



## William "Big Bill" Cowden

August 26, 1933 - April 23, 2026

"Big" Bill Cowden, passed away on April 23rd, 2026 at the age of 92. Born in Cleveland, Ohio on August 26, 1933 to parents Lucille (Rich) and Russell Cowden. Bill moved to Senecaville, Ohio in his early years so he could help the family on the farm. Married to Sue (Shepard) Cowden for sixty-five wonderful years. Father to three boys, Gary, Jerry, and Bill.

A full life of work, play and relationships. Bill played basketball in high school as a Senecaville Indian, on to the Army, then college at Ohio University on the GI Bill where he met mom, in a bar, as the story goes (shocker). Straight out of school and on to work for Southeastern Equipment Company where he formed hundreds of long-lasting cherished relationships. Retiring after forty-six years after helping the company grow from a small garage in Old Washington, to a large multistate corporation.

Outside of work it was horses, boating, camping, and travel - all of which involved a variety of good friends who gave him great happiness through the years.

Raising, showing and dealing in horses was a passion. He had horses as a boy, and got back into them as soon as he had the means. He enjoyed everything from breeding to foaling and showing. He liked to ride, but it was hard to find a horse big enough as he made a normal size horse look like a pony.

Having worked on the docks at Seneca Lake in the early years, he had a passion for boats. Bill bought and sold more than a few and always had one at

the ready to enjoy on a hot day with his family when it was just too hot to work in the barn.

Camping was a way to slowly explore the country. Trips might be local, out west, or down south. Maybe a weekend, or maybe a month. Then, maybe selling the camper and getting a different one. Are you seeing a pattern? Wheeling and dealing was probably his favorite hobby. Always looking for a boat, camper, horse trailer, antique, or something he could make a buck on. Not sure it was really about the profit, but more about the “deal” and the people he might meet.

He is survived by his wife, Sue, his three boys Gary, Jerry (Teresa), and Bill (Jana). Grandchildren Sean (Kate), Evan, Amanda (Nate), Alayna (Caleb) and Bradley. Great grandchildren Luca and Eli.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Lucille, brother Dick, sister Elnora and daughter-in-law Nancy.

In the end these were his own words, “I’ve had a good run”. A big man as comfortable in a jacket and tie as he was in cutoff jeans. Well rounded, steady, and calm in a crisis. A man with many of life experiences that he shared when he thought it might help someone. Leaving behind a lifetime of memories and some damn big boots to fill.

Bill's online tribute wall may be viewed and signed at [www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com](http://www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **Friends Cemetery**

Quaker City, OH

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ Sue, I was so very saddened to learn of Bill's passing. I so enjoyed our visits the past few years, hearing about your family and reminiscing about the old days in Senecaville. Bill was one of the good guys for sure and I know he will be deeply missed. My deepest sympathies to you and your family. ~ Lois Hill Snyder



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**Lois Snyder** - May 17 at 12:12 PM

TF

“ Bill will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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**The Porter Warne Family** - May 13 at 08:19 PM

MC

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family.

*I work with Bill for many years at Southeastern Equipment and want to say what a great mentor and friend. I have many stories that I still like to tell about this great man.*

*May you rest in peace my friend.*

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**Mark Crews** - May 13 at 05:46 PM

MA

“ Thoughts and Prayers to the Family. 🙏🙏

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**Mike Andrews** - May 12 at 06:44 PM

KB

“ So sorry for your loss. Keeping your family in our thoughts and prayers.

Kari & Steve Burke - May 12 at 11:54 AM



“ He was my boss for 25 years. A great man with a wonderful family and hundreds of good friends that loved and respected him.

Lawrence Graham III - May 12 at 08:52 AM

LF

“ So sorry for your loss. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Lisa A Fluharty - May 12 at 08:01 AM

LJ

“ My love and prayers for the family.

Linda Jackson - May 12 at 07:54 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,  
  
May your memories of William Cowden, give you peace, comfort and strength...  
  
Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete.  
I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom.  
You will not be forgotten...  
My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....  
  
US Army Veteran, William Cowden, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†  
  
† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - May 12 at 07:30 AM

MM

“ *So sorry to learn of your loss. Bill was bigger than life. Keeping everyone in my prayers.  
Martie Moore-McConnell*

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**Martie Moore-McConnell** - May 12 at 02:46 AM

CM

“ *So sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers to the family.  
Tom and Charlotte McCartney*

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**Char McCartney** - May 11 at 11:13 PM

SO

“ Gary, Jerry, and Bill. Sorry for your loss. Prayers for peace and comfort. After all, he said he had a good run. A full life.

Scott Osborne - May 11 at 10:21 PM

PB

“ So sorry for your loss.  
Paula Bakos

Paula Bakos - May 11 at 09:16 PM

AR

“ Bill&Jana& all the family

So sorry for your loss our thoughts& PRAYERS  
are with you all, Deepest sympathy & if u need  
anything you let us know Matt&April



April Richardson - May 11 at 09:09 PM

RF

“ Ron and Pam Funk purchased the Joyful Memory  
y for the family of William "Big Bill" Cowden.



Ron and Pam Funk - May 11 at 08:15 PM

JC

“ *Jeff, Matt & Christina purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William "Big Bill" Cowden.*



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**Jeff, Matt & Christina** - May 11 at 08:10 PM