

# ROY PEREZ



2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

# **ROY PEREZ**

**Roy Perez has lived in Lockhart, Texas his entire life. When he graduated high school, he worked as a carpenter for four years until the housing market crashed. With bills to pay, he walked into Kreuz Market on March 25, 1987, hoping they would hire him for anything. Rick Schmidt, the owner, hired him on the spot as a sausage cook. Over the years, he learned all the aspects of a traditional Texas barbecue business, from customer service to the subtleties of slicing to cooking for hundreds of people.**

**When the former pitmaster left, Rick must have seen something in his abilities and brought him along as the next pitmaster. Under Rick Schmidt's great mentorship, he learned how to cook many different meats, each of them requiring its own special method, all of them requiring the right rhythm and timing. There was a lot more to it than throwing meat on a hot fire and coming back a few hours later to a perfectly finished product.**

**Everyone who knows him knows he loves Elvis Presley. Elvis Presley's philosophy of life was a guide to his own: no matter how humble your beginnings, work hard at what you love and you can't help but succeed. For Perez, what started as a simple job became a business he would do for free if he could. It was never just about selling barbecue. It has always been about making customers feel at home, about upholding tradition, and about never taking your fans for granted. In his 37 years at Kreuz, he hopes he has achieved this, and under the leadership of Rick's son, Keith, he hopes to continue the legacy.**