

Michael Pribanich dies, was Kodak retiree benefits 'guru'

Written by Matthew Daneman Staff writer

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When Eastman Kodak Co. workers were considering becoming Kodak retirees, many of them turned first to Michael Pribanich.

A benefits specialist for the Rochester-based printing and imaging company, and then director of benefits counseling at [High Falls Advisors LLC](#), Mr. Pribanich was “the guru” of benefits issues for the company and its tens of thousands of retirees, said James H. McBride, CEO of the Rochester financial advisory firm.

When Mr. Pribanich retired from Kodak in 2007, “The common joke was, ‘Kodak doesn’t have a benefits department any more,’” said John Richardson, a client adviser at High Falls and formerly a Kodak colleague of Mr. Pribanich’s.

Mr. Pribanich died June 29 at his Lima, Livingston County, home of a heart attack. He was 68.

A native of Hemlock, Livingston County, Mr. Pribanich served in the U.S. Army and was a 1970 graduate of St. John Fisher College. He started at Kodak in 1968 in the production service department of the roll coating/film manufacturing division at Kodak Park. A year later, he became a benefits specialist at Kodak Park’s industrial relations/employee benefits department. In 1986, he moved to Kodak’s State Street headquarters, where he was a benefits specialist in the corporate relations/human resources/employee benefits department.

Mr. Pribanich retired from Kodak in June 2007 and started shortly afterward at High Falls, bringing literally thousands of Kodakers into the firm’s offices.

“Mike is so well known throughout the Kodak community. He was not an easy person to have working for you,” McBride said with a laugh. “He did what he thought was right regardless of what I thought. It’s one of those things where the majority of people that knew Mike considered him to be the person in charge of their lives, if you will.”

Pribanich had given numerous seminars over the years to groups of Kodak retirees around the nation. “I’m getting (condolence) emails from all over the country,” McBride said Wednesday.

Mr. Pribanich also was a volunteer with the Lima Fire Department. “He loved to help people,” his wife of 44 years, Dorothy Pribanich, said Wednesday. “Instead of 100 percent, he went way above that. He was just a very kind, considerate person.”

Along with his wife, Mr. Pribanich is survived by a daughter, Ann, of Conesus, Livingston County, and son, Jim, of Lima.

Calling hours will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the O’Connell-Dougherty Funeral Home, 2041 Lake Ave., Lima. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Rose Church, 1985 Lake Ave., Lima. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Institute.





HIGH FALLS ADVISORS, INC

All of us at High Falls Advisors were shocked to hear of the unexpected passing of Mike Pribanich. Mike has been a part of the High Falls team for over 6 years helping Kodak employees and retirees with their benefits decisions. He has shared his unique knowledge and gifts with all of us. I have had the privilege of working with Mike for over 30 years, most of it at Kodak working on benefits issues. I will personally and professionally miss him very much.

Mike was a very giving person. He was happiest when he was helping people; he volunteered in the Lima Volunteer Fire Department for decades. He was known and trusted by everyone he encountered. We do not have to worry about Mike, as he was a very religious man. He has moved on to greater things. We are the ones who will have to continue to cope with the every day issues. These will be a little more difficult without Mike. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Dottie, his children and grandchildren, who were such an important part of his life.

Mike had a great love and concern for all of our clients, Kodak employees and retirees in particular. We at High Falls Advisors will continue his commitment to provide the highest level of service especially in the area of employee benefits. As always, we will be here as you need us.

James T. Englert

Co-owner of High Falls Advisors and friend of Mike

Michael D. Mickey Pribanich

Pribanich, Michael D. "Mickey"

Lima: Suddenly, on June 29, 2013, at age 68. Predeceased by his parents, James & Ellen Pribanich; and brother, Joe. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; his children, Ann (Daniel) Marusiak, Jim (Shannon) Pribanich; 6 grandchildren; brother, J. "Bubs" (Nikki) Pribanich; several nieces & nephews. Mickey was a member of the Lima Fire Dept. He enjoyed his grandchildren immensely, and fishing at Hemlock and Canadice Lakes with his brother. Mickey also enjoyed helping others.

Friends may call Friday, 4-8 PM at the O'Connell-Dougherty Funeral Home, 2041 Lake Ave., Lima. His Funeral Mass will be held Saturday, 10 AM at St. Rose Church, Lima. Interment, Richmond Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the [American Cancer Society](#) or [American Heart Association](#) .



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