



Charles Bowen

November 10, 1924 - November 6, 2008

Services for Charles W. Bowen, 83, of Tyler will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 10:00 AM at Stewart Family Funeral Home with Rev. Kevin Burdette officiating. Graveside services will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 11:00 AM at Mission Park South Cemetery in San Antonio. Mr. Bowen passed away on November 6, 2008 at East Texas Medical Center in Tyler. He was born November 10, 1924 in San Antonio, the second son of Clifton Strong and Madie Capel Bowen. He attended Thomas Jefferson High School, graduating in 1941. After two years at the University of Texas at Austin, Mr. Bowen joined the United States Navy where he served as a signalman in the Pacific Ocean campaign, seeing many engagements and several kamikaze attacks. After discharge, he returned to the University of Texas at Austin and received a pharmacy degree. Mr. Bowen was the owner of Parker's Pharmacy and was a member of the San Antonio Pharmacy Association and Christ Episcopal Church. After retiring in 1980, he dedicated his life to being a homebody and taking care of his wife of 58 years, Percylee. In addition to his parents, Mr. Bowen was preceded in death by a brother, Clifton Bowen. He is survived by a loving family including his wife of 58 years, Percylee Bowen of Tyler; a son, Charles William Bowen, Jr. and wife Gwenda of Tyler; grandsons, Charles William Bowen, III and wife Dana, Douglas Tyler Bowen, and Ethan Andrew Bowen; a twin sister, Ruth Funk, and numerous nieces and nephews. Honorary pallbearers will be Bernard Funk, Jr., Alan Funk, Charles Eubanks, Lester Ludwig and Bradley

Ludwig. Visitation is scheduled from 6:00 – 8:00 PM on Monday, November 10, 2008 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway in Tyler.

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *Mrs. Bowen, Charlie and family,
We are so sorry for the passing of Mr. Bowen and know he will be
greatly missed.
Mary Ann Sample
Charlie's math teacher at Longfellow.*

Mary Ann Sample - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Deepest Sympathy on the loss of Charles. We just found out now
from the Carrington's. Hope you are doing well and we are also
sorry to hear about Percylee struggle with Alzheimers.
Robi's wife's family is from Tyler. They are the Roosth family. Very
old Tyler family.
I was happy to hear that you have 3 nice son's to carry on the family
name. Again, our deepest sympathy on your loss.*

Susanne and Sons

Jalnos Family - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Charles Bowen, my Uncle, was a kind, soft-spoken, calm, and generous man, quietly devoted to his family and a fan of woodworking projects and garage tinkering. He was an entrepreneur in buying and operating his own full-service pharmacy (fountain luncheonette, novelty, delivery service) where I had the chance to work in my youth. He always had a touch of royalty, composure, and poise in his manner. He ran his pharmacy like a ship captain would oversee the sailing of a vessel, yet retained personal focus when completing the Sunday morning closing crunch of last-minute prescriptions. The home he built with Percylee had an elegant Bowen family coat-of-arms above the fireplace, a well-maintained yard, and a garage full of any exotic tool attachment one could seek. He raised a fine and very successful son, Charles Jr., whom I always looked up to. Both Charles Jr. and I shared an interest in science, and Uncle Charles was the family representative of business operation, pharmacological medicine, and (to me) the fascinating world of chemistry. Among my most precious memories of fooling around with chemistry as a kid were the fine shiny collection of new unused bottles he gave me (which elatedly I made quick use of) and interesting chemicals he would tell me about. Just last year I was able to find some new bottles on Ebay just like those from Charles. The night I heard from my parents that Charles has left us, I later went into a lab where I keep those recently acquired bottles, still new on a shelf, and looked at them for a while.

Extended families are busy and complicated and evolve. Charles and Percylee left San Antonio, first not too far away to visit on occasion, and then to Tyler, each time to be near Charles Jr., his wife Gwen, and their proud array of active, impressive sons. Although I hoped to visit Charles and Percylee in Tyler, my life on the East and West Coasts of this great country Charles help protect in his naval service became increasingly complex and I never made it. I do not even know how many years it has been since I saw Charles, but in speaking to him (tragically all too briefly) just last month, he sounded the same as he was in his late thirties, same clear animated voice, same funny sense of humor, same honest

reporting of life's riches and challenges and preoccupations. He sounded so vivid and alive just a short few weeks ago; I just took it for granted that we'd talk again this Christmas.

Even though Charles was such a nice man, I was always a just little afraid of him. Probably the strong stewardship of the pharmacy, the older son Charles Jr. who was always ahead of me, all his knowledge and success, and from those vantages all sorts of potential judgments I feared could be appropriately made of my folly on this Earth. That minor fear kept me from adequately thanking Charles for the many direct and indirect influences had on me. By the time I knew enough science to talk with Charles meaningfully he seemed to have lost interest in it, so we did not get to share some of the exchanges directly I had imagined. But I think of Charles as if we had those times together that I had imaged. He would come to mind instinctively, like a reflex, every time I'd find unexpected words about a pharmaceutical application for some chemical I was reading about.

I know we will all miss him; I will miss him in these special ways that are unique, and all this from really not that many hours together all told. I wish I could be there in San Antonio or Tyler to say and share final goodbyes to Charles. I tried, but it became too difficult to do. So I say goodbye, Uncle Charles, from California. I thank you, I am sorry I am not there with you, I am sorry we did not get to talk more, and I miss you, and I will remember you.

Lester Jr.

Lester F. Ludwig, Jr. - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ *MY deepest sympathy & prayers Percylee. Violet*

Violet Curtis - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LV

“ On behalf of my entire family, Emma-Richard-myself and family of Raul Garza;
I wish to extend our most heartfelt and sincere condolences to your family. I know my Father Raymond was a dear friend and always spoke highly of him and his wife Percy and son Charles. I remember as a young child the numerous times that I would visit my Dad at White Cross and Mr. Bowen was always smiling and always made me feel welcome at the workplace. There were also times when on weekends, we had the honor of being invited into your home for a nice dinner or a friendly visit with the family. Both Mr. Bowen and Percy were always so kind and generous in sharing their beautiful home. I cherish these times of my Dad and of his time at White Cross Pharmacy and later at Parker's Pharmacy when we would visit him. I always looked up to Mr. Bowen as a child and for a long time, I too wanted to follow his career as a Pharmacist. We pray that all these memories and words of his genuine personality will help comfort and sustain your pain through his loss. I know that one day all of you will be reunited to share the eternal life that our Holy Father has promised us.

*Sincerely,
Linda Garza Villejo, Emma D. Garza & Richard D. Garza*

Linda Garza Villejo - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Charles-*
I was sorry to read of the loss of your father. I wish you and your family my very best at this sad time.

Dennis

Dennis Martin - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Dear Percylee,

You have been on my mind many time during the past two weeks and now I know why. Charles was such a wonderful man and very special to you, Percylee. I know you and your family will miss him dearly, along with the many people who knew him. May the thoughts and prayers of those who love you give you comfort through this difficult time.

Love & Prayers, Berniece

Berniece Reed - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *Mr. Charles was one of the finest men to walk on the earth. I worked with his wife, Mrs. Percylee while she was the HOSA coordinator at Bexar County Hospital District. I met Mr. Charles through her. He was a devoted husband and father and although I knew Mrs. Percylee on a day to day basis, Mr. Charles was never out of her conversation or her loving heart. It is such a joy to know wuch a man was given to all of us for this time. I will be at the graveside if I am allowed to be. Joann*

Joann Duming - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *Percy, My love and condolenence to you and your family.I remember so vividly when you and Charles decided to move from San Antonio. I knew that I would miss you as we had known each other for so long.When I think of Charles I remember the last time I visited you here in SA before you left. He was so considerate of you and your health problems at the time. His actions showed how much he loved and cared for you. He was very special---as are you, Love You, Gloria*

John and Gloria Taylor - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ Dearest Percylee and family,
May God give you comfort and peace during this difficult time. My mom(Tooter Bullock) and I talked about you often and wondered where you were. Unfortunately, she passed away the end of July. Just think of all the wonderful memories we have--growing up on Woodlawn, then later teaching together. I pray that you and your family will be comforted by the assurance and joy of the resurrection.
God bless you all.
Gail

Gail Josephson - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ May the Lord be with the Bowen Family at this great time of need.

LeaAnn Johnson - November 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM