



Mr. Roy Lee Bowers

June 6, 1936 - March 18, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that Celeste Bowers Harris and Kathryn Bowers Wells announce the death of their beloved father, Mr. Roy Lee Bowers, 87.

A funeral service to honor his life will be held at 11 o'clock on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at St. Luke United Methodist Church. The Rev. Todd Davis will officiate, and a private family interment will follow in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Florence, SC. The family will receive friends in The Family Life Room one hour prior to the service. The Directors of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home & Crematory are caring for the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Luke United Methodist Church, 302 Dunlap Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550.

Roy Lee Bowers, of Hartsville, SC, passed away on March 18, 2024. He was born June 6, 1936, in Anson County, NC, the son of the late Roy Mason Bowers and Margaret Treadaway Bowers. His family moved to Florence, SC, in 1950.

Roy graduated from McClenaghan High School in Florence, SC, and was a veteran of the United States Air Force. After completing his military service, he graduated from Carolina College of Commerce and International Correspondence Schools with a diploma in accounting. He worked for Sonoco

Products Company for 33 years, retiring in 1999. Prior to working for Sonoco, he worked for Pet Dairy and Dixie Cup.

Roy's favorite pastimes included pontoon boat rides on the lake and walking several holes of golf in the late afternoon at Sandy Point Golf Club with his wife, Priscilla, and their dog. In 2002, he and Priscilla moved to North Litchfield Beach, where they enjoyed walking on the beach and riding on the golf cart. Having their children and grandchildren with them during the summers was the greatest of times! Visiting Brookgreen Gardens' Lowcountry Zoo and Butterfly House with the grandchildren—Katy, Emily Anne, and Will—was a treasured activity, as well as fishing on Pawleys Island Bridge and playing on the beach. July 4th was a special tradition with golf parades and fireworks on the beach.

Roy was predeceased by his wife, Priscilla Shorter Bowers, and was blessed with 50 years of marriage before her death in 2011. In 2013, he moved back to Hartsville. He was a member of St. Luke United Methodist Church in Hartsville and, while living in Litchfield, was a member of St. Paul's Waccamaw United Methodist Church. He was active in the food pantry at Pawleys Island and served in various church functions over the years at both St. Luke and St. Paul's.

Roy is survived by daughters Kathryn Bowers Wells (Chris) of Flower Mound, Texas, and Celeste Bowers Harris (Joel) of Hartsville; grandchildren Kathryn Caroline Wells Dupre (Aaron), Emily Anne Harris, and William Addison Harris; as well as his sister, Diane Bowers O'Steen of Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to his parents and wife, he was predeceased by his brother, Jerry Tyler Bowers of Lamar, SC.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke Methodist Church
302 Dunlap Dr.
Hartsville, SC

Funeral Service

MAR 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke Methodist Church
302 Dunlap Dr.
Hartsville, SC

Tribute Wall

GC

“ My deepest sympathy to your family. I had the privilege to work with Roy and he was the consummate gentleman. He was always willing to teach, help and guide. He represented what a professional was supposed to be.

May your memories carry you through this difficult time.

Gary Crutchfield

Gary Crutchfield - April 02, 2024 at 06:52 AM

KW

Such kind memories, Gary; thank you for sharing them. We agree; Dad was the best! Blessings, Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - April 05, 2024 at 06:47 PM

JS

“ I very much enjoyed working with Roy back in 70's and 80's in Accounting. He was “one of the finest” back in those days and will always be missed.

Jerry Sumner - March 23, 2024 at 01:42 PM

KW

Such a great memory; thank you for sharing it. We agree that he was one of the good guys! Blessings, Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 24, 2024 at 05:52 PM

JH

“ Kathy & Family - My deepest condolences on the passing of Mr Bowers. Prayers & Love 🙏
Jimmy



Jimmy Howell - March 23, 2024 at 10:19 AM

KW

Thank you so much, Jimmy. Blessings, Kathy

Kathryn Wells - March 24, 2024 at 05:51 PM

GO

“ Kathy ai am so sorry to hear about your dad's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers



Grady O'Neal - March 22, 2024 at 06:54 PM

KW

Thank you so much, Grady. Blessings, Kathy

Kathryn Wells - March 22, 2024 at 07:22 PM

JG

“ Very sorry to hear of Roy's passing. He was a good man and I thought highly of him. Prayers for Kathy and Celeste and their families.



Jeff Galloway - March 22, 2024 at 04:15 PM

KW

*Thank you so much, Jeff; he thought highly of you, too! Blessings,
Kathy*

Kathryn Wells - March 22, 2024 at 07:21 PM

RW

“ *We are so sorry to hear about Roy. He was such a nice gentleman.
Celeste, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during
this most difficult time.*

Rhonda and Jimmy Watkins - March 21, 2024 at 09:51 PM

KW

Thank you so much! ~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 22, 2024 at 07:21 PM

MB

“ *Working with Roy was a pleasure. So sorry to hear he has passed.*

Mike Bullington - March 21, 2024 at 12:22 PM

KW

Thank you so much, Mr. Bullington. ~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 21, 2024 at 05:20 PM

MB

“ *Mike Bullington lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Roy Lee Bowers*



Mike Bullington - March 21, 2024 at 12:19 PM

KB

“ *Kathy Beasley lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Roy Lee Bowers*



Kathy Beasley - March 21, 2024 at 08:29 AM

AW

“*Kathy Bowers was one of the best friends I had in high school, and we had a weekend radio show at WHSC 1450 AM in the mid to late 1980s. I was back door company at the home of Roy and Priscilla Bowers those years at the Bowers home on Hartsville’s Ballentine Drive. Kathy was the sister I always wanted, and her dad, Roy, died this week.*

The list is long of good things, great things, we could say about Roy Bowers. Last week I jotted down just the first things that came to mind. It didn’t take long to make a long list, I won’t say them all, but here’s a few things about him we want to mark, highlight, articulate, and honor.

For over 50 years of courtship and marriage, Roy was nothing less than a servant husband, devoted to Priscilla’s best in every way he could. Mrs. Bowers died in 2011, and was one of the finest women I knew.

Roy raised children who were as committed to him as he was to them. Celeste and Kathy are saints to me. He modeled so clearly what it means to love and care for your family and provide for them. I’ve learned recently, as I went to see Roy these last two months, so much about being a responsible man from Roy, and I hope I can serve others half as well as as he did.

For as long as I knew him, Roy followed Jesus as best he knew how, and was absolutely devoted to his Christian faith. It’s also true, that Roy was absolutely not perfect, and he’d be the first to tell you. But still he modeled what it means to keep on trying to change and grow, even into old age when it’s hardest.

All these things are the important things that make for a good life. I’m not even mentioning his successful Sonoco career, the church he helped that now has hundreds of people in it, or the many lives he touched, mine included.

*In the Christian tradition, there is such a thing called “a good death”. My sister gave Amy and me a book that has come to be so helpful. It’s title comes from another phrase from the Christian tradition. It’s called *The Art of Dying* by Rob Moll, and in his own death, Roy painted a masterpiece. It will hang in our memories til we see him again like a Rembrandt or Van Gogh or Monet hangs on the wall of a museum, to be considered, and contemplated, and to be blessed by, and taught by.*

When someone you love is dying, what do you do? You get mad, and you cry. That’s what a human does.

But do you know, that in the face of death, that’s what God does too? God gets angry, and God weeps.

We heard the reading today from John 11, the story in the Bible about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. The text explicitly tells us that Jesus considered Lazarus a friend, and loved him very much. What other God would you want than one who loves us, and calls us friends?

We see two reactions and one action from Jesus Christ, the God-Man, Jesus Christ, God made flesh, God come to earth as a man, God with us, Emmanuel, Jesus of Nazareth.

One reaction is from the verse that we can all memorize this morning! It’s the shortest verse of the Bible, John 11.35. How did Jesus react to the death of someone he loved? “Jesus wept.” Jesus cried deeply. He didn’t just get misty, or shed a tear, or even just two. Jesus wept. He was sad, Jesus was really sad. I don’t know what your god is like or what kind of god you want, but I really appreciate a God who can cry, and knows what it’s like weep and mourn. I want a God who knows what it’s like to feel what I feel, a God who can comfort me because he knows. Jesus is that God.

So when Jesus confronted death, he hated it. Two reactions and one action: He got mad, he was sad...and then he conquered it’s finality. The Bible says that Jesus said, “Lazarus, come out!”, and Lazarus was raised from the dead, and came out. This is

foreshadowing what Jesus himself is about to go through himself, and is a clear picture of the hope that Jesus holds out for all of us who will die, and we all will, and for those of us who have lost ones, like we've lost Roy.

Friends, this is a critical and clear part of the Christian message and the teaching of the Bible, that Jesus Christ has power over death, and that he himself went through it, and conquered it through his own resurrection, so that death doesn't have to have the last word, that death doesn't get the final say, that it is not in fact the final separation from those we love, nor is death the final separation from the God who loves us.

Yes, there is sting. But our hope in Jesus, and Bill's hope in Jesus, and now Roy's presence with Jesus, makes that sting so much easier to bear. As St. Paul says, "We grieve, but not as those without hope." Yes, we grieve, but deeper than that is hope, and it is strong, like love, as strong as death.

This is not the sort of occasion to tell anybody what to do. Still I think there are a few things we can learn from the good life of a good man who had a good death.

I'm just grateful Amy and I knew Roy, and I had a few weeks seeing him again and being with Kathy and Celeste. Roy loved my wife and her organ and piano talents, and thought of her as the saint she is, for the 13 years she served his church, St. Luke, as organist and pianist. Lord, help me be more like Roy Bowers for the rest of my days, living a life for you.

Andy

Andy Williams - March 19, 2024 at 11:11 PM

KW

So very kind, gracious, and generous, Andy; thank you! ~Kathy

Kathryn Wells - March 20, 2024 at 08:53 AM

RS

“ *So very saddened to see this ~
So many wonderful memories of the Bowers
family from THA and St. Luke. Enjoyed being
neighbors on Veranda a few years. Please
know each of you will be in our thoughts and
prayers today, and in the days to come. Sincerely,
Rebecca Skinner
Ben, III*



Rebecca Skinner - March 19, 2024 at 06:16 PM

KW

Thank you so much, Rebecca! ~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 10:00 PM

AB

“ *Allen Burr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roy
Lee Bowers*



Allen Burr - March 19, 2024 at 03:35 PM

JP

“ *Judy Pressley lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Roy Lee Bowers*



Judy Pressley - March 19, 2024 at 02:41 PM

JP

Roy Lee was so special to me and my family. I am so sorry for your loss, hold on to the wonderful memories you have. I will certainly miss him.

Judy Pressley - March 19, 2024 at 02:42 PM

KW

We love you, Judy; thank you! ~Kathy

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 10:01 PM

MS

“*Celeste and Kathy, I am so sorry. Roy was a great neighbor and I will miss waving to him as he passed by our house. I enjoyed our conversations at the mailbox. RIP, Roy. We will miss you on Veranda Way. Mary Lathan*



MaryLathan Steele - March 19, 2024 at 01:15 PM

KW

Thank you so much! He liked living there, and, of course, had the best neighbors! :-) ~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 01:50 PM

JB

Kathy and Celeste, I am so sorry to hear about Roy Lee. He was a kind, Christian man. My fondest memory was the phone call Roy made to me when my dog, Jackson passed away. Roy was a true animal lover. Prayers and love to you both. 💕🙏 Janice

Janice M Bowers - March 19, 2024 at 03:46 PM

KW

Janice, thank you so much. He (and we!) loved Jackson; what a cutie. Love and blessings; we miss you! ~Kathy

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 10:02 PM

SH

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Roy. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. I worked with Roy for many years at Sonoco. He was a great boss and mentor. I have lots of great memories of my time working with him. He was always so proud of you girls and his grandchildren.

Shelia Pender Hodges

Shelia Hodges - March 19, 2024 at 10:28 AM

KW

That's so kind; thank you so much for sharing that sweet remembrance. ~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 01:49 PM

KJ

“ Celeste and Kathy, your Dad was such a dedicated member and volunteer at St. Luke. We will miss him, but it warms my heart to know that he and Priscilla are re-united.

Karen Jeffords - March 19, 2024 at 09:35 AM

KW

Thank you so much! We agree; we will miss him so much, but we're glad he's healthy, whole, Home, and reunited with Mom. ~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 01:47 PM

JM

“ *Joe and Lou McCollum*



Joe and Lou McCollum - March 19, 2024 at 09:21 AM

DJ

“ *David Newsome Jr. lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roy Lee Bowers*



David Newsome Jr. - March 19, 2024 at 08:53 AM

RN

“ *Many fond memories of Roy helping me and others during our many years at Sonoco . God bless his sole .*



Richard A. Nall - March 19, 2024 at 08:25 AM

KW

Thank you so much, Mr. Nall; I know he appreciated working with you!
~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 09:28 AM

JE

“ *A former neighbor, coworker and always a good friend.*

Jack & Judi Elvington - March 19, 2024 at 08:23 AM

KW

Thank you so much, Mr. and Mrs. Elvington. Fond memories of Ballentine, Sonoco, and friendship! ~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 09:26 AM

DS

“ *Mr. Roy I will miss you, you were a wonderful neighbor and I will miss seeing and talking with you at our mailbox. It was a pleasure knowing you. RIP I'm praying for the family 🙏*

Danny and Phoebe Stokes - March 19, 2024 at 07:50 AM

KW

*Thank you so much for your kind remembrance of Dad. Blessings!
~Kathy Bowers Wells*

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 09:25 AM

DM

“ *Debra McElveen lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roy Lee Bowers*



Debra McElveen - March 19, 2024 at 07:47 AM

AW

“ *Dear Celeste and Kathy, remembering your Dad and Mom with much love. Bless you both and your families. Much love, Anna ❤️*

Anna Williams - March 19, 2024 at 05:47 AM

KW

So kind, Mrs. Williams; thank you! We appreciate you. ~Kathy (and Celeste)

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 09:25 AM

CH

Thank you for your kind words, Mrs. Williams!

Celeste Harris - March 21, 2024 at 08:01 AM

BT

“ *Becky Tidwell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roy Lee Bowers*



Becky Tidwell - March 18, 2024 at 09:51 PM

BM

“ *So sorry. Wonderful man. I worked under Roy when first hired at Sonoco. He taught me much.*

Bob McWatty - March 18, 2024 at 09:31 PM

KW

Thank you so much for that kind remembrance, Bob! ~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 09:23 AM

CH

Thank you for your kind words about Dad, Mr. McWatty!

Celeste Harris - March 21, 2024 at 08:01 AM

LT

“ *Linda Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roy Lee Bowers*



Linda Thompson - March 18, 2024 at 09:12 PM

WJ

“ Wayne And Mary Jeffords lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roy Lee Bowers



Wayne and Mary Jeffords - March 18, 2024 at 09:00 PM

JW

“ prayers for comfort and peace during this difficult time

Jennifer C Webb - March 18, 2024 at 08:49 PM

KW

So kind; thank you! ~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 19, 2024 at 09:29 AM

CH

Thank you so much for your prayers, Jennifer.

Celeste Harris - March 21, 2024 at 08:00 AM

LL

“ I worked with Roy at Sonoco for years and had the privilege of sharing in his celebratory retirement. Also, he and Priscilla were our next door neighbors for several years. Many great and memorable times were shared. Prayers, love, and hugs are extended to the Bowers family.

Laura Lester - March 18, 2024 at 08:11 PM

KW

Thank you, Laura, for that sweet remembrance. Mom and Dad appreciated you very much! ~Kathy Bowers Wells

Kathryn Wells - March 18, 2024 at 08:32 PM

SC

Celeste and Joel - we are so sorry to hear of Roy's passing. I had the pleasure of working with Roy at Sonoco. Always a gentleman and mentor to all that worked with him. Please know we are lifting you and your family in our prayers.

Scott and Donna Cameron

Scott H Cameron - March 19, 2024 at 08:28 AM

CH

Laura, Dad enjoyed working with you, and Dad and Mom were blessed to be your neighbors! Hope you and your family are doing well! We appreciate your love and prayers!

Celeste Harris - March 21, 2024 at 08:03 AM

CH

Scott and Donna, thank you so much for your kind words about Dad. We appreciate your prayers!

Celeste Harris - March 21, 2024 at 08:03 AM