



Roger Layton "Stormy" Owen

September 23, 1942 - August 3, 2021

Roger Layton "Stormy" Owen, age 78, of Bourbonnais passed away Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. He was born September 23, 1942 in Konawa, Oklahoma the son of Charles Layton & Mildred (Johnson) Owen. Roger married Donna Marie Brooks on July 15, 1962 in Oklahoma City, OK.

Roger owned Owen Mattress and had worked for multiple textile companies. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, and washing his red pickup truck. Roger loved life and was an encourager to many. He especially loved spending time with his family.

Roger was a former member of River Valley Christian Fellowship and a current member of Open Bible Center.

Surviving are his wife, Donna Marie Owen of Bourbonnais; one son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Chad & Tiffany Owen of Chicago; one daughter and son-in-law, Valerie & Kevin Christner of Geneva City, WI; five grandchildren, Jordan, Bethany, Jared, Grace, and Everett; six great-grandchildren, Zion, Israel, Shiloh, Adelyn, Miles, and Crew; one brother and two sisters-in-law, Kevin & Ashley Owen of Oklahoma City, OK and LoEtta Hooks of Columbus, OH; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Roger is preceded in death by his parents; one great-grandson, Judah; one sister, Vicki Faulkner; and many friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, August 21, 2021 at Open Bible Center in Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to Uplifted Care or to Alzheimer's Association.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **21**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Open Bible Center
410 S. Small Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
<http://www.openbiblecenter.org>

Tribute Wall

JW

“ Rod and I met Roger and Donna as 2 young families finding themselves in Columbus, Ohio from different parts of the country. We soon became close friends. Roger had been a cowboy and was a very knowledgeable fine jewelry salesman. We were in the same Sunday School class and Bible study groups. We also shared many camping trips, played cards and enjoyed many social times, typical of young families. Roger could talk to anyone about anything. He was a very interesting person, with a great sense of humor and a very dry wit. He loved his flowers and we shared many gardening times. We shared plants all the time when we both lived in Columbus. He started with a blank slate when they moved to Bourbonnais. I would tour his yard every time I came to visit. What a beautiful sanctuary he built. As Donna and I were sitting on the porch, the last time I was there in June, Donna looked out in the back yard and said "Look! the last flowerbed Roger made is shaped like a heart... Can't you see Roger working on that bed, cigar in his mouth saying, " How long do you think it will take Donna Marie to realize this is a heart ?" Roger, you will be greatly missed, until we meet again!

Jane Wamsley - August 20, 2021 at 08:38 PM

MR

“Stormy” is my older and very cool cousin. He and Vicki were two of my favorite people. He was 6 years older than me, just the right amount to make him someone to look up to. I remember clearly when Stormy became Roger which was quite fitting for his age but hard for me to get used to. After high school graduation we each had our own lives to live and didn’t see each other very often as adults, but we were always great friends. Throughout the 1950’s and early 60’s our families spent many weekends in Konawa, Oklahoma, at our grandparents’ farm. Roger rode Dolly the horse, and played with skippy the dog, introduced me to his .22 rifle and grandpa’s shotgun, went squirrel hunting with our uncles, helped pick native pecans, played in the hay barn and messed with the cows. He often ran around with David Lee, the step son of our Uncle Roy Owen, who was near his age. They both endured the pestering of their younger cousin, me. Those were great times and are sorely missed. I’m pleased to read of all the people whose lives he touched. He certainly influenced his younger cousin. Have a great eternity, Roger. Blessings to Donna, Valerie, and Dr. Chad. Looking forward to that great Owen family reunion in the Heavens.
— Mike Renfro

Mike Renfro - August 20, 2021 at 03:43 PM

JM

“ Roger Owen. Roger is and was my friend, a great mentor at a critical cross road in my life 40 years ago. Little does he know the huge impact he had on a clueless 18 year old who was transitioning from rebellious teenager to young adult, trying to figure out the road of life stretched out in front of him.

Roger was 20 years my senior when we met. He was starting a business (Owen Mattress Company) and I was starting life. He was a perfect mentor for me to learn from. He had an additional 20 years of experience in life, was married, had kids, had experience in corporate america and was an entrepreneur. And, he was the first person I ever met that chewed cigars rather than smoke them. Donna Marie loved that. NOT.

Roger hired me, treated me with respect and as an adult. He gave me responsibility and the opportunity to grow personally and professionally and, without judgment. I learned critical life skills by observing this extraordinary man live his life at work, home, in between and at church.

Roger was the “Great Communicator”. He had a natural way of genuinely connecting with everyone he met. He was quick to tell a joke, make a funny face, comment or gesture and always made everybody laugh. Laughter is medicine for the soul and Roger was a great doctor in that regard.

Life always has it's serious circumstances but Roger always found a way to press on, work thru, rise above and put things in their proper perspective. I learned to not take life so seriously from Roger. That is a great gift.

Deep inside I found Roger grounded and serious about the important things in life: God, Family, Friends and community.

I love Roger and Donna Marie and their family with all my heart. Thank you for a lifetime of friendship and love. I am sorry for your

pain right now. But, I am thankful that we can all reunite together in heaven some day. What a day that will be. Love Jeff

jeff moore - August 17, 2021 at 11:05 AM

KK

“ Roger was a kind, caring, wonderful person with a great sense of humor. He loved gardening and shared some perennials from his garden with me when he and Donna Marie lived in Columbus. Those flowers are still growing in my yard today. Roger will be sincerely missed. God bless you , Donna Marie.

Karen Krzyzanowski - August 11, 2021 at 09:05 PM

GB

“ Considered it a true blessing and privilege to call this lovely man my friend. We have missed him.

Greg Brack - August 11, 2021 at 03:37 PM

NW

“ Noelle Weber lit a candle in memory of Roger Layton "Stormy" Owen



Noelle Weber - August 11, 2021 at 05:38 AM

KV

“ Katie Vanwhite lit a candle in memory of Roger Layton "Stormy" Owen



Katie Vanwhite - August 10, 2021 at 08:09 PM

KV

“ Roger was the most caring, loving soul. I will miss his smile, his laugh, and his hugs. He made a big impact on my life during the short time I knew him. May he Rest In Peace.

Katie Vanwhite - August 10, 2021 at 08:08 PM