

#### William (Bill) Gene McLaughlin Bio.

Born 1963 Fort Hood Texas. Moved to Michigan late 63, and have resided in SW Michigan since. Currently live in Allegan, MI. with my wife Kristine. We have a son Kent who is a RN for Borgess in Kalamazoo, and is married to Lydia.

#### Education:

K-12 Martin Public Schools.

#### Construction experience:

1980-1981.

I started my career when I joined Building Trades in my senior year at Martin. Martin schools had a very good program where we built a home every year. At the time I was in, all the students were from Martin. Later this program was moved to the Allegan ISD, where students from all over Allegan County participated. We were also members of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (Vica) and participated in the Carpentry and Masonry competitions that were available. I placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the state of Michigan carpentry competition, and top 5 in the national competition held in Atlanta in 1981.

1981-1999.

After high school I took a job with Herbert Construction, a poured wall contractor. I have poured just about anything you can think of. It started with farm work IE: Slope freestyle barns, milking parlors, bunker silos, manure pits, etc... This eventually led into residential & commercial concrete projects as well. By the time the company decided to close its doors in Michigan, and move the operation to Atlanta, we were pouring over 300 foundations a year.

1999-present.

Decided when Herbert moved to Atlanta that it was time for a career change. I wanted a job as a field superintendent and accepted a position with Owen-Ames-Kimball (OAK). For the first couple of years, I poured concrete for OAK, and had the pleasure of pouring the Frederik Meijer Gardens Amphitheater & Sculpture Park. As well as a 6-story parking ramp, the Lee Steel factory, and projects for Amway, Steelcase, Herman Miller, Heinz, The City of Grand Rapids, Consumers, Kellogg, etc....

By 2004 I began more of a supervisory role, and less of the build it with my own hands. I have been fortunate enough to work for many learning institutions. For the K thru 12 schools, I've lead projects for Saranac, Thornapple Kellogg, Holland, South Haven, Forest Hills, etc....

The most rewarding educational job of my career was hands down the Jack Miller Center for Musical Arts at Hope College. To date this is the nicest building that I was able to lead the construction on. It had many challenges that you don't normally see in typical construction, and the owner the best I've ever worked for.

From 2016 to 2021 I have lead the team of superintendents that did multiple projects for the Frederik Meijer Gardens Legacy of Love campaign. This was a large project with as many as 6 OAK superintendents on site at times. The projects included Kitchen addition, Covenant Learning Center addition, Amphitheater seating expansion, a new transportation center, a new concession building, all new parking lot, a new Volunteer Garden, a new English perennial Garden, the Bissell Corridor renovation, and the new Welcome Center (a close second favorite to the Hope project). All of these had artistic elements that were a integral part of construction, and not something you get to participate in all the time.

2022. I'm currently working on educating the younger OAK superintendents, and passing down any knowledge I can give them, as I will be retiring at the end of 2022. I'm also helping build the front end for the Grand Rapids Museum project that will start in 2023.