



Deacon Gregory E. Bowers

December 12, 1950 - July 20, 2021

Deacon Gregory E. Bowers, son of the late Samuel V. Bowers and the late Sally Melissa (Smith) Bowers, was born December 12, 1950, in Rahway, NJ.

A graduate of Rahway High School, Deacon Bowers pursued higher educational endeavors receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Antioch University and completion of USWA Certificate of Participation Economics Education Program.

As a faithful member of Gospel Fellowship Church, Harrisburg, PA, he served as Deacon, Treasurer and with the Finance Committee.

In 2010, Deacon Bowers retired from Arcelor Mittal USA Steel Corporation, Steelton, PA, and served as President of Local Union 1688 (Steelworkers). He was a member of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship.

On Tuesday, July 20, 2021, Deacon Bowers transitioned from time to eternity. He leaves a legacy to be honored and lovingly remembered by his wife, Janice C. Bowers of Harrisburg, PA; one brother, Samuel V. Bowers II of Rahway, NJ; sons, Drew G. Bowers, Derek E. Bowers, Derrel S. Bowers, Devon W. Bowers, all of Harrisburg, PA; daughters, Deanna N. Bowers, Deidre M. Bowers, Deon S. Bowers, Derah E. Bowers, Delaine J. Bowers, Doriane N. Bowers, all of Harrisburg, PA; sister-in-law, Phyllis J. Boanes of

Richmond, Indiana; cousins, Carl Bowers, Thomas Bowers, Stanley Bowers, Val Bowers, William Peterson, all of New Jersey; other family members and friends.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY YOUR NAME.

CLICK ON THE PHOTOS & VIDEOS ON-LINE STREAMING OF SERVICE TAB OR MEDIA TAB (MOBILE) AND TRIBUTE WEBCAST TO VIEW SERVICE.

Cemetery Details

Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens

6701 Jonestown Rd
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Previous Events

Flower Delivery

JUL 27. 8:30 AM (ET)

Gospel Fellowship Church
1635 N. 7th Street
Harrisburg, PA, PA

Viewing

JUL 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Gospel Fellowship Church
1635 N. 7th Street
Harrisburg, PA, PA

Service

JUL 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gospel Fellowship Church
1635 N. 7th Street
Harrisburg, PA, PA

Tribute Wall



“ Wallace Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Deacon Gregory E. Bowers



Wallace Funeral Directors - July 27, 2021 at 08:17 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Deacon Gregory E. Bowers.



July 26, 2021 at 12:25 PM



“ Janice I am so sorry to hear about your husband's passing. I will be praying for you and your family. Blessings.
Respectfully yours,
Ms Sarah L. Guider-Robinson



Sarah Guider-Robinson - July 25, 2021 at 02:59 AM

BC

“ *Bill Peterson, cousin purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Deacon Gregory E. Bowers.*



Bill Peterson, cousin - July 24, 2021 at 02:13 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Deacon Gregory E. Bowers.*



July 24, 2021 at 02:10 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Deacon Gregory E. Bowers.*



July 24, 2021 at 02:09 PM

IG

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Ike Gittlen - July 23, 2021 at 03:11 PM

IG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



ike Gittlen - July 23, 2021 at 10:31 AM

CP

“ Carol Pettusberry lit a candle in memory of
Deacon Gregory E. Bowers



Carol Pettusberry - July 23, 2021 at 01:19 AM

CP

Deacon Bowers was one of the first people I meet when I came to Gospel Fellowship church. He always had a smile. When I would come to Bible Study and it was dark when we came out he would follow me home to make sure I got home safe in my wheelchair in the dark. I will miss him, may God. bless you all and that he will send the comforter. Be bless everyone. Sister Carol

Carol Pettusberry - July 23, 2021 at 01:24 AM

On Saying Goodbye: How do you say goodbye to your best friend, the guy that always had your back, the best man at your wedding, the person you could always trust...with anything. But my buddy and partner in our union, Greg Bowers, is gone.

After years of kidney disease and dialysis, his body simply wore out. This is one of those times when you have to dig deep for the great memories that hold a wounded heart together.

As you will see in the testimonials about this father, Steelworker, union leader and the humanist of beings, Greg Bowers was unusual. He was that perfectly balanced mix of intellect, compassion, perceptiveness, courage, good humor and dedication to service. Most will first remember Greg's smile. Always there, always welcoming, never judgmental.

I met Greg when he came to work at Bethlehem Steel's Steelton Plant. It was one of those friendships that you don't quite remember how it started. It just seemed like it was always there. Greg wasn't the standout in the crowd. He wasn't loud. He didn't even work at friendships. He didn't have to. He had a decent and pleasant demeanor that naturally drew people to him. Ultimately, thousands of Steelworkers would come to trust him with their problems and trust him to lead. He spoke quietly, but people listened.

He and I went through the fight to save a little Steel Mill in the midst of an industry collapse. We fought a company approach that would have stripped us all of any decency on or off the job. We fought political wars so the Union could proactively address those problems. We went back to George Meany Labor College together to better equip ourselves to engage in these battles. At the same time, we went through the joy and difficulties of marriage and raising families. We leaned on each other, relied on each other, made mistakes together and succeeded together.

I can't remember a moment, even in the most difficult fights, when Greg wasn't solidly there. Nor do I remember a time when he pulled any punches when he thought I was off course. If he differed, I listened. He also has a unique way of diffusing my anger and clearing my view. Usually by some humor and perspective. Sometimes by just saying "man, you're wrong"! He made me a better leader and we made better decisions together.

Greg succeeded me as President of the Steelton USW Local Union. And sadly, he developed kidney problems. He never complained or sought sympathy. True to his nature, he told me he was going to retire because the dialysis kept him from traveling. He didn't feel he was giving the membership the President they deserved.

He was a proud and significant human being. He was a black man who confronted racism by insisting there were no barriers he wouldn't overcome. He was a friend to many. His advice guided people to better places. His impact on me is that with his passing, a piece of me has died too.

I have taken this space to honor Greg because he is a significant loss. He was a contributor to a better union, a better America. Also, to note the passing of the kind of human being that is a model for us all.

To understand the depth and principle of this man I will leave you with this. Greg has a large family. He refused to consider any of them donating a kidney to him. He said kidney disease was hereditary and his kids might need both of theirs when they got older. It should be said that he loved them more than life itself.

So how do you say goodbye to this kind of friend and human being? I don't know. I'm afraid I can't.

ike Gittlen - July 23, 2021 at 10:29 AM

BP

*God has another Angel in Heaven. I know when the Lord saw Greg coming he said, "You Did Good, Job Well Done. God's finger touched him and he slept. God put a Rainbow in the Sky.
Bill Peterson*

Bill Peterson - July 24, 2021 at 03:06 PM

SB

“ To the Bowers family. I'm so hurt by the passing of my Deacon Bowers. We loved him so much.. I'm praying for you all..

Stephanie L. Bates - July 23, 2021 at 01:11 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Deacon Gregory E. Bowers.*



July 22, 2021 at 07:58 PM



“ *To the Bowers family, you have my deepest sympathy.*
Sherry Robison Holloway

Sherry Robison Holloway - July 22, 2021 at 07:47 PM



May GOD grant my friend Gregory "Bomber" Bowers eternal peace and rest. May GOD bless ghe family during this time of loss. GOD Bless William Gerald Thorpe

William Thorpe - July 23, 2021 at 05:44 PM