



Major Charles R. Bowen, Retired

July 18, 1925 - November 5, 2013

Early on November 5, 2013 USAF, Retired Major Charles R. (Chuck) Bowen passed away, at home, surrounded by family. Charles was born in Cairo, IL on July 18th, 1925, raised in South Fulton, TN and lived in Albuquerque, NM for the majority of his life. After graduating high school he joined the Navy and served as a Radio Man on a PBY. He attended Colorado State University, Fort Collins graduating in 1952 earning a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and receiving his commission to the USAF. While serving as a fighter pilot in The Star Fighters Air Wing Group, he was recognized as the 419th pilot to ever break the sound barrier. He faithfully served during WWII, Korea and Vietnam. During his service in Vietnam he was awarded with The Distinguished Flying Cross and the Gallantry Cross with the Silver Star and many other medals and awards. After retirement in 1969 from the Air Force, he worked as a engineer for the Naval Weapons Evaluation Facility on KAFB. Charles was a master gunsmith, angler and avid hunter. He was well known for his beautiful hand crafted gun stocks and checkering. He is survived by his sister, Elisabeth(Bettye) Beall; a son Lyle D. Bowen; two daughters Lori Laiche and Ella Stoakes; sons-in-law Thomas Laiche and James P. Stoakes; a nephew Stan Beall and niece Elisabeth (Libby) Bream. Services will be held at FRENCH – Lomas on Saturday November 16, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.. Interment will be at Santa Fe National Cemetery on Monday, November 18, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. Please visit our online guest book for Charles at www.FrenchFunerals.com.

Cemetery Details

Santa Fe National Cemetery

Santa Fe, NM

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **16**. 11:00 AM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Lomas)

10500 Lomas Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87112

(505) 275-3500

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *French Funerals created a Tribute Video in memory of Major Charles R. Bowen, Retired*



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - November 05, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ *1 file added to the album Major Charles R. Bowen*



Lori - November 30, 2013 at 03:10 PM

LT

“ It was so very sad to hear about Chuck's passing. My condolences to the family in this difficult time.

As I mentioned during Chuck's service, I've know Chuck since about 1968/1969 timeframe when as an Ordnance Chief I was stationed at the Naval weapons Evaluation Facility (NWEF). Later in 1985, NWEF hired me as a civilian and I replaced Chuck in Nuclear Cargo to continue the development of procedures for Air Transportation of Nuclear Weapons by Navy, Army and Marine Corps Transport Aircraft. As I recall, at about the same time Chuck was promoted to the position of Associate Department Head for Code 60 (Tech Pubs). Chuck helped me become a very competent Logistician. He also cleared some road blocks created by a few very unprofessional individuals attempting to prevent me from doing my job. On 4 June 2003, I hosted the 1st NWEF Reunion (ten years after NWEF's Disestablishment) and the bill was \$10,000 more than what was collected. Chuck come through again! I maxed out my card and Chuck picked up the remainder. Chuck was a True Gentleman. It's hard to imagine such a soft spoken, easy going fellow such as Chuck as a Combat Fighter Pilot with 200 Combat Missions! Chuck was a good man and I am a better person for having known him.

If we believe in "The Coming of the Lord" as stated in 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18, it gives us all comfort.

"1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those that fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, and who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those that have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left

will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words."

*Love,
Louie*

PS: I believe that when we die, our Souls go to Heaven and only our body's fall asleep and when The Lord calls or comes for us at the Rapture/caught up:"and the dead in Christ will rise first ... we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together", and our body's will be transformed into Heavenly body's and our Souls will be united with our new Heavenly Body's.

Louis Tafoya - November 28, 2013 at 03:13 PM

LO

Dear Lou, of all the many friends that came to the service, I was especially touched by your speech. It feels so good to hear people talk so highly of both my parents. It takes a lifetime to create the kind of friendships they had with people and I know dad thought of you highly too. Thank you for all you did to assist my sister and I during the service. I wish I could have come to some of the luncheons but work on Thursdays. I love the passages you posted here. It really makes you think about Heaven when someone dies especially one as close as a parent. The only way I can put a smile back on my face is to believe that mom and dad are together again fishing on the stream or talking about what's for dinner. Thank you for being such a good friend to my dad and for telling us the stories between you two. I never knew about the \$10,000 he helped with.

Dad really was a gentleman. Thank you again..Lori

Lori - November 30, 2013 at 03:32 PM

FC

“Lori, Fred and I were great friends to both your Dad and Mother. We spent many good meals with them and all of your family. We enjoy several fishing and hiking trips in the woods of N. Mexico and CO. Fred and Chuck shared a great love of guns - in general some great memories with two great people. We will be together again in the heavens I know.

The very best to you and your entire families.

Fred Combee and Ann Carter

Fred & Ann Combee - November 21, 2013 at 07:07 PM

LO

My parents really cared for you both and I'm so glad you had such great memories. It warms my heart to hear that so many people loved them both. It makes this painful process easier. The flowers you sent were beautiful and amazingly, I still have them on the desk. They are about done, but were quite gorgeous. Take good care and thank you for the memories. Lori

Lori - November 30, 2013 at 03:24 PM

TO

“Lori, your words about your father's reaction to his illness mirror what he told the group at our birthday lunch last summer. A couple of us conferred recently, having to admit that most of us will never do many of the things your dad did in his life, and it's no wonder he was pleased with his accomplishments, and embraced the end of his life so bravely.

I will cherish for the remainder of my life the time and patience he expended teaching me what I could learn about his passion for the building of pretty rifles; for the sharing of many lunches, stories, and life lessons along the way; and for the many friends I gained because of our association. I dearly appreciate the opportunity to share my story at the service.

I wish once again to express my condolences to you, Ella, Lyle, Tom & Jim.

Tony Olson & Vitalia

Tony Olson - November 18, 2013 at 05:09 PM

EH

“Charlie was our neighbor in Peralta. He and his wife were very warm and friendly neighbors. His wife Lee was a very outgoing and Charlie was more reserved. My father is a WWII veteran like Charlie and I am honored to have known a genuine patriot like Charlie.

God Bless,

The Ed Hernandez family

Ed Hernandez - November 16, 2013 at 11:09 AM

LO

Thank you for your kind words at the service and for being such nice neighbors to my parents. They thought of you both highly.

Lori - November 17, 2013 at 09:34 PM



“ Hi Lori
hope you remember me from high school Karen Southward
(Dunkin) now sorry to hear about your father my thoughts and
prayers are with you think of you often when i am remembering the
crazy days of Highland 505-559-3890 if you want to talk

Karen Dunkin - November 14, 2013 at 01:48 AM

LO

Karen what a wonderful surprise. Thank you for the post and I will call
you. We have a lot of catching up to do.

Lori - November 17, 2013 at 09:15 PM

LO

So nice to hear from you. I will call very soon.

Lori - November 17, 2013 at 09:15 PM



“ European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased
for the family of Major Charles R. Bowen,
Retired.



November 13, 2013 at 06:41 PM

BI

“ *Bowen Family:*

Sorry to hear of Chuck's passing. I remember sitting in his shop on New Hampshire for hours talking and watching him work on gun stocks. He and my dad were good friends for years. We went on many hunting trips together. I am proud to say I am one of the lucky ones to own a gun he made. He was a great guy, he will be missed.

Brian Irwin

Brian Irwin - November 12, 2013 at 06:07 PM

LO

Brian! It is so great to hear from you. Thank you for the post and I know your father passed away too. I'm very sorry to hear that. We still have a wonderful safe that your dad made my father and anytime I see the ones at stores in town, I tell my husband that they don't hold a candle to the kind your father made. It is great to hear from you. Take good care of yourself..

Lori - November 17, 2013 at 09:21 PM

JB

“ *Chuck,*

You were truly a brother in arms and you will be missed. You were the backbone for all of the 506th reunions. I know that you are with our Lord and in His protective arms. I will see you again.

*John Bales
457 TFS*

John E. Bales - November 11, 2013 at 09:27 PM

LO

Thank you John. It is comforting to know how many people cared for my father and like you, I know he is with our Lord. Thank you.

Lori - November 17, 2013 at 09:23 PM

BJ

“ *My Friend Chuck: Family we are sorry to hear about Chuck passing, we spent many hours together at his house in 4-Hills wiring up his lath and other power tools, shooting with each other at the skeet range. I have know him since the early 70's, I will miss him. May his soul Rest in Peace to a great American. Billy & Liz Johnson*



Billy Johnson - November 10, 2013 at 01:59 PM

LO

Thank you so much. Friends make this time so much easier. I know my parents really enjoyed being friends with you. God Bless.

Lori - November 11, 2013 at 06:13 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Major Charles R. Bowen, Retired.*



November 09, 2013 at 02:54 PM

AM

“ *On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies we express our deepest condolences.*

Apollo Miller - November 09, 2013 at 11:39 AM

LO

Apollo and all the staff at French, the service could not have been better executed. My father could not have been more honored than he was Saturday and I will forever remember his service. Thank you, thank you for patiently taking us through the important steps of putting a service like this together. You all were great.

Lori - November 17, 2013 at 09:27 PM