



Allen James Bowman

January 19, 2017 - January 19, 2017

Allen James Bowman, 94, of Oskaloosa passed away Thursday, January 19, 2017, at the Homestead in Oskaloosa. He was born J.V. Bowman on June 2, 1922, to J.V. and Sarah Evalina (Evie) Bowman in Butler, Oklahoma. Early on he was called "Allen," and the name stuck. His father was a Friends pastor and evangelist, so Allen and his family moved frequently to various towns in Kansas and Oklahoma during his school years. In 1939, he graduated from high school in Vera, Oklahoma. He attended the Friends Bible College in Haviland, Kansas for two years. From there, he went to Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, where his auburn thatch earned him the nickname "Red." There he met his future wife, Martina Cummings when the students were harvesting corn on the college farm due to a labor shortage. According to Martina, "We met on the back of a pickup truck going to lunch. I was tickled pink." He graduated from Asbury in 1944. He and Martina married in September of 1946 and set up housekeeping in Wilmore while Allen finished his seminary degree. In 1947, Allen and Martina moved to Alva, Oklahoma, where Allen served as the pastor of the Alva Friends Church. Their two sons, Bill and David, were born in Alva. In 1950, the family moved to Wichita, Kansas, where Allen taught at Friends University and pastored the North Wichita Friends Church. Julie was added to the family in Wichita. In 1959, the family moved to Albany, California. Allen pastored the Berkeley Friends Church while studying for a Masters in Sacred Theology at the Pacific School of Religion. In 1966, the family moved to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he taught

religious studies and biblical languages at William Penn College. He later became the campus minister as well. Several generations of students enjoyed his teaching and mentoring. He and Martina retired in 1990 and took up traveling, including several trips in the U.S. and Europe. Allen was actively involved in the College Avenue Friends Church and the Y's Men Club. He sold Christmas trees for the Y's Men until he was 90. He was an avid vegetable gardener at the Penn College garden plots and became well known for his popcorn. Family and friends who were lucky enough to get a gallon of popcorn claimed it rivaled Orville Redenbacher's. He had a great love of music, which he shared with his children. During his early years, he sang in a gospel quartet, traveling throughout Kansas and Oklahoma. He loved the old hymns, but his favorite, which established an annual family tradition during the holidays, was Handel's Messiah. His singing voice remained strong all of his life. His second tenor voice could often be heard during church services. Allen was a dedicated walker which kept him healthy and hale into his 90s. He was a familiar sight in Oskaloosa as he walked his daily three miles on the Oskaloosa trail or at the Penn PAC. Once he and Martina moved to the Homestead assisted living facility, he often walked a mile (eight laps), usually with family friend and "third son," Tom Palmer. Allen was a much-loved grandfather to his four grandchildren - Camille, Evan, Aiden and Liam. Much to their delight, he hauled a young Camille and Evan around in a red wagon endlessly. He delighted in watching Aiden and Liam play baseball on his recent trip to California. He clearly loved everything about these four. All of his life, Allen had an uncanny knack for winning games - all kinds of games. Early in their married life, Martina refused to play games, because he always won. He was a master at dominoes, and he and his sister, Retha, could beat all comers. He was willing to teach his grandchildren how to play dominoes, but he rarely lost a game to them. On the Sunday before he died, he beat his daughter and daughter-in-law at Chinese checkers. He was often described as a "gentle soul" by those who knew him, but his family knew that he inherited an ornery streak from his father which added a sense of play to his

gentleness. He was inordinately fond of scaring family members as they came around corners. His 'fish face' was legendary. Allen was a man of deep faith which showed in his actions every day. He studied the gospel and theology all of his life. He shared his faith and the arch of its impact upon his life with humility. While he was intellectually very immersed, it was the mysteries of the spiritual life that kept him engaged. Allen passed away in his sleep at the age of 94 years, 7 months, and 17 days, one year and one day after Martina died. Allen's family includes his children and their spouses: Bill and Kim Bowman of Lake Forest, California, Julie Bowman and Scott Bates of Evanston, Illinois, and his daughter-in-law, Karla Bowman, of Canal Fulton, Ohio; his four grandchildren: Camille Bates, Evan Bates, Aiden Bowman and Liam Bowman; his sister, Retha Christians, and numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Allen is preceded in death by his wife, Martina, his son, David Bowman, his sisters, Burdeen Smith and Bonita Davis, and his brother, Tom Bowman. Memorial Services for Allen will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 10, 2017, at the College Avenue Friends Church with Pastors Tom Palmer and James Tower officiating. His cremated remains will be interred at the Friends Cemetery in Oskaloosa. Memorial contributions may be made to College Avenue Friends Church and/or William Penn University Spencer Chapel Renovation.

Tribute Wall



“ *Allen James Bowman*

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



“ *Mr and Mrs Bowman were so kind, loving, and in love. I lived next to them for 12 years. Their flowers, yard and home were picture perfect. I loved watching him mow with his large wheels on his mower. He acted like it was so easy to push! He would walk up to Penn every morning. Mr Bowman was a perfect example of a deciple of Jesus.*

Kathy Larsen - June 07, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Bowman was a great teacher, a godly man, and a caring person. He made each of us feel important. I am so thankful for the wonderful blessing of having him as a Sunday School teacher, professor, and college campus pastor.*

Anna - June 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Professor Bowman was an outstanding pastor to his students who were considering ministry. I loved his solid insights and support. Prayers for his family.*

cliff jones - June 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ *Rev. Bowman was my professor of Understanding the New Testament when I was a student at WP. He was a great teacher and a wonderful person. His caring spirit for his students was so evident to me. What a wonderful person and now with His Lord.*

Ka Rouw - June 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *prof bowman was my prof for new testament in 1968 when I came to penn. a good guy and I learned a lot. dave johnson albia '70*

June 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ *Julie, What a wonderful life --- what a wonderful person. Your Dad is an inspiration to all of us. His spirit and values live on. My condolences to the family. Spencer Lewis and the Staff of the EEOC Philadelphia District*

SPENCER LEWIS - February 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ *My prayers go out for strength to the Bowman family.*

Alison Hardiman - January 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *Thankful for the love and guidance shown to us by Prof. Bowman while we were at Penn!*

Steve - January 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ My professor that I respected in the 1960's. Our "walking buddy" over the past two years. Allen showed us how to live with joy and grace every day. Our intent was to be there for him but in reality, it was he who gave so much to us. We will miss our good friend!

John - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ I was blessed to be a student of his at William Penn. He was a great teacher and more a friend to me. He gave advice when I would seek it. I remember asking him, "Should I go to teach or should I go on to seminary." His response was classic: "You can teach being a minister." So I went to seminary and now have been an ordained minister for 39 years. He was right I can teach being a minister. Thank you sir for your support. My prayers go out to your family.

Clifford Jones - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ Dr. Bowman was such a mentor to me in my years at Penn. I know he has heard from God, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Gale Perkins - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Dr. Bowman will always remain in my memory as a great example of a godly man. I was blessed to hear him teach at both church (College Avenue Friends) and William Penn College. I remember especially the study he led on Richard Foster's Celebration of Discipline, a book that had such a positive impact on my life as a young Christian. Dr. and Mrs. Bowman were amazing role models for me, and I will be forever grateful.

Anna - January 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ He was a wonderful man and he and his lovely wife gave us great gifts including their daughter Julie who continues his legacy of doing good and giving light to a world much in need of it. A great loss for all of them.

Allison Nichol - January 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ For two years I sang with David at William Penn. It was always special to look out in the audience and see the smiling faces of Dr. Bowman and Ms. Martina. He was so supportive of students at Penn. It was nice to hug his neck one more time this past September. Heaven welcomed a great ambassador of God this week. I will always remember him warmly.

Cheryl Bolden - January 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ Offering our deepest condolences during this difficult time.

Garland - January 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM