



## Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen

April 10, 1939 - April 19, 2026

It is with deep sorrow that Mrs. Patricia Ann Watkins Bowen and her family announce the death of her beloved husband, Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen, 87.

Mr. Bowen entered into rest on Sunday, April 19, 2026. The Directors of Hancock-Elmore-Hill Funeral Home are caring for the family.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 12 o'clock, on Friday, April 24, 2026, in First Baptist Church of Bishopville. The Rev. Jed Bryant will officiate, with burial to follow in Mt. Elon Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends at a reception to honor his life in the Fellowship Hall one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his honor to First Baptist Church of Bishopville, 229 W. Church Street, Bishopville, SC 29010, or B.A.R.K. (Bishopville Animal Rescue Krew), 158 Johnson Pond Road, Bishopville, SC 29010.

Mr. Bowen was born on Monday, April 10, 1939, in Baltimore, MD. He is the son of the late James William Bowen and the late Ethel Bordley King.

Don proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War

era. He loved entertaining everyone as a singer, songwriter, poet, and musician. He loved animals, all God's critters, and had the most tender spot for any animal in need. He never met a stranger and could always find the good in them. He loved laughter and found joy in the little things.

Don was an outdoorsman, hunting, fishing, and metal detecting. He loved finding Civil War relics and could answer any question you could ever have about the Civil War. He loved his family, fur-babies, friends, God, and his church. He served as a deacon, mentor, and faithful member until the very end. He loved singing in the choir, and even when he could no longer get to the choir loft, he was still trying to sing along from the front row. He loved being wheeled to his special place and being greeted and loved on by everyone entering the sanctuary.

Don's message to everyone is as follows: "I want everyone to know I have had a GREAT life full of adventure and general love of life. If you know me, you know I love everyone and will do cheetah flips to help you if I can. I believe the closest you can get to who I am is in a lot of my poems and songs. I think that's where we lay our hearts out on our sleeve. Anyway, it's been a blast. Music, the outdoors, and humor have been my worldly sustainers, and love of God my main sustainer. My hope for humanity has always been for men to respect each other and work together for peace. For all those who have passed through my life, I hope I left something of value. Love you all!!!!"

In addition to his wife, Don is survived by his sons; Jeffrey M Bowen (Carol) of Scottsdale, AZ, Shawn M Bowen (Angelica) of St. Roberts, MO; step-son, Tracy Christmas of Bishopville, SC; step-daughter, Lisa DuBose (Tim) of Bishopville, SC; grandchildren, Joshua Bowen (Natalie), Jessica Bowen, Becky Bowen; step-grandchildren, Hope Stayman (Nick), Erin Boyce (Daniel), Heather Champe, Madison DuBose, McKenna Simeone, Santana Christmas; four great-grandchildren, and nine step great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Patrick Bowen.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Elon Baptist Church Cemetery

1132 W. Lydia Highway  
Hartsville, SC 29010

# Previous Events

## Reception

APR 24. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
229 W. Church St.  
Bishopville, SC 29010

## Celebration of Life

APR 24. 12:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Bishopville  
229 W. Church Street  
Bishopville, SC 29010

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ann, I am so very sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you and your family. God Bless.* ”



Vicky McLain - April 23 at 01:58 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen.* ”



April 22 at 07:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen.* ”



April 22 at 09:54 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen.* ”

April 22 at 09:54 AM

BR

“ Mrs. Ann and family, I am so sorry to hear this. My heart goes out to you all and I pray the Lord gives you all comfort as he holds you all in his hands.



Brooke Raley - April 22 at 08:49 AM

CC

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I know you will miss him.

Cheryl O'Kelly Cole - April 22 at 02:57 AM

KJ

“ Kathy Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen



Kathy Jackson - April 21 at 10:10 PM

DN

“ Debbie Nielsen lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen



Debbie Nielsen - April 21 at 12:29 PM

BA

“ Barbara Atkinson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen



Barbara Atkinson - April 21 at 11:05 AM

BA

Ann ,I am so sorry for the loss of your Don. your cousin Barbara, Love you!

Barbara Atkinson - April 21 at 11:08 AM

AA

“ Archie And Kay Amerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen



Archie and Kay Amerson - April 21 at 10:34 AM

MB

“ Matt And Betsy Bramlett lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen



Matt and Betsy Bramlett - April 21 at 06:50 AM

ST

“ Susan Thrasher lit a candle in memory of Mr. Robert Donald "Don" Bowen



Susan Thrasher - April 20 at 09:57 PM

RS

“ So sorry for your loss. Such a nice gentleman. Praying for each of you ~ 🙏🙏



Rebecca Skinner - April 20 at 09:45 PM

CA

“ Don was a good friend to many, me included and will greatly be missed. Ann praying for you and Don's family and friends

Cherlyn Arrants - April 20 at 07:21 PM

SP

We all have been blessed to know Don !. Don had a full life of Family ,Friends, and adventures.. Him and I would talk for hours about his youth growing up,, his beloved family and his time in the military . Of course he would go on and on about his love for his family and friends.. I and my wife Debbie sure will miss our friend Dow Bowen. As I know everyone else wiil. There will never be another one like Him ! Rest in in Peace Brothet Don!!

Steve and Debbie Petty - April 20 at 08:15 PM

PB

Condolences to the family from Ivy Terrace

patricia blythers - April 21 at 10:21 AM