



Robert Francis "Bob" Bowles, Sr.

July 4, 1944 - January 16, 2024

Saluda, SC

Robert Bowles, Sr.

Robert "Bob" Francis Bowles, Sr., 79, passed away January 16, 2024, at Lexington Medical Center surrounded by his loved ones.

Born in Buffalo, NY on July 4, 1944, and a son of the late Thomas Therit Bowles and Frances Wilkie Bowles, he was the husband of Ann Rushton Bowles. Mr. Bowles served in the United States Navy Reserves as a Hospital Corpsman at The Philadelphia Naval Hospital. He was a graduate of A.C. Flora Class of 1964 and in 1970 he graduated from the University of South Carolina College of Business Administration. After graduation he became the first Licensed Nursing Home Administrator for Saluda Nursing Center where he served from 1970 - until his retirement in June of 2016. He was proud of the Saluda County ambulance service that was established on July 1, 1974, with having one ambulance and only volunteers. He served as EMS Director, without compensation, until Saluda County assumed its direction in 2014. Under his leadership Saluda Nursing Center expanded from having 40 beds originally to a capacity of 176 beds. Prior to his retirement, he led the renovation and expansion of the therapy department, which was named the Bowles Rehabilitation Department by SNC Board of Directors. During his time as administrator, Mr. Bowles would go to the Nursing Center to be with the family of a resident who had passed away, anytime day or night.

In addition to his full-time career at Saluda Nursing Center and the Saluda County EMS, he purchased Henry's Cleaners and Laundromat and Self-Serve Car Wash in 1983 which he operated with his wife Ann until 1996.

Mr. Bowles was active in the following professional and civic organizations; American College of Nursing Home Administrators, SC Nursing Home Association, SC Health Care Association, Saluda Jaycees, Saluda Investment Club, Saluda County Gamecock Club

and Richland Creek Ruritan Club, and many other civic activities. He was presented the Saluda Farm City Citizen of the year award in 2015 and the Warren McBride award for SC EMS Director of the Year in 2003.

He was a member of Mt. Pleasant Evangelical Lutheran Church, where he served as Past President of the Lutheran Men and Church Council. Over the years, he enjoyed golfing, horseback riding, swimming, and most importantly any activities involving his children and grandchildren. He loved cheering on his Gamecocks in football and baseball.

Surviving alongside his wife of 55 years are a son, Robert Francis Bowles, Jr. "Robby" (Karen) of Aiken, a daughter, Mary Lynn Bowles Barnette (Robert) of Lexington, four grandchildren, Lauren Martin (Dillon), Robert Rushton Bowles, Nathan Barnette, and Luke Barnette, two great-grandchildren, McKinley and Maggie Martin, and two nephews, Thomas Aines of Utah and Steven Aines of Maryland.

Mr. Bowles is preceded in death by a sister, Margaret Aines.

The family will receive friends from 6 – 8 p.m., on Sunday evening, January 21, 2024, at Ramey Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2024, at Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church with Rev. Jim Glander officiating. Interment will follow at Travis Park Cemetery.

Pallbearers are Mike Butler, Chris Crouch, Jim Fisher, Rickey McCary, Terry Minick, Jeff Nordin, Bruce Rushton, and Lauren Yonce. Honorary escort; all current and former employees of Saluda Nursing Center and the EMS.

The family wishes to thank the caring staff of Lexington Medical Center, especially those on the PCU unit, during a very difficult time.

Memorials may be made to Saluda Nursing Center, Restoration of the HydroWorx Therapy Pool, P.O. Box 398, Saluda, SC 29138 or to Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church, 101 N. Calhoun Street, Saluda, SC 29138.

Cemetery Details

Travis Park Cemetery

Travis Avenue
Saluda, SC

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **21**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Ramey Funeral Home
202 N Rudolph St
Saluda, SC 29138
(864) 445-2366

Funeral

JAN **22**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church
101 N. Calhoun Street
Saluda, SC

Tribute Wall

SU

“ Summer lit a candle in memory of Robert Francis Bowles, Sr.



Summer - July 29, 2024 at 08:36 PM

CD

“ Ann,
I was heartbroken for you and your family when I heard that Mr. Bowles had passed. There were many good memories for me from the days we worked together at the Nursing Center.

I work with Mr. Bowles as a vendor for Saluda Nursing Center and he and I built a relationship of trust and respect for each other. I was always impressed with his dedication to the welfare of the patients and to insure their comfort in the facility of Saluda Nursing Center.

He will truly be missed by many and remembered for his work with the Saluda Nursing Center.

Cecil Derrick

Cecil R Derrick - January 21, 2024 at 11:23 AM

TJ

“ Teddy Jordan lit a candle in memory of Robert Francis Bowles, Sr.



Teddy Jordan - January 20, 2024 at 09:52 PM

TC

“ Thinking of you!

Tammie Covington and Sandra Warren

Tammie Warren Covington - January 20, 2024 at 07:30 PM

RT

Prayers 🙏🙏

Robby Thomas - January 22, 2024 at 07:43 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Francis "Bob" Bowles, Sr..

January 20, 2024 at 01:54 PM

SO

“ His positivity and enthusiasm always brightened our conversations. His support for our band program was limitless and greatly appreciated. His dedication to the welfare of the citizens of Saluda County can not be overstated. The world has lost one of the good guys!
Steven O'Kelley

Steven O'Kelley - January 20, 2024 at 10:32 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Francis "Bob" Bowles, Sr..



January 20, 2024 at 09:19 AM



“ Written in the Stars was purchased for the family of Robert Francis "Bob" Bowles, Sr..



January 19, 2024 at 11:29 AM

KD

“ Kelli Parrish & Phyllis Dixon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Francis "Bob" Bowles, Sr..

Kelli Parrish & Phyllis Dixon - January 19, 2024 at 11:29 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Robert Francis "Bob" Bowles, Sr..*



January 19, 2024 at 11:03 AM

SH

“ *I remember the first time that I met Bob. He was walking Ann back to our dorm at USC. We stopped and Ann introduced me to him, her boyfriend. They both looked so happy. Ann, I am so sorry for your loss. May God provide you and your family strength to cope through this grieving process. Love you Ann.*
b

Sethalene Huff - January 19, 2024 at 10:31 AM

SH

“ *Huff lit a candle in memory of Robert Francis Bowles, Sr.*



Sethalene Huff - January 19, 2024 at 10:26 AM

LR

“ *Ann, I was heartbroken for you and the family when I saw Bob had passed. Ann, so many memories from Doctor Sawyer's with you and Bob. Remember the home births and Bob being right there. He was so passionate about the nursing home and finding ways to help Saluda county. He became a true Saluda resident through marriage; and, even brought his mom and Dad to Saluda. He will always be remembered for his kindness and work with the nursing home. But for me, I'll always remember how much he loved you (Ann) and the children.*

*Linda Rago (Berry)
Solomons Island Maryland*

Linda Rago - January 19, 2024 at 10:20 AM

TF

“ Ann and Family, we are sorry to hear of your loss. Saluda County was very fortunate to have Bob—a very dedicated citizen.



Terry and Miriam Forrest - January 19, 2024 at 10:02 AM

WG

“ William, and Brenda Goodman lit a candle in memory of Robert Francis Bowles, Sr.



William, Naomi and Brenda Goodman - January 19, 2024 at 09:55 AM

SB

“ Ann and family, I am so grieved to hear of the loss of your husband Bob. He was such an integral part of the Saluda community. Blessings to you all as you grieve for him now and in the future.

Selma Smith Bettis - January 19, 2024 at 09:29 AM

JS

“ Cousin Bob was a wonderful person and an inspiration always upbeat and supportive. He will certainly be missed. Jeffrey Stull Williamsburg Va.

Jeffrey Stull - January 19, 2024 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ It's so sad to hear the news about you Mr. Bob. I will always remember you. I have lots of memories of you. I will always do my job as you have told me to do. (Walk behind your residents when it their last walk) I have been doing it an will as long as I'm there. RIP Mr. Bob.



Linda Gray - January 18, 2024 at 11:47 PM

CE

Will never forget you. You were not only my boss but a good friend during my times of need. When my house burnt you came. When you saw me in pain you made it to where I could be off to have my surgery. You checked on me more than once. I'll never forget the compassion you had for others. My prayers are with Ms Ann and their children.

Crystal Edwards - January 20, 2024 at 05:15 PM

MD

“ Robby, Karen, Ruston, Ms Ann & extended Bowles Family. Our thoughts & prayers are with you at this most difficult time. Our Mother had an extended stay at Saluda Nursing Home, not only was the care excellent, she was visited personally in her room by Mr Bowles & Ms Ann. He was such a caring, giving person & was a great asset to Saluda SC. He will be surely missed!
May your beautiful memories help to sustain you All !
Sincerely Ron & Mirinda Disher & Family

Mirinda & Ron Disher - January 18, 2024 at 02:54 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Francis "Bob" Bowles, Sr..



January 18, 2024 at 12:55 PM

RS

“ Richard Starling lit a candle in memory of Robert Francis Bowles, Sr.



Richard Starling - January 18, 2024 at 11:16 AM

RS

“ He meant a lot to Saluda he worked hard and we would be lost without the nursing home RIP.

Richard Starling - January 18, 2024 at 11:15 AM