



## Billy E. Bowers

April 18, 2019

Johnson City, Tennessee

Billy Edward Bowers

Billy E. Bowers, 82, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, April 18th, 2019 with his family by his side. Bill was born in Dunbar, VA, one of Appalachia's many coal camps. He loved this community and always had a funny story to tell about when he was a young boy. He graduated from Appalachia High School in 1957 and was a true Bulldog. It was at AHS where he received his nickname "HardRock". After Bill and Tine married, they purchased Darnell Lumber, in Big Stone Gap, and renamed it Bowers Lumber and Supply Company. After 15 years at the lumber company, the family relocated to Orlando, FL but would later return to their native Virginia. Bill's great golf talent allowed him to become a Senior Golf Pro during the nine years they lived in Orlando where many fond memories were made at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge. Hardrock cherished his friends and stayed in close touch with all of them throughout his lifetime. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Gabriel Bowers and Alta Mullins Bowers, and his two siblings, Lucille Berry and Carl Bowers, and his precious dog, Spencer. Bill joined the US Army in 1957. He spent most of his active years in Alaska.

After he was discharged, he moved to Blountville and worked at Sperry Rand.

At this time, he met his loving wife of 55 years, Margaret Ernestine Wolfe Bowers. Together they had one son, Shane Bowers (wife, Tracie Stanley Bowers) of Carolina Beach, NC and a daughter, Amber Bowers Rich (husband, Ed Rich) of Big Stone Gap, Va.

Bill loved everyone but had immense love for his family. His wife, Tine, and his children, Shane and Amber, were his greatest loves but his 3 grandchildren, Jake Rich (his best buddy), beautiful Tessa Marie Bowers, and the youngest, Ethan Rich, were his greatest pride & joy in life. He had a precious dog, Parker, who was by his side until the end.

Tine, Shane & Amber, and family will forever cherish his memory. There was no better husband, father and provider. We loved him dearly and look forward to one day being reunited again.

The family will receive friends at Cedar Ridge Freewill Baptist Church in Cracker's Neck on Tuesday, April 23rd from 5-7 pm and the service will follow immediately officiated by Pastor James Ray Holcomb assisted by Pastor Joe Green. Music will be provided by Beth Green. Honorary pallbearers will be Jake & Ethan Rich (grandsons), Jim Cornett (best friend), Ed Rich (son-in-law), Dennis Stanley, Brian McKinney, Todd Giles, Stacey Doyle and John Day. In Lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cedar Ridge Freewill Baptist Church, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Mountain Empire Older Citizen's fund.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **23**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Cedar Ridge Freewill Baptist  
1413 Crackers neck rd  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

## Service

APR **23**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Cedar Ridge Freewill Baptist  
1413 Crackers neck rd  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

# Tribute Wall

GC

“ So sad to hear of Bill's passing. Friends from Old Appalachia high football. Love, Guy and Doris Jackson Collier, Earl Jackson and Jimmy Roberts , Old Friends from Dunbar. RIP

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**Guy and Doris Collier** - May 11, 2019 at 03:23 PM

BG

“ Tine, Shane, and Amber, I'm so sorry for your loss! And I'm sorry I wasn't able to be there to sing for his service, as you'd requested. But my heart and mind was with you Tuesday evening, as I prayed for your whole family.

*Tine, Bill was blessed to have you as his life's partner, his wife, and his love. No wife could have been more attentive, prayerful, and loving as you. Every day of his illness was made easier by the care you provided. God bless you for your ministry to him during that time...and for the years of marriage you two enjoyed together!*

*Joe and I will continue to keep you in our prayers.*

*With love,*

*Beth*

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**Beth Green** - April 25, 2019 at 10:44 AM

BS

“ ERNESTINE,

WE WERE VERY SADDENED TO LEARN  
OF BILL'S PASSING. WE SEND  
OUR LOVE AND SINCERE SYMPATHY TO  
YOU AND THE FAMILY. YOU  
WILL BE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

JIM AND BRENDA SYKES



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**BRENDA SYKES** - April 23, 2019 at 07:16 AM

RM

“ *The Bowers Family, My fondest memories of Bill are playing our Father's Day matches between Bill and Shane , and my father and I on the golf course. The fellowship and competition were both top notch. I will always cherish those memories. I am very sorry for your loss, he was a great guy who loved life. God bless you all in this most difficult time. Regards, Ron McCready, Jr.*

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**ronald mccready** - April 22, 2019 at 02:59 PM



“ *White Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Billy E. Bowers.*



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April 22, 2019 at 10:45 AM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Billy E. Bowers.*



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April 22, 2019 at 09:30 AM



“ *went to school with both hard rock and ernestine. i am so sorry to hear of his passing  
.love and prayers for your days ahead.  
margie kilgore. maryville tn.*

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**Margie R Kilgore** - April 22, 2019 at 12:04 AM



“ *Janice Thomas Taylor lit a candle in memory of Billy E. Bowers*



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**Janice Thomas Taylor** - April 21, 2019 at 10:03 AM

JF

“ My deepest heartfelt sympathy to Tine and family. There isn't enough room to write of a lifetime of special moments about and with your family. They were all so personal and memorable. From high school, hunting, fishing, work, family life in Florida and Virginia, all moments were memorable and special. And believe it or not, I never played golf. Tine, thank you and your family from the bottom of my heart for sharing all these wonderful moments. I so look forward to meeting Bill, Your Mom, and many others along with the greatest fisherman of all when I too cross that river.  
God Bless Jerry Fraley  
He is risen!!

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**jerry fraley** - April 21, 2019 at 09:33 AM

EB

*You have al aye been special in our hearts! Thank you for a special friendship.*

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**Ernestine Bowers** - April 25, 2019 at 12:25 PM

BH

“ *Billie Hobbs lit a candle in memory of Billy E. Bowers*



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**Billie Hobbs** - April 21, 2019 at 07:33 AM

KH

“ *Kathy Honeycutt lit a candle in memory of Billy E. Bowers*



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**kathy honeycutt** - April 21, 2019 at 07:09 AM

KB

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers for peace and comfort! Miss seeing you all!

Kay Burke - April 21, 2019 at 03:06 AM

KB

“ Kay Burke lit a candle in memory of Billy E. Bowers



Kay Burke - April 21, 2019 at 03:02 AM

JK

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with Bill's family. His was a life well lived .

Jim and Jamie Kelly - April 20, 2019 at 10:47 PM

JC

“ I am so sorry for the loss of a husband, father, and granddad to your family. I lost a lifelong friend. Billy was so full of life. It was always a joy when he would telephone and catch me up on the latest “friend news”. I miss him already. Billy was so proud of his family. Peace and love to all of you.

Jenny Belle Maness Cochran - April 20, 2019 at 10:43 PM

EB

Jenny Belle, you were a treasured friend!

Ernestine Bowers - April 25, 2019 at 12:40 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Billy E. Bowers.*



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April 20, 2019 at 09:32 PM



“ *Tine and Shane- I have fond memories of Bill at the Lumber Supply and as family friends.*  
*Lee Maddox*

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**Lee Maddox** - April 20, 2019 at 07:19 PM



“ *Many memories in the Thomas family of Hard rock!! Rest in peace...and continue to laugh & smile!! Diane Thomas Muron - Bea & Smiley's daughter.*

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**diane thomas muron** - April 20, 2019 at 03:52 PM



“ *Lisa Kirk lit a candle in memory of Billy E. Bowers*



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**Lisa Kirk** - April 20, 2019 at 02:28 PM

CR

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Bill was always so kind. Sending prayers for his family.



Carla Richardson - April 20, 2019 at 01:20 PM

VL

I'm so sorry it was Bill's time to go. I spent many an hour in that lumber company with Mom and Dad as they remodeled the old camp house in Exeter. Bill treated everybody like they were important. My parents thought highly of him. And now my daughter Kris and Moe and girls are enjoying the beautiful Bowers home. It's as if you can always feel apart of your family there. Ernestine and family, we have already traveled this hard road and send our prayers and love to each of you. 🙏❤️

Vickie Kilgore Lawson - April 20, 2019 at 05:26 PM

JT

I am so sorry for the family.. He and Tina were such a special, lovely couple.. My memories of Bill were that he was always a big cut-up! And our family visiting his mom, Alta 's home in Big Stone as a young child.. My brothers growing up in Dunbar were friends with Hardrock, especially my oldest brother, "Cotton" Thomas. Many condolences to the Bowers family.

Janice Thomas Taylor - April 21, 2019 at 09:07 AM

AE

Love this family. God bless you in this time of home going for Bill.

Agnes Ellis - April 23, 2019 at 05:40 AM