor of Fincastle, Virginia. Billy Teafor is my father and one of the best electricians I know. He does more for the community and anyone else I have ever known. I am proud to be his daughter.

**Professional Achievement:** William Teafor started as an electrician in 1973 at Roanoke Cement Company. His first position was as a shift electrician and then moved to the electrical department. He has been an electrician at Roanoke Cement for 40 years. Roanoke Cement is 24 hours a day, 365 days per year facility that produces all the cement used in Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia and minor amounts shipped to other states. As the plant electrician he trouble shoots motors, running wire that is 4160 volt to 24 volt, running conduit, installing and troubleshooting control circuits, install motors, trouble shoot electrical problems, work with engineers to understand practical design, ensure new machinery install start up, install IO cabinets (input out motor control), and mentors younger electricians. He is also the installation control specialist for the cement plant. He is the contact for other electricians and engineers when they need help trouble shooting a problem. Billy is also the lead man for the electrical department. As a mentor, he works with upcoming electricians to make sure that they are trained on every aspect of the job. He has even given out his cell phone to the younger electricians so that they can call him in his off time if they need help at night. He prides himself on always getting things correct and other electricians know that it is always done safely and correctly.

**Safety Excellence:** Billy has never had a lost time accident in 40 years. He helps train people on the lock out tag out procedures and have has had the same lock for 40 years. He is an active member in the Roanoke Cement Safety Committee to ensure plant safety and training. He works with others in the department to provide training. All new electrical hires are sent with Billy to train so they cannot only learn the how but why things are done they way they are. He completes monthly walk thought to ensure plant safety. If you ask anyone at Roanoke Cement, they would all give you the same response about his approach to safety.

**Community Dedication:** As a child, I never understood why volunteering was so important. As an adult, I am happy that I was brought up learning to give back to my community. My father does more for our community than anyone I have ever met. Most people in life dedicate themselves to one or two charities, my father does is extremely active in six charity events. The first event and the one that I am most proud of is his work with Relay for Life. After we lost my grandmother to cancer, he started with the others at Roanoke Cement to create a Relay for Life team. My father worked to create this team and working with others from the plant raises about \$10,000 each year to donate to cancer research. He does this by getting people to donate food and then selling tickets to his coworkers and other for a hot lunch. All of the funds raised go to Relay for Life. It takes a lot of meal and work to raise \$10,000 at \$5 a plate for lunch. Billy’s second charity is the Fincastle Baptist Church Car Show to support the youth group. My father solely does the work to organize this car show with raised about \$5,000 each year to support the youth group activities (both my sister and I are grown and so this done this just so the kids in the community have a place to fellowship). He works for months getting donations of door prizes, food, and trophies for the car show. Due to the quality of show, he has people come from 4 hours away just to support this cause. This is in addition to the other work he does for the church. From November 1st each year until December 21st each year, my father is taking about bikes. Each year for the past 11 years, he has works tirelessly with the Toy for Tots and the United States Marine Corps to make sure that every kid in the Roanoke Valley who asked for a bike for Christmas gets as bike under the tree Christmas morning. This means organizing fundraising in the middle of our local Kroger’s stores to arranging a warehouse from Advance Auto Parts for storage and assembly location for the bikes to be delivering to the Salvation Army. My father even has tractor trailers donated to move up to 1000 bikes to the Salvation Army distribution center. He is looking forward to retirement when he can dedicate more of his time to the Toys for Tots drive because there is no one who likes Christmas more than my father. Dad also works with the Roanoke transportation Museum to for the 4th of July weekend every year. He helps to organize a car show and cruise in that fills the Williamson Road area of Roanoke on Friday and Saturday. My father works with the Star City Corvette Club and about 50 other volunteers on Cruise night to have a car show and silent auction. My parents live in a rural area where everyone knows everyone. For as long as I have known, there has been a community cemetery. My dad manages the cemetery for the community. He has worked to get the road paved so that some of the older people in the community could drive or walk safely out to the gravesites. He works to make sure that the cemetery stays maintained and clean. I have seen him work a 12 or 14 hour day and still run up to take care of something at the cemetery. My father also heads up of family reunion. For most people, you think of 20 to 30 people. Our family is a little different. This may not sound like a huge deal but our family reunion has grown to over 200 people from 14 states and a 3-day weekend. He heads up our committee and we continue to find other relative and work to keep our family’s heritage alive.

Klein Tools have been a part of my father’s job and are the pinnacle of perfection in the industry. Klein could not pick a better EOY than William Ray “Billy” Teafor.