



Billy Rowland

July 6, 1931 - January 24, 2018

Billy S. Rowland, 86, of Lorain, Ohio passed away on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at Independence Village Senior Living in the Story Point Memory Care Unit from complications of Alzheimer's disease.

He was born on July 6, 1931 in McConnelsville, OH to Denver and Ola (nee Scott) Rowland. He moved to Lorain with his family at the age of 11 and graduated from Clearview High School. Upon his graduation from High School he enlisted with the United States Air Force in 1949. While in the Air Force he served in the USAF Honor Guard Drill Team. The Drill Team promotes the Air Force mission by showcasing drill performances at public and military venues to recruit, retain and inspire Airmen. He was honorably discharged in 1952.

Billy began his career at B.F. Goodrich Company in 1953 – 1957. Billy started his own business in Lorain County in 1957 as Bill Rowland, General Contractors. He began acquiring and building residential and commercial properties in 1965. He established Rowland Trucking, Inc., a bulk aggregate carrier, in 1963. In 1965 he started P-R Truck Rental, Inc., a truck leasing company. Partnerships were formed with his wife creating Universal Container Repair in 1981, the Double R Ranch House in 1983 and Images Salon in 1985. In 1987 he merged Frank's Transport, Inc. into Lor-Co Bulk Transport, Inc., a bulk cement carrier.

In 1991 Starland Investments, Inc. was formed and in 1993 the "Super K-Mart" in Lorain became a reality creating 400 new jobs. He was also successful in retaining and developing the site for Reliance Comm-Tech's (a.k.a. Marconi's) headquarters in North Ridgeville which kept 140 jobs in Lorain County.

Billy formed and chartered Buckeye Community Bank in October of 1999. In 2000, he opened his first JD Byrider store, going on to expand the Franchise to locations in Marietta, OH, Parkersburg, WV, Charleston, WV, Morgantown, WV, Barboursville, WV and Ashland, KY.

In December of 2000, a private foundation (Rowland Family Foundation) was created and funded to insure a long term commitment to the funding of Christian teachings.

As of 2002, Phases I through IV of Beavercreek Estates, a residential housing development, 75 single family homes were completed located off of Cooper Foster Park

Road, in Lorain, immediately West of Super K-Mart. In 2003, groundbreaking for 72 cluster homes began in conjunction with RJJ Construction.

Billy became Chairman of the Board of the \$ 9 Mil. Echoing Hills Foundation, Coshocton, Ohio , a mission to provide quality of life for the mentally challenged and disabled in a Christian environment, in September of 2002.

He served the community as Y.M.C.A., of Lorain, Board Member, City of Lorain Planning Commission, City of Lorain Board of Appeals, Chairman, Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority, Chairman, Lorain County Community College Board of Trustees, City Bank Company Director, Salvation Army Advisory Board Past Chairman, Lorain County Community College Foundation Board, Lorain County Airport Authority, Lorain Rotary Club, Central Trust Co. No. Ohio NA Past Director, Amherst Hospital Board of Trustees Past Chairman, Community Foundation of great Lorain County Past Chairman, and the Buckeye Community Bank Board member, Chairman and Founder.

Billy was the first recipient of The Richard A. Desich award for Entrepreneur of the Year, established by Lorain County Community College, on November 17, 2005. He was also the recipient of the Eric Nord Award for Excellence in Community Service, awarded by Leadership Lorain County, at the Difference Makers Gala on February 27, 2004.

He was a member of the Soul Harbour Baptist Church, in Marietta, OH and the House of Praise, in Lorain, OH. He enjoyed playing Racquetball, working on his bulldozer contouring the land and creek beds, renovating cabins and homes in Southern Ohio. He had a great love of the land, and loved farming and working on the land.

Billy is survived by his children, Carla (Jim) Park, of Amherst, OH, Tina Everson, of Long Beach, CA, Melody (Alan) Howarth, of Newport Beach, CA, Joy Brackney, of Reno, NV, Kitte (John) Taylor, of Bay Village, OH, and William (Ping) Rowland, of Elyria; step-daughter, Tracy Longwell, of Grafton, OH; 12 grandchildren; 3 step-grandchildren; 1 great-granddaughter; and 1 step great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 41 years, Fay R. (nee Anderson) Rowland; infant son who died at birth; parents, Denver and Ola Rowland; sister, Betty Gailey; and his son-in-law, Kim Everson.

The Rowland family will receive friends on Thursday, February 1, 2018 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Dovin and Reber Jones funeral & Cremation Center, 1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst. Funeral services will be held on Friday, February 2nd. at 10:00 a.m. at House of Praise International Church, 4321 Elyria Ave., Lorain, Ohio. Pastor Gilbert Silva, will officiate. Interment will follow at Ridgehill Memorial Park, Amherst Twp.

The family suggest memorial contributions be made in memory of Billy to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 74924, Cleveland, OH 44194.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.dovinreberjones.com

Events

FEB **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM
1

Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center
1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst, OH, US, 44001

FEB **Funeral Service** 10:00AM
2

House of Praise International Church
4321 Elyria Ave., Lorain, OH, US

Comments



“ Please accept our sincere condolences on behalf of my family and employees of Eddie Crock. He was a customer, a mentor and most of all a true friend to me and my family. He will be missed.

With thoughts and prayers,

Eddie Crock and Family

Brandon Crock - February 01, 2018 at 08:57 AM



“ The Crock Families of Caldwell, Oh purchased the Garden of Serenity Bouquet for the family of Billy Rowland.



The Crock Families of Caldwell, Oh - February 01, 2018 at 08:37 AM



“ 2 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center - February 01, 2018 at 07:49 AM



“ We all loved Bill. He and my Father Dan & Cousin Kenny would share a lot of memories at our Annual Family Reunion. He always made it there with Faye when they were able to. We all will miss him and would like to stay in touch with his family.

Carla, Jim and Families our hearts go out to you. Bill touched many lives. So glad we could share some of it.

Will best regards and deepest condolences Terri (Matson) Heinlein

Terri (Matson) Heinlein - January 31, 2018 at 09:19 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Billy Rowland.



January 31, 2018 at 05:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Billy Rowland.



January 31, 2018 at 04:04 PM



“ 296 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center - January 31, 2018 at 02:58 PM



“ Donna & Lou Urschel purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Billy Rowland.



Donna & Lou Urschel - January 31, 2018 at 01:54 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billy Rowland.



January 31, 2018 at 01:50 PM



“ Carla, Jim and entire family,
Our deepest condolences during this difficult time in your lives. May you find strength and peace from friends that are lifting you up in prayer.
We send our love,
David & Nouie Nodal and Family

Nouie Nodal - January 31, 2018 at 08:42 AM



“ Tom & Lucille Roth lit a candle in memory of Billy Rowland



Tom & Lucille Roth - January 30, 2018 at 04:51 PM



“ Billy Rowland was a special person. First and foremost he was genuine and honest. A hand shake with Billy was a rock solid contract. I know of no man more humble and kind. Billy loved the land and working with his hands. Donna and I were so blessed to have spent 12 years as neighbors and friends of Billy and Fay. Billy loved Fay and shared with me his deep loss without her. Today Billy and Faye are together again. May the wonderful memories comfort the family through this difficult time. Our deepest condolences, Lou & Donna Urschel.





“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Billy Rowland.



January 29, 2018 at 10:53 AM



“ Our deepest condolences. A Father's love is like no other. You're never ready. Hoping your Cherished memories fill your heart at this very sad time. Prayers for your peace. Betty n Bryan Hall



Betty and Bryan Hall - January 27, 2018 at 09:20 PM



“ To Tina, Carla whom I hung out with growing up, I'm so sorry for the loss of your father! My thoughts and prayers will be with you and your family in the days to come!!

Eva Phillips Crowley - January 27, 2018 at 04:24 PM