



Benjamin Thomas Bower

March 8, 1938 - June 3, 2026

Benjamin Thomas Bower, 88, of Blacksburg, Virginia passed away on June 3, 2026. He was predeceased by his parents Fred L. Bower and Rebecca M. Bower.

Ben was a graduate of Blacksburg High School and Virginia Tech, Class of 1958. He taught in Roanoke City Schools at Woodrow Wilson and served as the first Industrial Arts teacher at Patrick Henry High School. He subsequently worked in Machine Sales and finished his career at Mechanical Development in Salem, retiring in 2005. In his younger years he was a BMW Motorcycle enthusiast riding coast to coast. He loved to share that he had visited 44 of the lower 48 states. He was a Lifetime Member of the Shawnee Gun Club, enjoying their social activities. Family was very important to Ben. He loved attending birthday parties for grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was always there for his family and friends to repair things or help them in anyway. He was a solid Hokie Fan cheering them on through their ups and downs. Ben also loved many Schnauzers through the years and little Ava will miss him greatly.

He is survived by his three children, Leslie Bower (Stacy), Susan Kessler (Reif) and Ben Bower, II (Alisa). He had five grandchildren, Stephen Batick (Corrin), Vanessa Bower, Rebecca Batick (Pablo), Andrew Kessler (Hope), and Eric Kessler (Lizzie). He had twelve great-grandchildren, Robert, Jay,

Augusta, Lena Joy, Camden, Grayson, Nora, Trip, Carson, Benny, Bennett and Bella. He is also survived by his former wife and friend, Judith Bower and his brother Fred L. Bower, II.

A visitation with the family will be held at McCoy Funeral Home in Blacksburg, VA on Monday, June 8 at 1:00 p.m. with a Celebration of Life to follow at 2:00 p.m. A Family Graveside service will follow at Westview Cemetery in Blacksburg, Virginia. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke, 5985 Coleman Road, Roanoke, Virginia 24018 or NRV Sportsmen For Kids 7438 Alum Spring Road, Dublin, Virginia 24084.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home
150 Country Club Dr. S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540) 552-3211
mccoyfuneralhome@verizon.net
<https://mccoyfuneralhome.com>

Celebration of Life

JUN 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home Chapel
150 Country Club Dr S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

AL

“ *Sending our condolences.
We met Ben few years ago when we moved into the neighborhood.
We enjoyed running into him and Ava during our neighborhood
walks. We could see how much he really loved Ava, enjoying
sharing about her quirks, and talking about dogs in general.*

Amy and Luke - June 08 at 07:43 AM

TW

“ *So sorry to hear of Ben's passing. Ben was an amazing guy. We
loved hanging out with him and making memories. He was always
so kind.*

Tammy and Mike Woodward - June 07 at 10:32 AM

PS

“ *Thanks, Ben, for all those gifts, the best gifts friends can give each
other: sharing fun activities. You're honored in libations; you'll be
missed.*

Philip Sweet - June 06 at 02:53 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Benjamin Thomas Bower.*



June 06 at 12:03 PM

PP

“ With Ben, he called 'em as he saw 'em, and you always knew where he stood on any subject. He was an enthusiastic supporter of our Second Amendment, and always willing to share his expertise. He loved his family, friends, and his miniature schnauzers. I was privileged to help him care for his beloved "Gretchen" as he battled to work thorough her diabetes. A trusted friend, he will be missed by many. I'll toast his memory at 5 Guys, our favorite eatery. May the Lord be with his family during their time of grieving, and may they remember all the good times of his long life.

Phil Pickett - June 05 at 12:22 PM

FP

“ Ben was a great friend, a straight shooter, a serious motorcyclist, and dog lover. He graciously allowed me to share his passions. He will be greatly missed.

Frank Pearsall - June 04 at 11:32 PM