



Col. Ronald "Ronnie" Lee Bowman

June 17, 1953 - February 16, 2015

Colonel Ronald Lee Bowman age 61, of Rock Spring, GA passed away after a lengthy illness Monday – February 16, 2015 at his residence with his devoted wife Betty by his side.

Colonel Bowman, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert & Katherine (Kitty) Ballew Bowman, was born June 17, 1953 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was a 1970 graduate of Lakeview High School in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration and his Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Systems from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy and in addition has received numerous awards and diplomas for law enforcement related training. Colonel Bowman was active in law enforcement since 1972 when he was employed by the Catoosa County Sheriff's Department as a dispatcher/jailer. From that position, he went on to become a patrolman for the Fort Oglethorpe Police Department, and in 1974 was employed as Georgia State Trooper. He was elected Sheriff of Catoosa County in 1986, and served in that capacity until Governor Zell Miller appointed him Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. He was employed as Director of Hutcheson Medical Center EMS in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia Fugitive Squad and retired from the United States Marshal Service. Colonel Bowman is a member of Tompkins Masonic Lodge F&AM #466 and an Alhambra Shriner. He is a member of the Peace Officers

Association of Georgia, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society and numerous other civic and professional organizations.

He is survived by his loving wife: Betty Smith Bowman of Rock Spring, GA, daughters: Angela Bowman of Fort Oglethorpe, GA, Amber (Joey) Swindle of Chickamauga, GA, Leah (Michael Lee) Sawyer of South Carolina, son: Chad (Christy) Akins of Chickamauga, GA, sister: Earlene (Alfred) Bailey of Ringgold, GA, brother: Robert "Bill" (Debbie) Bowman of Fort Oglethorpe, GA, eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, several nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank Doctors Thomas Devlin at Erlanger, Mark Heinsohn of Memorial, Terry Melvin of Hospice of Chattanooga and also the staff of Hospice of Chattanooga and especially Kristy Taylor-RN and Jennifer Hall.

The family will receive friends Thursday from 10:00 am – 8:00 pm. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am Friday – February 19, 2015 in the Fort Oglethorpe Chapel with Pastor Paul O'Neal and Bobby Lee Cook presiding. Burial will follow in Calvary Gardens-Mausoleum, Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Online guest book at www.wilsonfunerlahome.com.

Arrangements by W. L. Wilson & Sons Funeral Homes, Fort Oglethorpe, GA.

Tribute Wall

WL

“ JUST FOUND OUT TODAY (4-10-15) THAT RON HAD PASSED. MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO RON'S FAMILY. HE WAS A GREAT MAN, AND A GOOD FRIEND. REST IN PEACE MY FRIEND, MY L.E.O. BROTHER. GOD HAS ANOTHER GREAT ANGEL BY HIS SIDE.

WILLIAM McCLEARY - PORT MONMOUTH , NJ - FREIND - FELLOW L.E.O. -
April 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ So sorry for your loss Ronnie will be missed. He is no longer suffering.

Linda Bailey - Rossville, GA - friend - February 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ A life well lived, a man well loved. Prayers of comfort and peace being offered for his family.

TGM - February 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Ronnie was a very special person to my family. My Mom and Dad thought the world of him. Mom talked about and worried about him like a son. I hope the three of them are reunited and having a cup of coffee in heaven. Rest In Peace.

Ray Thomison Jr. - Chickamauga, GA - Friend/Neighbor - February 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LF

“Ronnie Bowman has been my friend since 1978. I cherish the memories of the day I first met him; the day I went to Atlanta to be hired by GSP. I was impressed by him and others, but then, I didn't know any better at the time! LOL What I also didn't know, was that these people would become like my brothers. Everyone at Post 41 had nicknames and it didn't take long for Ronnie to tag me as a "Space Cadet", and I haven't changed with age.....We had many years of memories that I am thankful for and I am especially thankful that Ronnie and I called each other "friends"! God Bless his family as they enter a new chapter in their lives and I hope to share an eternity in Heaven with my friend, Ronald Lee Bowman!

Loretta Hartline Roper (aka: "Space Cadet") - Cohutta, GA - Friend - February 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KP

“Sheriff Bowman was the first Sheriff I knew when I got up here to work for the Superior Court judges. He always impressed me as a first-class professional. We were lucky to have him the short time that we did. Am proud to have known him.

Kim Sawyer - Ringgold, GA - Professional - February 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LF

“So sorry to learn of Ronnie's passing! I began my career with GSP at Post 41 in 1983 where Ronnie and others of the "Post 41 Family" took me under their wing. "In the good ole days", we shared stories, meals, and knew each other's families. We were all very proud of Ronnie's accomplishments as he was elected Sheriff and then appointed Colonel. He was a wonderful leader and "always" a good friend. Our thoughts and prayers – for Betty, Angela, Amber, Bill, Debbie, and other family members.

Lanita (and Mickey) Lloyd - Villa Rica, GA - Friend - February 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ *Old friend you are greatly missed.*

GySgt Rood, James Paul - Richardson, TX - long time friend - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *Alan and I were saddened to hear of Ronnie's passing. He was a great man. It was an Honor to call him our friend. Your family is in our prayers.*

Angie and Alan Marshall - Fort Og, GA - Friends - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *I went to High School with Bill and Ronnie and worked with his mom and dad at the high school during summer break. Ronnie and I use to night watch some at the high school.*

Jeff Davis - Ringgold, GA - friend - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ *Please accept my deepest sympathies during your time of loss. Please know that I am here for you.*

May the peace which comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead.

Sharing in your sorrow,

*Sheriff Ezell Brown
Newton County Sheriff's Office*

Ezell Brown - GA - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Our condolences to the Bowman Family on the passing of Ronnie. Had known Ronnie for nearly all of our professional years.

Roger & Karen Bradley

Roger and Karen Bradley - La Fayette, GA - Friend - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ I went to school with Ronnie from grammar school through high school. I always like him and even though we didn't see each other often I have always considered him a friend. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time of grief and sadness. I know he will be greatly missed.

Jack Eskew - Chattanooga, TN - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Leave a condolence or a memory.

martha burris - chattanooga, TN - friend - February 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Really a straight up person. I really enjoyed sitting and talking to him about his career. He Will be missed.

Brian Wood - Chattanooga, TN - friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ So sorry for your lose and everyone that knew him!! Ronnie was a great friend and Man!!! He was a wonderful friend!! We will miss him!! GSP 226 and 2261/2!!!

Bruce and Debbie Terry - Tunnel Hill, GA - Friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *Ronnie was a wonderful friend and a great man. He dedicated most of his life to the protection of others. We have lost a living legend. I'm proud and honored to have known him and called him my friend.*

Kim McConathy - Ringgold, GA - Friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *Praying for The family at this very sad time Ronnie Was well known and Loved By all Rest in Peace Sweet Man*

Lori Rodgers - Tunnel Hill, GA - friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. He was truly one of few elite, a one true honest person. He will be missed And my prayer's for the family.*

April Wilkerson - Chickamauga, GA - Friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I came from a dysfunctional family. I never had a father, brother or sister. My mother was a drug addict. I looked up to Ronnie as a big brother. He would pick on me but like a big brother.

In my early teenage years I worked with Ronnie on the Neighborhood Youth Corps. One day I hauled off and hit Ronnie as hard as I could on the shoulder. Ronnie chased me down the hallway and pinned me up against the water fountain. I knew he was going to hit me so I figured that I would duck and he would hit the wall and the laugh would be on him.

Wrong! He hit me smack dab in the eye. I wore a shiner for two weeks. Ronnie was a mentor to me. All the other kids tha was in the foster home with me got into trouble. Thanks to Ronnie I became a Chattanooga City Police officer. Ronnie's father, mother and older brother made a big difference in my life.

My thoughts, prayers and thanks go out to the Bowman family.

Kermit M. Cartwright - Chattanooga, TN - high school friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Ronnie and I were introduced over 10 years ago through his collecting of law enforcement badges and became good friends, communicating by phone and email. Ronnie's health had taken a turn for the worse about the time we met but we planned to get together after his health improved and together we were going to introduce my company, Collinson Enterprises, to his many friends in law enforcement. Unfortunately, Ronnie's health continued to decline and, while we continued to communicate over the years, we never got to meet face to face. The many hours of great conversation afforded me the opportunity to know the great guy I'll always consider among my best of friends. God Bless all the family members left behind and know that Ronnie will be missed by many.

Ron Collinson - Davidsonville, MD - Good friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ I will always cherish our friendship

Herschel woods - rossville, GA - long time friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ i didn't know him. But he was a great Sheriff for catoosa co

janie - ringgold, GA - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ He will be missed

mike hartley - f.o., GA - friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ It was an honor and priveledge to have works for Ronnie. He was the epitome of professionalism, and I am proud to say he was a friend.

James Westmoreland - LaFayette, GA - Friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Ronnie will be greatly missed. Very wonderful man. Our prayers are with the family.

Rhonda & Daryl Sisk - Rossville, GA - friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Was Col when I came on in 93.. I remember Randy Joiner 669 telling me he went to school with Ronnie... RIP????

Phillip Hanners - LaGrange, GA - co- worker - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *May God Bless you a keep you in his Hands my dear friend the Commissioner. You were a born leader and accomplished so much good in your taken too soon life. You are still an inspiration to me and an individual I will always attempt to emulate.*
I recount the years of our friendship always with a smile and a feeling of mutual respect, care, and concern.
I only regret that I never had the opportunity to serve with you and for you and would follow you through any dangerous door.
If you were an Army man, you would be a General Officer and your Rank as Colonel/Commissioner of the Elite Georgia State Patrol signifies that.
I miss you my Dear Friend the Commissioner and one day we will meet and I pray that I am seated next to you above.
Your Friend always,
Colonel Chapman

Colonel Dennis S. Chapman - Langhorne, PA - Friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *Betty and family, we are so sorry for your loss. We will be in prayer for you. Sonja and Joe*

Joe and Sonja Morgan - Jefferson, GA - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Ronnie's passing. He will truly be miss. He was one of my favorite cousins. May God keep and comfort you at this time of your grief.*
With sincere sympathy,
June and Jr. Hill4

June Hill - Tullahoma, TN - cousin - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ My condolences to the family in the passing of Col. Bowman. He was my boss at CCSO and at GSP. Myself and my family considered him a friend. If it wasn't for him I would not have worked for GSP. I fondly remember him popping in at GSP Post 5 Dalton when he was Col. and giving a young Radio Operator a hard time (in fun). May you rest in peace.

Clark Lusl - Ringgold , GA - Friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ I am so sorry got the family. You have my condolences

Ronald Goodman - Covington, GA - ex-trooper - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TO

“ He kept me motivated and out of my uncomfortable home when he coached my Ft Oglthorpe soft ball team. I think his daughter played too. He was such a blessing in my life.

Toni Smith-Springman - Charlotte, NC - his team player Ft Oilfield. - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Ronnie was a humble, helpful soul like no other. He truly led by example, the mold was broken with him. He touched everyone's life he met in some way or another. The world lost a special soul. Our thoughts are with his family.

Adam & Lee Anne Hester - Philadelphia , PA - Friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Earlene, sorry for the loss of your brother Ronnie...Didn't know Ronnie personally but remember you and your family living beside my parents on Dietz Rd. Know you and your family has lots of good memories of Ronnie, hold them close to your hearts and let them be of comfort to you all....

Judy Gattis Weir - Ringgold, GA - friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Ronnie holds a special place in our family's heart !! Such a kind , gentle soul , that would always be there to help out a friend . We cannot express how much he meant to our family during our time of struggle . And we will always remember how much he cared for our son !! Prayers for you Betty and the rest of the family . We Will Never Forget that we were Touched by an Angel . Love and prayers from the Cookseys

Cathy and Thomas Cooksey - Ringgold , GA - Friend - February 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ Ronnie was a great friend of mine and Baxter's from the onset of his career in Police work in Ft. Oglethorpe. A fun and caring guy to be around and a protector in many ways. Another great man gone way too soon. Keeping the Bowman family in my heart and prayers. My deepest heartfelt condolences to his family. Harriett Carr Shavers Creech

Harriett Carr Shavers Creech - Fayetteville, NC - Friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ I'm lighting this candle for you Amber and your family! Prayers go out to your family!

Kim White - friend of Amber's - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ I'm proud to have been with the Driver Services Division of the GSP during Col. Bowman's service as Commissioner. He was a great leader, a great man, and great professional. I'm saddened to hear of his passing, and I'm praying for his family for God's grace, strength and peace in their hearts going forward. My condolences.

Sandra Gribble - La Fayette, GA - Driver Services GSP - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with Betty and the family. Harold & Pat Silcox

Harold & Pat Silcox - Fort Oglethorpe, GA - friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ I had the privilege of knowing Ronald from FOFD and as member of Tompkins lodge #466.
I'm sorry too hear of his passing of a lodge brother and friend and thank you for you service.

Michael David Gilbreath - Carthage , TN - lodge brother - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ May God wrap his loving arms around you and give you peace.

Carol Williford 255 1/2 - Nicholls, GA - GSP 255's wife - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ I am sorry. He was my friend and I his for every day of every year since 1972. I admire him for his intelligence and wit and for his ability to be the best at everything he did. There are fewer of us left every day and I would give much to see every one of us sitting down for coffee again./G\

Alan Yates - Huntsville, AL - Friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ You have served your State well. You will be missed. Praying for the family.

Dot Brown - La Fayette, GA - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Ronald and I were in the 49th Trooper School together and went on to be my Colonel in The Georgia State Patrol , The best Job a Person can have !!! God Bless Colonel Bowman and His Family !!!! RIP Boss Man !!

Bobby Clark - Fitzgerald, GA - Friend , Brother - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I am so very sorry to hear about Ronnie. I knew him when he was the Sheriff in Catoosa County. I was working with Whitfield County Sheriff's Office and retired now to Florida. Good man, and will be missed.

Joe Burge - Mount Dora, FL - friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WA

“ I am sorry to hear of the passing of such a fine man & officer. I first met Ronnie Bowman while working at Chickamauga Police Dept, Walker Co 911 Center and Hutcheson Medical Center. I have nothing but respect and fond memories that will stay with me for a long time. My sorrow is but a small thing compared to the grief of his loving family. My prayers will be including them all.

W. Fay Wofford - Chickamauga, GA - acquaintance - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ I worked for CCSO when Ronnie was elected and he treated me fairly during my time there. He helped me fulfill a life long dream of becoming a certified LEO and for that I will always be grateful.

Reece Chambers - Ringgold, GA - Past employee - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I am so sorry to hear about Ronnie we were always good friends in school and out, he tried to get me to join sheriff's dept. I also worked for his mother while in school

Steve Holder - Fort Oglethorpe, GA - very good friends - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ So sorry for your loss. Col. Bowman was a good man. The man who hired me.

Jay Westmoreland - Bremen , GA - Fellow Trooper - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EO

“ Prayers for the family..God Bless you all..

Elaine Weaver Diddle - OH - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ I'm a friend of Katherine Bailey Shaffer, I'm sorry to hear of the passing of her uncle. I would like to say Earth has no sorry that Heaven can not heal. My prayers are with your family during this time of sorry!

Doris A. Besses - Clarksville, TN - Friend of the Family - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ So sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

David and Kim Grantham - Vienn, GA - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ This candle is being lit for the Bowman family, especially Angela and Amber. Prayers for you all!!!

Sharon Snider McMurrain - LaFayette, GA - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I was so sad to learn of Ronnie's passing. We will miss him but know in our hearts that he is in a better place and that we will see him again one day. I will always remember Ronnie's infectious smile and charm and charisma. He could never tell a joke with a straight face! I knew Ronnie for close to 30 years. Prayers and hugs for the family.

Tammy Snodgrass - Chickamauga, GA - friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Ronnie Bowman was a great friend and boss and he will be greatly missed.
My prayers are with Betty and the family.*

Connie Ballew - Chickamauga, GA - Friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *It was an honor to know Ronnie and his wife Betty. Ronnie was the most kind hearted man. He will be missed.*

Jennifer Phillips - Ringgold, GA - friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Sheriff Ronnie Bowman it was a honor to work for.he will be miss by so many Rip Sheriff.*

Billy Hudgens - rossville, GA - friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Betty,

I'm so sorry for your loss. I'm praying and thinking of you and your family.*

Cliff

Cliff Yates - Ringgold, Ga, GA - Friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Ronnie was always "there" for us and our family. One of the best sherriff's in Catoosa County. So many good memories over the years. He was our next door neighbor for many years. We were proud to call him our friend! Our deepest sympathy to the family that he left behind. RIP Ronnie!

Butch and Sheila Ellis - Fort Oglethorpe, GA - Friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Prayers for grace and comfort for Ronnie's family and friends. RIP friend.

Patty Underwood - Tampa, FL - Friend - February 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ I am so sorry for your loss, may God be with you at this time, Ronnie was a great friend and will be missed, he has helped me in so many ways. He is a wonderful person. Sincerely Cathy Durham

Cathy Durham - Chickamauga, GA - friend - February 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM