



## Ira Jackson Bowman Jr.

September 16, 1931 - August 19, 2016

Ira "I.J." Jackson Bowman Jr. 84, of Ringgold, Georgia, formerly of Chattanooga, Tennessee, went home to be with his Lord on Friday August 19, 2016 at the Hospice of Chattanooga Care Center in Chattanooga. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, retired from Bell South Telephone Company after 39 years of service and was a member of the East Ridge Church of Christ. He is preceded in death by his parents, Ira J. Bowman Sr. and Mina Knight Bowman; siblings, Alice B. Grider, Louise B. Hassler, Robert M. Bowman, Fannie B. Bailey, Virginia Tullis Williams, Betty B. Williams and Nelson Bowman. Ira leaves behind to cherish his loving memories, his wife of 64 years, Barbara Jean Trotter Bowman; children, Vicki (Bill) Melhorn of Chattanooga,, Tim (Laurie) Bowman of Flintstone,, and Anita Kay Bowman of Ringgold,; beloved sister, Anita B. Banadayga of Portland, OR.; five grandchildren, Josh (Erin) Melhorn of Signal Mtn., Tim (Megan) Bowman of Chattanooga,, Lyndi (Julio) Berrones of Nashville, Noah Ankar and Nicholas Ankar both of Ringgold; two great grandchildren, Ally and Eden Melhorn; and numerous loving family and friends. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Martin-Boyd Christian Home or to Hospice of Chattanooga. Graveside services will be held 3:00 P.M. Tuesday August 23, 2016 at the Chattanooga National Cemetery with Brother Charlie Cochran officiating. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 12-2 P.M. at the East Ridge Church of Christ. The family would like to extend a special thanks to the incredible staff at Martin-Boyd Christian home and Hospice of Chattanooga for their

Compassionate Care. Arrangements are by Wilson Funeral Home Wallis-Stewart Chapel Ringgold, Georgia.

# Cemetery Details

## Chattanooga National Cemetery

Holtzclaw Ave.  
Chattanooga, TN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 23. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

East Ridge Church of Christ  
East Ridge, TN

## Graveside Service

AUG 23. 3:00 PM (ET)

Chattanooga National Cemetery  
Holtzclaw Ave.  
Chattanooga, TN

# Tribute Wall

DS

“ When we lived on Jenkins Road just a little past where I J's mom and dad lived I remember so well all of the Bowman. Playing with all of their grandkids. I knew I J and Jean growing up. We worshipped at the little white church on Graysville Road. I J was a sweet Godly man. Putting God first and then family. I know he will be greatly missed by this wonderful family. Jean, Vicki, Tim and Anita my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

*In loving memory,*

*Debbie Smith (daughter of Gordon and Alma Barrett Smith)  
East Ridge, Tn*

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**Debbie Smith** - August 23, 2016 at 10:04 AM

SB

“ Vicki, I'm truly sorry to learn of the passing of your dad. I never met him, but reading the above comments I know he had to be a kind man and a Christian. This in itself gives you comfort I'm certain. Prayers for you and your family, Sandy Bruce

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**Sandy Bruce** - August 23, 2016 at 06:58 AM

DW

“ The thing I remember most about Ira is the way he would lead public prayer in worship.

*As he was closing his prayer, he would always say "We love you Father."*

*He and Jean are among the sweetest people we knew at Ringgold.*

*Dennis and Ann Womack*

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**Dennis Womack** - August 22, 2016 at 04:28 PM

TB

“ I.J., to me it was always I.J. He was a Christian, cousin, and friend, a good buddy. As I remember we liked to hang out with our grandfather, Robert "Bob" Bowman, (1874-1968) who always had surprises for us. We had lots of good times and did things together as we could as boys and men. The last few years mostly has been sitting and talking. Where our bodies wore down our jaws never did. I. J. was an extraordinary ordinary man. He was a " salt of the earth type ". His examples as a Christian, husband, father, grandfather would be hard to match. He was beloved by all who knew him. He loved his family and extended family and they loved him. He was a rock of character, loyalty and dependability. He walked by obedient faith. ( WE can thank our parents for that.) His wife, Jean, was a blessing to him and a helpmate all their married life, 64 years. Their 3 children were lovingly raised in the church. As God's children we are all each unique. There will be no more I. J. and his passing saddens me greatly. It pains me less to know we will meet again in heaven and be with our loved ones who have gone before. There we will have all the time we want to talk and praise God. He will be sadly missed -and in a way be with us- as long as we or someone, remembers him.

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**Troy Bowman** - August 22, 2016 at 04:00 PM

VM

*Beautiful Tribute Troy.. He truly loved u & your weekly visits.. You had many fun & wonderful years together... Luv u fir sharing such precious memories..*

*~VICKI~*

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**vicki Melhorn** - August 22, 2016 at 09:44 PM

DB

*Dear Vicki I am sitting here remembering your mother and father. I remember them being kind, funny and enjoyed the company they were with. I am sure that is where your bubbly, kind heart. I will keep you in my prayers and thoughts. Give your mother a hug for me. Sincerely, your friend.*

*Debbie Brown*

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**Debbie Brown** - August 22, 2016 at 09:58 PM



“ *Marg Hales sent a virtual gift in memory of Ira Jackson Bowman Jr.*



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**Marg Hales** - August 22, 2016 at 03:22 PM

MH

“ *Margaret Hales lit a candle in memory of Ira Jackson Bowman Jr.*



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**Margaret Hales** - August 22, 2016 at 03:16 PM

BM

“ *I.J. was a great Christian man who loved all of his family. He welcomed me into his family as my father-in-law with open arms. He always greeted people with a hug or hand shake and with that big smile he had, even in the last few weeks when he did not feel good. I know where his soul is now and I look forward to seeing him again someday. I love you Pappy. R.I.P.*



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**Bill Melhorn** - August 22, 2016 at 10:01 AM

TO

“ *IJ Bowman was my uncle. He was the perfect example of a real man. A Christian man. My father passed away when I was in 2nd grade. IJ was always there for me and my brother, with unconditional love. He was like a daddy to us. He was a great husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend that anyone could ask for. I loved him dearly. Prayers for the family. Love to all.*

*RIP sweet Uncle IJ.*



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**Tammy Osborne** - August 22, 2016 at 09:32 AM