

Robert B. Lilly

1936 – 10 March 2018, 82

Once again, I am the bearer of bad news. Robert Bryant Lilly, 82, passed away in Abilene, TX on 10 March 2018. This leaves Dewayne Dickey as the last of the original hard-core Abilene cavers (Bart Crisman, Dewayne Dickey, Jim Estes, George Gray, and Bryant Lilly). You can see that group posing at the entrance to Felton Cave on page 187 in *50 Years of Texas Caving*. I never heard him addressed as Robert, Bob, or Bryant. It was always “B. Lilly or just Lilly,” and he referred to himself in that way.

He was a very active member of the Abilene Grotto. He did a lot for Texas caving and never sought the spotlight. During the years 1961–1964 when James Estes was so ably editing the *Texas Caver*, Lilly was the man behind the scenes doing the lithography and running the printing press. During the 1965 TSA Project at Deep Cave he did a good job supplying and operating the camp commissary.



Somehow, I never spent much time caving with Lilly but here is a good photo I made on a very early exploration trip to Deep Cave in January 1965.

We are diminished.

===Carl Kunath on TexasCavers list, 22 March 2018