



Burl Jeffrey Bowman

June 17, 1959 - June 30, 2021

Burl J. Bowman Obituary

Burl Jeffrey Bowman left this earth to be with his Lord and Savior of his soul on June 30th, 2021.

Burl grew up in the small desert community of Morongo Valley, California attending the local schools and graduating from Yucca Valley High School. Much of his youth was spent exploring the desert floor and eventually working at the wildlife preserve in Morongo Canyon giving private tours sharing his knowledge of the local flora and fauna. After graduating high school Burl spent time in San Diego attending community college and starting his own lawn and garden service. Eventually, Burl moved back to his hometown and under the tutelage of his brother (John Snowden) he began developing the skill set of small engine repair. During this time, Burl worked for Walter Annenberg at the Annenberg Estate in Rancho Mirage then managed a small engine shop for Floyd Burcham (Floyd's True Value) in Bakersfield, CA and here in Visalia for Jensen & Pilegard. In the years to follow, Burl became a representative for Briggs & Stratton throughout the Central Valley and coastal region instructing mechanics and sales teams on small engine equipment. Burl used his mechanical skills to benefit future employers in steam and hot water boiler applications, as well as oil and racing fuel distribution.

Before retiring due to illness, Burl would finish a 16-year career as a locomotive engineer for San Joaquin Valley Railroad operating out of Exeter, CA. If there was a skill to learn in a fascinating industry, Burl ensured that he

mastered it. He took great satisfaction in doing all tasks with precision. Burl felt if you cannot do quality work, you were revealing a character and ethical flaw and you did not deserve the job.

Burl attended Visalia United Methodist Church periodically throughout his residency in Visalia. He was involved with his children in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Royal Rangers over the years and volunteered at his wife's schools in events that enriched student learning and experiences.

Burl is survived by his wife of 34 years Kim D. Bowman and their children: Joe & Rachel (Bowman) Weaver; Brycent & Kelli Kamehaiku; Aaron & Michelle Bowman; George & Samantha (Bowman) Southwick and preceded in death by daughter Krista Bowman. Burl also leaves behind 13 grandchildren, all whom he loved dearly.

The family will be hosting a Celebration of Life at their Visalia residence. If you wish to attend and share memories with the family, please contact Samantha Southwick at (559) 967-0652 for specific details. Any monetary gifts Burl would have asked to be given to a local school site of your choice, Tulare County Office of Education Migrant Services, or Divisadero Middle School in Visalia to benefit student activities and academic programs.

Tribute Wall

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“ *Burl Bowman*

I am lucky to have been your friend, I mean a real friend, someone I loved and I knew he loved me....we could hug like brothers and when we met after long distances of time we could hug and laugh like we hadn't missed a beat.

I am lucky in that my memories, you will always be that strong, surly, hard headed, tough as nails, hard drinking, live by my rules and most of all...heart of gold Burl

You were and always will be that guy that was tough and easy to love at the same time, for me it was always love, a dear friend.

The moments we had together are precious, and even though I don't live them every day over and over again...they are my moments to enjoy when I see them either in a dream or if I am just having a bad day and need to remember pure moments of silliness, laughter and fun.

I close my eyes and I can hear your booming laugh roaring in my head, I see your eager grin, always from ear to ear and that devilish sparkle in your eyes.

Although we hadn't seen each other in many years, I will always have you in my memories my friend

Thank you Burl 😊

Your friend Charlie

Kim Bowman - July 09, 2021 at 11:10 AM