



William Bender Sowers III

October 31, 1958 - October 26, 2022

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of William Bender Sowers III, of New Kent, who passed away in his home on October 26, 2022 after an extended illness. Bender was preceded in death by his step-father, James W. Gorman. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Darleen E. Sowers; his mother, Constance M. Gorman; his father, William Bender Sowers Jr. (Mona); his brother, Joel M. Sowers (Charmaine); His step-brother, Chuck Gorman; stepsisters, Lisa Coates (Ernie) and Pam Lowder (Rick); his half-brother, Brian Sowers (Kimberly); one nephew, three nieces; and numerous grandnephews and grand-nieces as well as many friends, especially Mike and Kathy Harrison.

“Benny” was a Journeyman Electrician and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Local 666) for over three decades. His work took him throughout Virginia, but he spent a significant amount of time at the Anheuser-Busch facility in Williamsburg. He most recently retired from DuPont after 7 years of service.

He was an amateur radio operator (KE4KLD) and spent many hours talking to people from the far reaches of the world. Benny was born in Princeton, West Virginia but spent much of his life in Enon, Virginia. Enon was home, but Benny loved his lake house. Benny spent many years enjoying the water and his friends at Lake Gaston. If he wasn't on the water, he was often on his bike

somewhere around the lake. Benny was an avid cyclist and peddled thousands of miles throughout Virginia and North Carolina from the mountains to the shore. He completed Bike Virginia, The Emporia Peanut Ride and countless other rides year after year. As much as he loved his bike, Benny loved music maybe even more. He never missed a chance to go to a concert or music festival and loved catching up with his many friends year after year. Music brought him joy, even in the weakest moments of his illness.

Benny loved watching sports and there was often a game of football, basketball, baseball or his favorite, hockey, on the T.V. We all knew not to call when the Rams or Flyers were playing. Benny loved animals and often had a cat or dog following behind him or sitting on his lap. He leaves behind a dog, Max, and his beloved cat, Franklin and many strays who claimed he and his wife Darleen as their own.

Benny was known and loved by many. Whether he was your: Bender, Benny, Ben, Bro, Uncle Bean, BenDaddy or BenDar, he will forever be in our hearts, and we are left to cherish his memory. "His song has ended but his melody lingers on." Irving Berlin.

To honor Benny's memory, a private Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made to H.A.P.P.E. Dog Rescue & Adoption.

Big wheel turn by the grace of God,
Every time that wheel turn 'round.
Bound to cover just a little more ground.
The wheel is turning and you can't slow down.

Tribute Wall

CP

“ Cynthia Pair sent a virtual gift in memory of William Bender Sowers III



Cynthia Pair - November 10, 2022 at 01:55 PM

CP

“ I did not know him very well but always enjoyed seeing him & Darleen walking their dog, and their MANY ADVENTURES on Facebook! Darleen is a very sweet lady and we are just up the street if you need ANYTHING AT ALL. Rest in Peace and say HI, TO JESUS! Cindy & George



Cynthia Pair - November 10, 2022 at 01:54 PM

DS

“ It's been 2 weeks since you rode away. Sometimes it feels like you left years ago , and some moments it feels like you left a minute ago. The critters & I miss you beyond words. I'm keeping it together for them (they don't know what to do when Mama Dar breaks down in tears). The house is mostly straight & I'm showering on a regular basis. Hope you know how very much I love you 🥹

Darleen E Sowers - November 09, 2022 at 08:01 PM

DT

“ I have such sadness in my heart knowing what all Benny went through with this illness and in his passing. Benny was the son of my first cousin, Bill Sowers. I was a little older than Benny and remember what a sweet little boy he was. It was such a blessing to reconnect and meet Darlene at the Snidow Cousins' Reunion. Danny and I enjoyed being with both of you. We commented you two were soul mates and so in love. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy. May it bring comfort to know he no longer struggles with this illness and is at peace.

Danny and Polly Taylor - November 05, 2022 at 06:56 PM

DE

“ Oh Darlene
I'm so so sorry about your sweet husband. Y'all were so happy and you were amazing with him. I remember you telling me about him when y'all started dating. I didn't know him, only through you but could always tell he was a very special guy.
My love and prayers
Deb (Mayberry VCU) Diehl

deborah - November 01, 2022 at 07:12 PM



“ One memory? One?? Well, we had to create most of our own fun, so they might be "you had to be there" situations ... how about "Dry Heaves?" This was a punk ditty we wrote and recorded, consisting of ridiculous two-syllable words and phrases over an annoying guitar riff. It was deliciously stupid.

Rest well, brother. Hope you're listening to Jerry play a solo right now.

Slim Stanton - October 31, 2022 at 07:43 PM

TK

“ I think the first time I met Benny was in Princeton, WV on Black Oak Mountain. Benny is the son of my first cousin Bill Sowers, but Benny and I were only a year apart in age. We were shooting crickets with a BB gun and even hit a few. Later in life we always talked about kayaking together sometime. A few years ago we finally accomplished that adventure, although Benny couldn't paddle. So, I rented a tandem kayak and put him in front and I did most of the paddling. I wish we had done it years earlier. We'll do it again some day!

Tim Knowles - October 31, 2022 at 07:18 PM

JS

“ He kept his sense of humor to the very end and handled his illness way better than most. I would say he's resting now but I know he's probably peddling away to some cool music festival. Godspeed Bro!

Joel Sowers - October 31, 2022 at 12:20 PM

KH



Kathy Harrison - October 31, 2022 at 05:30 PM

KH

“Where do I start??? It is so hard to put into words what Mike and I feel after losing you. You were a brother to both of us. Always there when we needed you. You were the one person that could make Mike laugh and the two of you put on the best show together egging each other on until the whole room burst out laughing at the two of you. Your love for Darleen was so evident each time the two of you looked at each other. I only wish your time together had lasted longer. ❤️

I will miss you so much, Bender! You will always be my big brother from another mother." We may not have a blood connection but God brought us together. You didn't have a sister and I didn't have a brother. So God made our relationship for each other!"



Kathy Harrison - October 31, 2022 at 08:56 AM