



## Lester B. Bowles

May 17, 1933 - September 7, 2023

Dateline: Godfrey

Lester B. Bowles, peacefully entered heaven at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, September 7, 2023. He was born May 17, 1933 in Litchfield, IL, the son of Byron Brooks and Verna Lillian (Besanceney) Bowles. Les served in the U.S. Air Force as a radio operator on a B-29 during the Korean War. On September 12, 1959, he married Joanne Louise Gent in Alton. She survives. Together they shared 64 years of marriage. In 1972 he purchased Gent Funeral Home from his in-laws, Ralph A. and Eleanor Louise (Winter) Gent and was still active with the funeral home as chairman of the board. He was a member of Heartland Baptist Church in Alton. In addition to his wife, Joanne, he is survived by his children, Lynn Hoffman and her husband Michael, Ralph Bowles and his wife Dawn, Laura Bosse' and Louise Jacoby and her husband Stephen, six grandchildren, Nathanael Hoffman, Benjamin Bowles, Dr. Emma and her husband Dr. Kade Kanelakos, Josie Bowles, Joseph Bosse' and Samuel Bosse', and one great granddaughter, Karter Lynnette Kanelakos. Also surviving is his sister, Gerry Johnston of Litchfield, IL, and a sister-in-law, Bertie Bowles of Chattanooga, TN. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Derald Bowles, and a brother-in-law, Carl Johnston. Visitation will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Monday, September 11, 2023 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton where funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Reverend Alex Melton and Reverend Andre' Dobson will

officiate. Burial will be at Valhalla Memorial Park in Godfrey. Memorials may be made to Heartland Baptist Church in Alton or Calvary Baptist Church in Alton. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Valhalla Memorial Park

2308 W. Delmar Ave.  
Godfrey, IL 62035

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 11. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home Inc  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral

SEP 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home Inc  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ I have known Mr Bowles going back to when his daughter Lynn and I were good friends. Be it making a pizza at their lovely home to playing frisbee in the upper parking lot, and many other good times in between, I grew to love the Bowles family. Mr Bowles always spoke and was so kind, positive, and sincere. As many of you have alluded to, Mr Bowles played a very important role in our lives at one of the most difficult times in our lives And he did this with great grace and dignity for each family he served. We thank you Mr Bowles for all you have done for us. And now this same legacy lives on in the caring, dignity, and grace that Ralph has learned so well from his Father. I thank you all and will be keeping you in my thoughts and prayers . Love to you all,  
Donna C Hardbeck

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**Donna C Hardbeck** - September 12, 2023 at 10:42 PM

KM

“ I hope this might reach the family. Every time I hear of a friend leaving us and making the trip to be with the Lord it saddens me even while I rejoice that Less knew our Lord. I also appreciate his attendance at Heartland BC. We shared many moments together and was able to establish a friendship and respect for one another. Please accept our condolences from Southern Florida. Rev Dr Ken and Donna Morgan.

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**Ken Morgan** - September 12, 2023 at 02:46 PM

JH

“ Dearest Joanne, We are feeling heavy hearted that we can not attend Lester's funeral. Ken is just not strong enough yet from 28 radiation treatments for prostate cancer and 2 surgeries to travel 3 hours. At our age regaining strength after months of treatments is very slow and frustrating but we have the memories of the fun times we spent together in Florida! Those were some of the best times in our life. They went too quickly. Ken has great memories of the cousins playing baseball in the pasture. Tuesday our thoughts and prayers will be with you and your family. In Christ, Ken & Judy Hart

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**Judy Hart** - September 11, 2023 at 09:13 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Lester B. Bowles.



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September 11, 2023 at 04:32 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Lester B. Bowles.



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September 11, 2023 at 10:13 AM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Lester B. Bowles.*



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September 11, 2023 at 08:20 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Lester B. Bowles.*



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September 10, 2023 at 09:01 PM



“ *To you all, our heartfelt sympathy on the passing of Les. He was a wonderful man and so caring and kind to all. Many, many people appreciated him and his care. Sincere sympathy to your Mother as well.*

*Susie & Rohland Pruetzel*

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**Susie Pruetzel** - September 10, 2023 at 12:29 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lester B. Bowles.*



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September 09, 2023 at 06:52 PM

BL

“ To the Bowles family, Catherine and I offer our deepest sympathy for the loss of your Husband, Father, Grandfather and friend to so many.

Mr Bowles was a wonderful person who was so kind to everyone and always had a smile followed by a good word to say. He was a friend to my family. Growing up in the area and being friends with Ralph since we were kids, I was always welcomed in their home and occasionally we would cross the street to see what his dad was doing and maybe even play hide and seek in the funeral home (not in the restricted areas).

Wishing you all comfort during this difficult time.

Brad and Catherine Lister

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**Brad and Catherine Lister** - September 09, 2023 at 05:44 PM

TB

“ The Buchanans purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Lester B. Bowles.



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**The Buchanans** - September 09, 2023 at 11:29 AM

TB

“ The Buchanans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lester B. Bowles.

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**The Buchanans** - September 09, 2023 at 11:29 AM

JM

“ *Jeremy Ashley Khloe and Ma purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Lester B. Bowles.*



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**Jeremy Ashley Khloe and Ma** - September 09, 2023 at 10:23 AM

DG

“ *Donna Gent (Daughter of Richard A Gent) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Lester B. Bowles.*



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**Donna Gent (Daughter of Richard A Gent)** - September 09, 2023 at 02:00 AM

RA

“ *Ralph and family sorry for your lost condolences and prayers Richard and Faye Arney*



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**Richard & Faye Arney** - September 08, 2023 at 10:49 PM

PC

“ *Private Label Caskets purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Lester B. Bowles.*



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**Private Label Caskets** - September 08, 2023 at 08:18 PM

PC

“ *Private Label Caskets planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lester B. Bowles.*

Private Label Caskets - September 08, 2023 at 08:18 PM

MI

“ *Michelle LeMay - Pekin Life Insurance purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Lester B. Bowles.*



Michelle LeMay - Pekin Life Insurance - September 08, 2023 at 07:06 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Lester B. Bowles.*



September 08, 2023 at 05:25 PM

BH

“ *Ralph, Louise and family. I am so sorry for your loss. Your father was a good man and a good friend to my family. Prayers to you all*

Becky (Venlet) Hartman - September 08, 2023 at 03:54 PM