



## Gary Dowler

July 16, 1940 - December 25, 2018

Gary Owen Dowler (“Big Guy”) passed away due to complications while battling cancer on Christmas morning, 2018. He was born July 16th, 1940 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He attended Plant High School in Tampa, Florida and joined the US Navy in 1961. He continued his education throughout his career and graduated from the State Technical College in Memphis, Tennessee. He served 25 years in various global posts retiring as a Chief Warrant Officer IV; he then moved with his family to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

After retiring from the military he served 12 years as the Superintendent of Corrections for Hamilton County, Tennessee. He and his beloved wife of 54 years Gerry then relocated to Lake Weiss, Alabama and were active members of the First United Methodist Church of Centre, Alabama.

He is preceded in death by his parents Bill and Julia Dowler of Tampa, Florida, his brother Larry Dowler, his sister Jari Lee, and his grandson Collin Dowler.

Gary is survived by his wife Gerry Martin Dowler, his son David and wife Ann Dowler, his daughter Dana and husband Wade McKenzie and grandchildren Dillon Dowler, Maggie and Emma McKenzie, and numerous other family and friends.

Visitation will be Friday, December 28th from 10 a.m. to noon in the sanctuary

of the First United Methodist Church of Centre. The funeral service will also be held at the church at 2 p.m. A memorial will be held at the National Cemetery in Chattanooga, Tennessee at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in honor of Collin Dowlers' "Collin's Court" in Chattanooga, TN. First United Methodist Church will Be accepting these funds for the family.

# Cemetery Details

**Cremation**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

DEC 28. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Perry Funeral Home  
1611 Clarence E Chesnut Jr Bypass  
Centre, AL 35960  
(256) 927-3222

### Service

DEC 28. 2:00 PM (CT)

Perry Funeral Home  
1611 Clarence E Chesnut Jr Bypass  
Centre, AL 35960  
(256) 927-3222

# Tribute Wall

BR

“ I remember Gary as a teenager at Ft Myers Beach, FL



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**Betty Kerberg Reynolds** - April 24, 2022 at 11:55 AM

BR

“ Betty Kerberg Reynolds lit a candle in memory of Gary Dowler



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**Betty Kerberg Reynolds** - April 24, 2022 at 11:47 AM

JA

“ Sorry to hear about Gary passing. He was a great person to be around and very funny. Gary and Gerry let me stay with them my last couple of week in school in Puerto Rico. and enjoyed it. Last my dad about five years ago (Phil Allen) and I'm sure they are up there talking about all the great times they had in the service. I really enjoyed the time we had with him in Puerto Rico.

*Jim Allen [jmetcon@hotmail.com](mailto:jmetcon@hotmail.com)*

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**jim Allen** - March 28, 2019 at 04:11 PM

CS

“ Gerry, so sorry to hear about Gary. Remembered as a kind, funny and loving guy. He always was there when needed, and did he ever love you and the kids. Ben and I will keep you in our prayers. Thank you for all the good years we share.

*Charlotte and Ben Stiles*

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**charlotte stiles** - December 28, 2018 at 11:06 AM

FT

“ I am so very very sorry to lose Gary Dowler. He and Gerry always supported the Democrats nationally and locally and gave a lot of their time and money. I am just happy I was able to get to know them and prayers for Gerry and family.

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**Frankie Trammell** - December 27, 2018 at 06:31 PM