



Donald E. "Don" Bowman

April 10, 1948 - August 21, 2020

The following obituary was written by Don and requested it be used with no changes.

On , Friday, August 21, 2020, Don Bowman completed his journey. It began in Lebanon at the dark of the moon, 1948, as the son of the late George C. Bowman, Jr. and his wife, Doris (Harbold).

The curiosity and love of learning that were an integral part of his character took him across countries, continents, and oceans in pursuit of knowledge and experience. But his most joyful voyage was his marriage of 38 years to his beloved wife, Bonnie, and sharing the pride in seeing their son, Tom, grow into a good and decent man who found his own great love, Jennifer.

Don's family all shared a love of music: he was particularly fond of Classical and Jazz. The study of history was a lifelong passion. He shared with his father and son a generational fascination with cars and motorcycles of all eras. Railroading, baseball, collecting antique canes and vesta cases, classic detective stories—especially the Sherlock Holmes canon— these were just some of Don's many interests. Not surprisingly, he enjoyed partnering with Bonnie in trivia contests as Team Bearclaws. One of his favorite ways to spend an evening was with friends enjoying good food and drink, good talk, and much laughter.

In his time, Don was a linguist, an actor and director, a college instructor and factory worker, a drama critic, car salesman, and nationally recognized advertising writer.

Locally, Don may be best remembered as the host of WLBR's RadioTalk for two decades. Although he had not been on air since high school, Don soon found it the most congenial possible way to make a living—an avowed foe of routine, he delighted in the fact that no two days were ever the same.

To the end of his days, Don remained grateful to Lebanon Broadcasting for the opportunity and to the hundreds of guest and thousands of callers who kept things lively and unpredictable.

At Don's request, there will be no funeral or memorial service. Scattering of his ashes will be private. Should you wish to do something to remember him, Don would ask that you attend a live performance by a local organization. See a play. Hear a concert. Support your local arts communities.

Don and his family are all dedicated animal lovers; should you wish to offer a tangible remembrance, a contribution to the Lebanon County Humane Society, Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue, Big Fluffy Dog Rescue, or Carolina Loving Hound Rescue would be deeply appreciated.

Finally, Don asks that you find a way to be kind as you hope for kindness, tolerate as you desire tolerance, and love as you would be loved.

Tribute Wall



“ Donald E. "Don" Bowman

October 22, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ Donald E. "Don" Bowman

October 06, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ Donald E. "Don" Bowman

October 05, 2023 at 11:43 PM



“ *Is this the Don Bowman who graduated from Franklin and Marshall College? If so I'm so sorry. Don was so smart. He loved books and the theater. He was a fine person.*

Barb Lieberman - September 15, 2020 at 06:47 PM



“ *I was fortunate to interview Don for a profile in the local newspaper in the late 90s. Don and his family welcomed me into their home and he shared openly about his interests, his collections, and his perspectives. Don seemed to effortlessly and openly welcome and integrate WLBR callers' varied perspectives and experiences, even when they were less than kind. He was a true gentleman and set a positive example for all of us.*

Tom - September 08, 2020 at 11:45 AM

AG

“ Our family is very sorry for the loss of Don Bowman and will keep Bonnie, Tom and Jennifer in our thoughts and prayers. Kiwi Alice, John, Eric Gibble



Alice Gibble - September 05, 2020 at 10:20 AM

JD

“ We were classmates for 13 years (from Mrs. Roland’s kindergarten through Lebanon High) - he was always a walking encyclopedia of knowledge on just about any subject. I fondly remember his generosity as each year in elementary school he would bring for each class member a bright-colored ball from his dad’s factory.

Later, I admired his ability to remain calm and gracious on WLBR when some of the same people called in daily with outlandish ‘facts’ and conspiracy theories. He demonstrated tolerance.

Jim Detwiler

Jim Detwiler - August 31, 2020 at 08:28 AM

JO

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Bonnie, Tom, and Jennifer on the passing of your husband and father. We are so very sorry for your loss. It was so nice to see Don enjoying all of the wonderful music at Tom and Jen's wedding.

~ David and Julie Osborne

Julie Osborne - August 25, 2020 at 04:45 PM