



Rees "R. T." Tate Bowen Jr.

January 12, 1933 - January 23, 2015

His Lord said unto him, well done thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of the Lord. Matthew 25:21

Bastian, VA – Rees Tate “R.T.” Bowen, Jr. 82 of 7008 Clear Fork Creek Road, Bastian, VA died Friday January 23, 2015 at his residence, with his family at his side.

Born January 12, 1933 in Tazewell County, VA, R.T. was a son of the late Rees Tate Bowen, Sr. and Ruth Hagy Bowen. He was a member of Rocky Gap United Methodist Church and retired from Appalachian Power Company as a Line Crew Supervisor after 39 years of service.

R.T. graduated from Graham High School in 1951 and played football at VA Tech on a scholarship for two years. He loved farming and raising and showing American Saddlebred horses, and served on the Board of Directors of the American Saddlebred Horse Association of Virginia. He also was a member of the Ruritan Club and The Gideon’s Camp, was a founding member of the men’s prayer breakfast of Rocky Gap United Methodist Church and influenced many, many lives with his testimony for Jesus Christ, and for his love of family. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son Joe Don Bowen and brothers Joe Henry Bowen and Donald Ray Bowen.

R.T. is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rose Branham Bowen of the home, daughters: Deborah B. Burge and husband Edward of Rocky Gap, VA, Ruth Ann Lazenby and husband John of Bluefield, VA, and son: R.T. “Artie” Bowen, III and wife Debra of Bastian, VA, grandchildren: Sarah Kidd and husband

Michael of Glade Hill, VA, Heath Havens and wife Lori of Bluefield, VA, Jessica Nunez and husband Joe of Slidell, LA, Sherri Mitchell and husband David of Silar City, NC, Nick Bowen of Bastian, VA, Todd Lazenby of Welcome, NC, and Sara Lester and husband Moose of Lewisville, NC, 12 great grandchildren and sister-in-laws Wilma Lee Barbery and Patricia Bowen, and his horse Jack of 26 years.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday January 26, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Mercer Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Rodney Lawson officiating. Interment will follow at Grandview Memory Gardens Cemetery, Bluefield, VA where Brandon Stowers, Stacey Havens, Charlie Long, Terry Akers, Darrell Swecker, John Ray Faulkner, Mike Sutphin and Red Hall will serve as pallbearers. Honorary Pallbearers will be Michael Bird, Daniel Bird and Jody Lusk. The family will receive friends Sunday January 25, 2015 at the funeral home from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to either Hospice of Southwest Virginia, 600 West Ridge Road, Wytheville, VA 24382, or to Rocky Gap United Methodist Church 12508 North Scenic Highway, Rocky Gap, VA 24366.

Those wishing to share memories or e-mail condolences may do so by visiting www.mercerfuneralhome.com

Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the Bowen family.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **25**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-6155
mercerc@mercercfuneralhome.com
<https://www.mercercfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN **26**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall



“ Rees "R. T." Tate Bowen Jr.

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ Dear Rosie and Family, We were sad to hear that R.T. passed away on Friday- Jan. 23,2015. - just a few days after his 82nd birthday. It was a real privioedge to have known R.T., who was such a Wonderful Christian Gentleman! I have many special memories of him at Graham High School - on the football field 1948-1949,- the reunion of 1992, and when I was hiking the Applachian Trail in 1993. I shall always remember R.T. as a dear friend. Our prayers will be with all of you in these days ahead. We know that R.T. is with his Lord and Savior now! Your friends... Guy and Colleen Hefner - Hamilton, Ohio

Guy & Colleen Hefner - January 26, 2015 at 09:47 PM



“ Dear Bowen Family, We are so sorry for your whole family. Mr. Bowen was a wonderful gentleman who left a great legacy in his family. You all have been a great example to all of us what we should be. I love you Mrs. Bowen! God bless, Gary and Debbie Looney

DEBBIE LOONEY - January 26, 2015 at 12:56 PM



“ Rosie and all of RT's family. I am saddened to hear of RT's death. I worked with him in Bluefield until his retirement. Always was kind hearted with never a bad word to say about anyone. He led a truly blessed life here on earth. He will be missed.

Robert Gruver - January 26, 2015 at 12:36 PM

JT

“ Always to remember, a wonderful man. Jerry and Molly Thompson

Jerry Thompson - January 26, 2015 at 10:41 AM

WG

“ I am Wayne Grimm son of Rev. WR Grimm Jr. I knew RT when I lived in Bluefield. So sorry to hear about RT. I will keep his family in my prayers.

Wayne Grimm - January 26, 2015 at 06:37 AM

DT

“ R.T. Was a good man,a great friend and neighbor. We know that we will see him again when we all get to heaven. Danny,Diana Tibbs and sons.

Daniel Tibbs - January 25, 2015 at 07:16 PM

JV

“ Jeanette Vernon lit a candle in memory of Rees "R. T." Tate Bowen Jr.



Jeanette Vernon - January 25, 2015 at 06:18 PM

AW

“Sundays were never complete unless we visited "The Bowens" and their three sons at the family home on the Bluefield=Tazewell Road. The boys felt like my older brothers because RT and Joe Henry were at Graham HS and on the football team with my brothers, John and Bill. I have been so lucky and blessed to have had your family as a part of my life since my early childhood. My heart is aching right along with yours. You have been and will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. With much love, Anne Backus Whaley

Anne Backus Whaley - January 25, 2015 at 11:41 AM

SD

“Debbie and I want to share our thoughts and prayers with Rose (Mrs Bowen to me) and the entire Bowen Family. Unfortunately I don't have a lot of recent memories of R.T. but I have a lot from years gone by. One being, R.T. loved horses and along with a lot of other horse riders in the community we rode many a trail on weekends. Often during these rides someone including myself would have equipment failure. Be it a saddle, bridle or even the tail gate latch on a truck used to haul the horses. It was common that R.T. would come to the rescue with his trusty roll of black electrical tape. If it was not in his pocket it was close by in a saddle bag. He helped many a rider get back to camp where a rivet or piece of raw hide could be found to make a permanent fix.

Steve and Debbie DeHart - January 25, 2015 at 11:39 AM

RY

“So sorry about the hearing about the death of R.T. My step-father, Lloyd Lee, thought so much of R.T and Rosie. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.
Sincerely,
Ruth Lester Lee and Randy Yost

Randy Yost - January 25, 2015 at 10:49 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rees "R. T." Tate Bowen Jr..*



January 25, 2015 at 09:24 AM



“ *So very sorry may your memories of this wonderful man comfort you in the days to come. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you.*



Katherine Clark - January 25, 2015 at 09:19 AM



Frank Thomas also has the family in his thoughts and prayers. So sorry we could not be there for you tonight or tomorrow.

Katherine Clark - January 25, 2015 at 09:21 AM



“ *He was a dear friend since our childhood. We will miss him, especially at the Graham High School reunions. We extend our wishes for comfort to Rosie and the family.*

Dave Trayer - January 25, 2015 at 06:34 AM

JB

“ Prayers for all the family and friends of a really terrific man. Dale knew you much better than I but we both think highly of R.T. and all the rest of the family. Dale has shared a number of memories with me over time. We pray God will hold you tight as you walk through the days ahead. R.T. rest in peace and love.....much love your way.....

Jan and Dale Burton - January 24, 2015 at 11:34 PM

BJ


“ Rosie and Family~
May God's comfort and love ease your loss of R.T. He was a mentor and coach to me as a young man. I will not forget him.
We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.
Bob and Alva Jones
Sumter, SC

Bob Jones - January 24, 2015 at 09:12 PM

BV

“ I first met RT when I was hired at APCo in 1985. He was vary pleasant to talk with and always took the time to teach new employees. May God bless an keep you during this time. Barry Vaughn

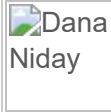
Barry Vaughn - January 24, 2015 at 07:22 PM

 Dana
Niday

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dana Niday - January 24, 2015 at 07:15 PM



RT was one of the most honest, fair, helpful, giving and special people in the Horse business and in all parts of his life. He will be missed and there will never be another like him. God Bless you RT and hope to see you on the other side some day.

Dana Niday - January 24, 2015 at 07:20 PM



“ Bless all your hearts....one of my favorite people...lots of wonderful memories from all the horse shows and trail rides and horsey stuff....Peace and comfort to you all....Love, Denise and Vince

Denise Romano - January 24, 2015 at 07:01 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rees "R. T.." Tate Bowen Jr..



January 24, 2015 at 05:33 PM



“ R.T. was a true friend, a great employee and coworker at APCO. He will truly be missed by family and all who knew him. My sincere condolences to the family and Rosie, Ted White

Ted White - January 24, 2015 at 03:51 PM



“ Gary & Pat Johnson lit a candle in memory of Rees "R. T.." Tate Bowen Jr.



Gary & Pat Johnson - January 24, 2015 at 03:02 PM

GJ

Sending the family our prayers during this time of sorrow.

Gary & Pat Johnson - January 24, 2015 at 03:03 PM

CH

“ *RT was one of my favorite cousin. Use to spend lots of time together. Our fathers were brothers. He is now in no pain and working hard as usual. Another one of God angles,with other family member who have gone on ahead of him. Love and prayers.*
Charlene Hurt

charlene hurt - January 24, 2015 at 02:54 PM

PH

“ *Peggy Hackney lit a candle in memory of Rees "R. T.." Tate Bowen Jr.*



Peggy Hackney - January 24, 2015 at 01:57 PM

PH

In memory of the light you gave to your family and the love you showed me from the very first moment I met you.

Peggy Hackney - January 24, 2015 at 01:59 PM

AO

Always had a smile and a kind encouraging word for everyone. A true gentleman. He will be missed by all who knew him. Prayers and condolences to the family.

Alvada Owen - January 24, 2015 at 04:11 PM

EG

“ *East Tazewell Gideons purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Rees "R. T." Tate Bowen Jr..*



East Tazewell Gideons - January 24, 2015 at 11:37 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rees "R. T." Tate Bowen Jr..*



January 23, 2015 at 07:01 PM

JV

“ *To Rose and children of RT: I am so sorry to read of RT's passing. My father and he worked together for many, many years for AEP, (Jesse Saunders). My dad and mom both thought so much of RT. I can remember him coming to our house with dad and you all brought the kids and came by while I was very young also. Mr. Edwards (AEP) and I were talking about all the older ones from RT's and dad's days just a week ago. He had planned to come to see RT, but seems like we all put off what we should do today. I guess I think about all of them more than ever because my husband and I bought Clyde Wysor's house in July. Anyway, I will try to come by the funeral home while you are there. I would love to see you. In the meantime, you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers now and in the days ahead. God bless you and may you feel his presence and strength. With heavy heart-----
Jeanette Saunders Vernon*

Jeanette Vernon - January 23, 2015 at 06:55 PM

RM

*I few years ago I brought my son Bowen , my daughter Brookes and my mom May Henry to visit RT and Rosie so I could show them the area their grandmother 's family lived and she grew up . I was so glad and thankful I did . They gave us a tour of part of the farm and we tried to catch up on all the old times and get an update on our mountain family. It was a GREAT visit ! . When I was very young I stayed at the farm and walking around the farm that day with my family brought back so many memories of all the good times and the trouble Artie and I got in when I was there that summer , great memories I'll never forget always remember To me RT was a a hardworking ,tough , great man I respected. We will miss him . Your family is in our thoughts and prayers
Richard Sadler Midgett and Family*

Richard Sadler Midgett - January 26, 2015 at 07:57 AM