



John Abington Bowen

July 20, 2015

John Abington Bowen, 69, of Waterview, died on July 20 at Maryview Medical Center after a long and valiant battle with various medical problems over the years. He was born to the late and beloved Mary Virginia and Joseph N. Bowen. He is survived and cherished by his sister, Emma Elizabeth Bowen of Portsmouth, several cousins, and some dear friends.

He attended Portsmouth public schools and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School where he was on the school tennis team and the marching and concert bands. He was an excellent musician, being named number one to the all-state band two consecutive years as a percussionist. He developed a lifelong love for music and was sought after as a professional musician for years. He began his musical career with the Frank Johnson Trio and performed throughout the Hampton Roads area for private functions, and also was in the Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

John attended the University of Virginia and graduated from Old Dominion University with a B. A. degree in Mathematics. While at Old Dominion University, he was in the school orchestra, and Alpha Tau Omega social fraternity. John also obtained a M. S. degree in Guidance and Counseling from Old Dominion University and completed the course work for a doctorate (Ph.D) in Educational Research and Administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

John worked for both the Portsmouth and Chesapeake school systems, retiring from the Chesapeake school system after 25 years of service, because of permanent health problems. He began his career as a Teacher and then was a Guidance Counselor, Guidance Director, and Assistant Principal.

Upon retirement, John knew his family needed him and he devoted himself to being a caretaker for his family. He gladly assumed home and family responsibilities for years, as his parents succumbed to the disabling effects of aging and health problems of their own. He was an outstanding caretaker, being knowledgeable in the use of medications and developed another skill, cooking, in the process.

John was a wonderful person, an exceptional person, in so many ways, including his vast knowledge and wisdom, many talents, high standards, and his dedication to his family. He believed that everything should be done right, the best way possible, and there were no exceptions to this rule.

He helped so many people in various ways over the years through his work and family life, giving his all to past endeavors as needed. He met life's challenges with determination and fortitude. He never gave up despite the obstacles he encountered, and experienced years of health problems of increasing severity and disability. He was a person of tremendous strength of character.

He was a life-long member of Monumental United Methodist Church.

The family would like to extend special thanks and appreciation to those who came to the home to care for John for the past two years: Corinne Dempsey, Latonya Foreman, Jhakayla Graham, Enjoli Hill, Jasmine Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Marquita Jones, and Paige Thomas.

John's death is a great loss to the world. How will we manage without his quick, brilliant mind and his "fix it" ability no matter what the problem is? He was much loved and admired. He was one of a kind.

A funeral will be held at Monumental United Methodist Church at 2:00 P.M. Saturday with Reverend Joseph Cailles officiating. Burial will follow in Olive Branch Cemetery. The family suggests memorial contributions to Monumental United Methodist Church. Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel is handling the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Olive Branch Cemetery

#2 CPL James Williams Ave.
Portsmouth, VA 23701

Previous Events

service

JUL **25**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Monumental United Methodist Church
450 Dinwiddie St.
Portsmouth, VA

Tribute Wall

FB

“ *John and I worked together at Chesapeake Schools for several years. He was always concerned about the student's well being and worked hard to make positive changes in student's behavior. John had a lot of integrity and always had a positive attitude. We need more John Bowen's in the world.*

Frank Brothers

frank brothers - July 26, 2015 at 06:34 AM

BK

“ *Emma, you have my deepest sympathy at the death of your much loved brother. He was a fine man and an outstanding career teacher, truly a good and kind servant of mankind.*

You have remained in my thoughts as you endured the pain of loss this week.

May he rest in peace.

Bernie Kirsch - July 25, 2015 at 04:36 PM

JA

“ *John was a kind and gentle soul. We worked together when he was a counselor and I was a new teacher to Cheapeake Schools. He always focused on the good in people, no matter the situation. I was so sorry to learn that he was ill for several years, but glad to know he had such loving care. Jan Andrejco*

Jan Andrejco - July 24, 2015 at 05:34 AM

PS

“ *Emma, you are in my thoughts and prayers this week. John was blessed to have such a loving and caring sister who was always there for him. Comfort yourself with the wonderful memories that you have and knowledge that you did everything that you could for him.*

Pamela Sexton

Pamela Sexton - July 23, 2015 at 07:49 PM

SS

May your memories give you comfort and our Lord bring you peace during this difficult time.

Sandra Shelton - July 24, 2015 at 05:51 AM



Emma and Family,

I had the pleasure to work with John occasionally during his years with Chesapeake Schools and remember him as a kind, gentle, insightful and wise professional. He always made me feel welcome when I visited him about a student. I'm sorry to hear that his last years were spent in such pain. May he rest in loving peace. Jeffrey Shelton

Jeffrey Shelton - July 29, 2015 at 07:32 AM