



Joe Sowell

January 9, 1950 - October 30, 2006

Funeral services for Joseph Purdy “Joe” Sowell, 56, will be held at 3:00 p.m. Thursday, November 2, 2006 at Bethel United Methodist Church. The Revs. Barbara Segars and Larry Brown will officiate with burial in Bethel Cemetery directed by Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home. The family will receive friends Wednesday, November 1, 2006 from 5-7 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the MDA - SC Chapter, 2700 Middleburg Dr. #240, Columbia, SC 29204 or Bethune United Methodist Church, Box 275, Bethune, SC 29009.

Mr. Sowell, one of Jerry Lewis’ Kids, died Monday, October 30, 2006 in the arms of his family. Born in Kershaw Co., SC, he was a son of Eugenia Parker Sowell and the late Joseph Purdy Sowell.

Even though Joe spent his entire life in a wheelchair with limited physical mobility, he was a very active member of his community. With his unwavering spirit and enthusiasm, he was an expert mechanic – from motorcycle to racing engines and carburetors to electronics, CD radios and computers. He lent his expertise to many. In his community, he served as the DJ to school dances and supplied and ran the sound system for many dance recitals and Chicken Strut programs. He was an advocate for the handicapped and lobbied endlessly for handicap accessibility.

Surviving are his mother of Bethune; sister and brother-in-law, Dianne and Robert McCaskill of Bethune, SC; nieces, Gena (Wayne) Tidwell and Denise (Shane) Fountain; nephew, R. Manning McCaskill; one great niece and five

great nephews.

Previous Events

Service

NOV 2. 3:00 PM (ET)

Bethel United Methodist Church
2423 Bethel Road
Hartsville, SC 29550

Tribute Wall



“ I am so sorry to hear about Joe....I just found out this morning and am numb. I can remember the dance recitals, chicken struts and even the teen dances! No one could have done it better than Joe! My heart goes out to all of you and you will all be in my prayers! Bethune will truly miss such a wonderful man.##imported-begin##Melissa Knight Martin##imported-end##

November 06, 2006 at 09:10 AM



“ Our thoughts & prayers are with you at this difficult time! Mr. Joe will be greatly missed by all. God Bless & Keep you always!##imported-begin##TJ, Jamie & Benjamin Gainey##imported-end##

November 04, 2006 at 10:28 AM



“ Eugenia, Dianne, Robert, and family:

I have been thinking about Joe and all of you since I found out yesterday. My prayers are with you as you go through the events of today. Joe is smiling from Heaven and having such a wonderful time there. I will say a prayer this afternoon for all of you.

Myron##imported-begin##Myron##imported-end##

November 02, 2006 at 12:15 PM



“ I just found out that Joe passed away and want you to know how sorry and sad the news makes me feel. I was looking at his picture on this site and so many great memories flooded my thoughts. The hours of talking about motorcycles his van, sound systems, and everything in between.

He had such a zest for life and a wonderful smile and laugh. I will always cherish having him as a friend. Spending time with Joe is a great part of my growing up in Bethune. He will always be remembered in a special way!###imported-begin###Myron Newman###imported-end###

November 01, 2006 at 04:56 PM



“ Dear Eugenia, Dianne and family,
I know this is a very difficult time for all of you but please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.
God called another angel home and one day we will all see our loved ones again.
May God bless you.
Love, Cynthia###imported-begin###Cynthia Sowell Bush###imported-end###

November 01, 2006 at 03:08 PM



“ Dear Eugenia and family,

Thank you for the wonderful gift of Joe's life you gave to us all. Joe has been an inspiration to me since I was a little girl. He helped me repair by bicycles and years later he taught me how to take care of my vehicles.... Not only that, he taught me so much about life. He taught that life's little obstacles should not keep you from achieving your goals. He was strength to everyone who knew him. We should all learn from Joe's life. He gave so much more of himself than most of us do, and shared of himself even when he was not up to it. He carried on..... Thank you Joe for all you gave to me and others. We will never forget your warm smile and your courageous genuine spirit. Be at peace and we will meet again.

Love forever and ever!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kim##imported-begin##Kim Fulmer##imported-end##

November 01, 2006 at 02:44 PM



“ To the Sowell Family. Joe was a dear friend and we will miss him very much. He blessed many people during his time here on earth. May God be with you during this hard time.

Ellie Martin Sowell Jackson.##imported-begin##Ellie Jackson##imported-end##

November 01, 2006 at 01:24 PM



“ *Eugenia, I have never had a better friend than Joe. The hours we spent working together in the shop on computers brings back many pleasant memories.*
Phoebe and I will keep you and all of your family in our prayers##imported-begin##Lannis Huckabee##imported-end##

November 01, 2006 at 11:32 AM



“ *Ms. Eugenia and family,*
Joe was a very special person and a true friend to us for so many years. Remember the good old days of racing many years ago. Joe will be dearly missed, and we extend our prayers to you and your family.##imported-begin##Gail & Will Edwards##imported-end##

November 01, 2006 at 11:09 AM



“ *Eugenia, Diane, and family. You are in my thoughts and prayers. This is a loss to a you and a community. Joe was a wonderful friend to me and I will cherish the memories of him. Please if you need me call.*

Love,
Mary Lynne##imported-begin##Mary Lynne Gainey
Minnehan##imported-end##

October 31, 2006 at 08:44 PM



“ *I am thinking of you all. Everyone in Bethune will miss Joe. He was truly an inspiration to anyone who knew him. Please know that you are in my prayers.*

Tammy##imported-begin##Tammy Gardner Couick##imported-end##

October 31, 2006 at 03:20 PM