



William Duff Lowes

August 1, 1947 - March 6, 2022

William Duff Lowes (Bill), 74 of Rossville passed away on March 6, 2022. Bill grew up in Kansas but spent most of his adult life in the Chattanooga/ North Georgia area that he so loved.

Bill lived a rewarding yet challenging life. As a young man he served in Vietnam with the 1st Calvary. During the TET offensive in 1967 he received a serious head wound while trying to assist other soldiers. He was evacuated to Japan where he remained in a coma for many weeks. When he finally awoke, he could not talk, walk, or write. As his treating nurse relayed to the family, when the Doctor tried to tell him he might not recover his functions, Bill gave the Doctor the “universal” sign that he did not agree with the Doctor’s assessment.

Bill’s determination saw him through multiple surgeries and extensive rehabilitation work until he had regained full function. Those who knew and loved Bill could regale you with stories of his determination. Bill returned to Vietnam to finish his tour of duty. He received numerous decorations for his valor and service.

After leaving the Army, Bill returned to North Georgia. He completed his certification as a Master Mechanic. Later he worked for 20 years as a Corrections Officer and was named the officer of the year for Walker State Prison. While this was a hard job, Bill rarely had problems with inmates because he treated them with respect and expected the same from them.

Bill was blessed to have married three wonderful women all of whom he lost to illness. Bill was preceded in death by Louwana Lowes, Betty Lowes, and Julia (Judy) Lowes. Although he had no children of his own, he was a fast friend and mentor to his many stepchildren and grandchildren, and he embraced each and everyone as his “own”. His extended family was very important to him, and he spoke of them often.

While Bill was close with all of his extended family, Mistina Franklin, Judy’s granddaughter, and her children, Christopher and Isabella , were extremely close and important to Bill. Mistina helped Bill navigate a number of health issues over the last few years. Their support and care were invaluable to him. Bill’s whole face and demeanor would light up when talking about Mistina and her children. Bill would happily discuss all his extended children and grandchildren with a grin on his face and pride in his voice.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, William A and Eleanor B Lowes and

by his grandsons, Chris Lewis and Jeremy Worthington.

He is survived by his sister Sue Harper, her family—husband Doug Harper, son Doug R Harper(spouse Linda); daughter Rebekah Arizpe (spouse Nick)and great nieces and nephew Cameron Arizpe, Lucas Arizpe, Morgan Harper; by his brother Mark Lowes, and his family—wife Kim Lowes, and children Sara R Lowes, Matthew Lowes (spouse April), Brian Whitehouse and Christina Whitehouse; by his step children-Cindy Landen, Loyd Lewis Jr (Kathi), Keith Lewis (Marion), Tony Lewis(Mary), Ronnie Lewis, Albert Lewis; by Harold Cooper; by Mistina Franklin, Anthony Lewis, Tara Kelley, Eric Lewis, Adam Lewis, Heath Landen, Betsy Lewis, Jamie Lewis, Ryan Lewis, Tyler Lewis, and grand-children and many more friends and family.

Bill will be remembered as a gentle giant who was always ready and willing to offer a helping hand. He worked to treat others the way he would want to be treated. Despite the many challenges and losses that life gave him, Bill chose to see the positive in life and to envelope those close to him with his strong arms and limitless love and compassion. His mother and father were proud of the man he became. He will be missed.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday March 19, 2022 from 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the VFW post 3679, 98 Memorial Dr. Ft. Oglethorpe Ga. 30742. Military Funeral Honors will be held at 4:00 p.m.

Donations can be made to Tunnel to Towers at t2t.org, a group special to Bill that supports First Responders and Veterans.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 19. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

VFW Post 3679
98 Memorial Dr.
Rossville, GA 30741

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Vivid memory of Bill occurred during a lunch reunion in 1987, with our Dawson Elementary School principal, Mrs. Burtzel, “ Well Bill, what line of work are you doing?” Bill answered and said I am a prison guard.
Mrs. Burtzel quipped, “Well Bill always saw bars in your future, just never sure which side of them you would be on! “

We laughed so hard almost fell off our chairs. Maybe she was remembering the time Bill loosened the bolts on auditorium chairs.

Bill was adventurous, loving and always a man of action. Sure love and miss him. Until we meet again, Love Sister Sue

Sue Harper - March 13, 2022 at 12:09 PM

BE

“ Heaven gained one heck of an angel. My mom's twin/my sweet uncle Bill passed Sunday. 💔 He was the kind of person who would give you the shirt off his back - even if it was the last piece of clothing he owned. War hero who survived catastrophic injuries - no doubt God had a plan for his life. He brought joy to everyone around him with his fun stories, infectious laugh and amazing sense of humor. Blessed to know him and call him family. He will be missed.



becky - March 10, 2022 at 09:02 PM



Jeannette
Fehr

“ One weekend Bill and I were running store call, where we had 10 inmates in line waiting their time at the store window. Bill and I were the only two on the MP Floor, as the other officers were running yard call. An inmate, who was taller than Bill by at least 6" decided he wanted to cut line(again). A fight broke out and blood was immediately slung all over the wall for about 4'. The smaller, weaker inmate, was getting the stuffing beat out of him, but he kept going after the big guy. The bigger inmate wasn't wanting to fight, but every time the smaller inmate came at him he'd hit him a couple of times, just to back him off. I told Bill to hold off on stopping it, as blood was a huge issue for disease transmission. After a few more punches were thrown, Bill, couldn't help himself and took off after the big guy. He hit this guy with his forearm just below the rib cage, pushed him up against the wall, and lifted him at least a foot off the ground! He held him there until I got the injured inmate back to segregation. It was the wildest thing I had ever seen in my life. Bill was a beast with a huge heart. I will never forget him. EVER. I love the picture you have posted here.

Jeannette Fehr - March 10, 2022 at 01:13 AM