



William "Dowl" Thompson

February 12, 1947 - May 16, 2025

North Augusta, SC – Funeral Services for William Dowling “Dowl” Thompson, 78, who was called to be with the Lord on May 16, 2025, will be conducted Wednesday afternoon at 2 o’clock from the Posey Funeral Chapel, Rev. Keith Stewart officiating. Interment will follow in Pineview Memorial Gardens with Veteran Honors rendered by members of the Richland County Sheriff’s Department Honor Guard. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Tuesday evening from 5 until 7.

Mr. Thompson was born February 12, 1947, in Augusta, GA to the late Lester and Evelyn Thompson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, William Dowling “Dowl” Thompson, Jr., his brother, David Thompson.

He lived in numerous other cities with life eventually bringing him back to his hometown of North Augusta, SC.

Dowl attended Union High School from 1962 to 1965 and transferred to Wade Hampton High School his senior year and graduated from Wade Hampton High School in 1965. He played high school football at Union High School as offense and defensive ends and excelled as a defensive end. Dowl continued his education and athletics at Presbyterian College. He graduated from PC with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1969. He was offered a football scholarship

as a defensive end where he excelled and was awarded all-conference. He also ran track at PC where he lettered in track and field. He later received his Master of Education degree from the University of South Carolina and later received another master's degree in education administration.

He was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant through the College ROTC Program and began his training as a military police officer. He had tours of duty which included Fort Gordon, Georgia and Fort Lewis, Washington. After active duty in the U.S Army, Dowl continued to serve in the National Guard as an officer for 33 years of total military service and ended his military service as an Honorary Colonel in April 2007. He received numerous meritorious medals and awards of honor.

He attended Baptist and Presbyterian churches in the areas where he lived.

Dowl served numerous years as a deputy sheriff in Greenville and Richland counties. He met his calling because he loved his work, his friends and responsibilities. He enjoyed Richland County sheriff work so much that he recently retired as a voluntary cold case homicide investigator. The second area of his career was in education and consisted of teaching and being an assistant football coach at North Augusta High School and then bus shop supervisor in Aiken and Clarendon counties. He continued his educational career as a Principal of Jonesville High School and then Union High School.

He loved his wife, Gail, along with his children and grandchildren. Throughout his life, he enjoyed his time with his horses and his farm, playing golf with his friends and brothers, Clemson football and tending to his chickens.

Survivors include his wife, Gail A. Thompson; four daughters, Wendi Graham (David), Jenny Thompson, Amanda Parkins (Marty), and Lauren Pannell (Bobby); eight grandchildren, Josh Graham, Zach Graham, Olivia Carver,

Noah Parkins, Will Pannell, Ben Pannell, Sam Pannell, and Jake Pannell; one great-granddaughter, Aubrey Kate Allen; three brothers, John Thompson (Nan), Wayne Thompson (Sally), and Paul Thompson (Daphne).

Honorary Pallbearers will be members of the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Active Pallbearers will be Larry Gainey, Dave McRoberts, Al Moore, Herman Thompson, Don Quigley, James D. Abbott, Bobby Pannell and Will Pannell.

Memorials may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, www.t2t.org or Wounded Warrior Project, www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **20**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Posey Funeral Directors
1307 Georgia Ave
North Augusta, SC 29841
(803) 278-1181
admin@poseycares.com
<https://www.poseycares.com>

Service

MAY **21**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Posey Funeral Chapel
1307 Georgia Avenue
North Augusta, SC 29841

Tribute Wall



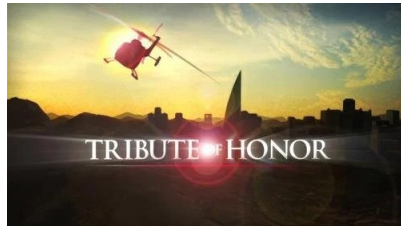
“ Posey Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of William "Dowl" Thompson



Posey Funeral Directors - May 21, 2025 at 08:30 AM



“ Posey Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Dowl" Thompson



Posey Funeral Directors - May 19, 2025 at 01:34 PM

JT

Thanks for the Memories My Brother Dowl!

John Thompson - May 20, 2025 at 12:10 AM

DS

“ Prayers to the family. Thank you for your service to our country! 🇺🇸

Donna Sherman - July 11, 2025 at 09:48 AM

TN

“ Thomas N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Dowl" Thompson.

Thomas N. - May 21, 2025 at 12:50 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Dowl" Thompson.

May 20, 2025 at 07:21 PM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Dowl" Thompson.



May 20, 2025 at 07:21 PM

BL

“ Fly High Coach Thompson! Thank you for your service to the Country and for putting up with & leading a bunch of football players at NASH Class of '75.

Brian Looney - May 20, 2025 at 02:55 PM



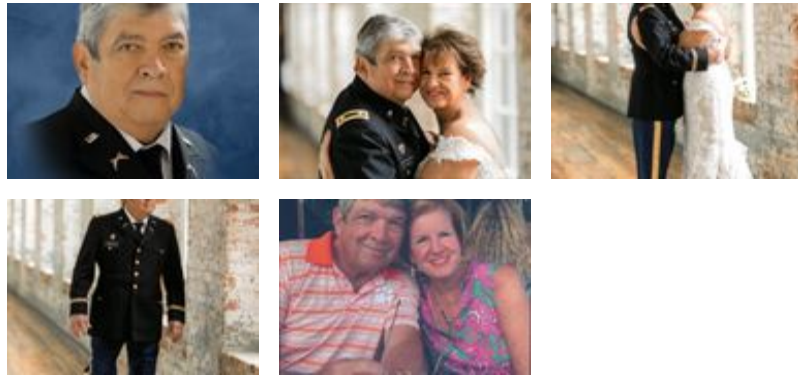
“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William "Dowl" Thompson.



May 19, 2025 at 05:24 PM



“ 62 files added to the album Life Tributes



Posey Funeral Directors - May 19, 2025 at 01:32 PM

MD

“ *My sincerest Condolences to Gail Jean and the family.*

Michelle Darren

Michelle DARREN - May 19, 2025 at 11:54 AM

CL

“ *Christopher L. purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of William "Dowl" Thompson.*



Christopher L. - May 19, 2025 at 10:24 AM

BW

“ Bocki & Jimmy White purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of William "Dowl" Thompson.



Bocki & Jimmy White - May 19, 2025 at 09:33 AM

TF

“ The McClure Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Dowl" Thompson.

The McClure Family - May 19, 2025 at 08:45 AM

TF

“ The McClure Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William "Dowl" Thompson.



The McClure Family - May 19, 2025 at 08:45 AM

SC

“ Scott C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Dowl" Thompson.

Scott C. - May 19, 2025 at 07:39 AM

SC

“ Mr. Thompson was my principal at Union High in 2000. He always puts students first. In 2004 I started the criminal justice academy and on day one when the roll was called I heard his name and turned around to see my former principal in my basic law class. The world has lost a great man. Sending prayers to his family.
-S. Coffer

Scott Coffer - May 19, 2025 at 07:16 AM

DQ

“ Don and Carole Quigley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Dowl" Thompson.

Don and Carole Quigley - May 19, 2025 at 06:43 AM

DQ

“ Don and Carole Quigley purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William "Dowl" Thompson.



Don and Carole Quigley - May 19, 2025 at 06:43 AM

JH

“ I am thankful for Mr. Thompson's decorated career service to our nation in the United States Army and Army National Guard. It is patriots like Mr. Thompson that selflessly served to safeguard our freedom and liberty. I offer my sincere condolences to his family, may he rest in peace.

Jeff Hoefs - May 19, 2025 at 12:01 AM

KL

“ Dowl is the father of our daughters, Wendi and Jenny! From PC to Fort Gordon to Fort Lewis in Washington State to Greenville to North Augusta!

Many memories!

He will be greatly missed by family and friends!

Karen Lucking - May 18, 2025 at 06:33 PM

KS

Sending Love and hugs to you and your girls. ❤️

Kathryne Smith - May 18, 2025 at 07:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Dowl" Thompson.

May 18, 2025 at 02:44 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose* was purchased for the family of William "Dowl" Thompson.



May 18, 2025 at 02:44 PM

LT

“ *Dowl was a good friend at Presbyterian College as well as at Manning High School. My sincere sympathies to all of his family. I knew Wendi, Amanda and Lauren in Manning. There are many memories from school and church.*

Linda Taylor - May 18, 2025 at 02:15 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William "Dowl" Thompson.



May 18, 2025 at 01:40 PM



“ My dear husband and friend. I will love you always and forever, honey ❤️.
I will miss our special morning greetings, our hugs and kisses, being called "babydoll".
But I will always miss our loving relationship together.
But I know that I will see you again, "honey".
I love you ❤️ .
Rest in Peace.

Gail - May 18, 2025 at 12:26 PM



Gail, I was so sorry to hear of Dowl's passing. I met you at my brother Shep's Funeral. I wish you had had more time together. You both seemed so happy. Prayers for you and the family. 🙏❤️

Kathryne Smith - May 18, 2025 at 07:00 PM



“ My brother Dowl, was a special friend. We would check in each week to remind each other of every sporting event that Clemson played.
While both of us played football at PC, we never forgot how much we loved the tigers. I will miss those weekly calls, but remember how close we were.
I love you brother. Rest in peace and save room for me up there 😊

Wayne Thompson - May 18, 2025 at 08:45 AM

KS

Wayne, I was sad to hear of Dowl's passing. May God give you the strength you need from losing your brother. Sending love and prayers.



Kathryne Smith - May 18, 2025 at 07:07 PM

WT

Thank you Kathy

Wayne Thompson - May 23, 2025 at 11:22 AM

JB

*Wayne,
Just learned of Dowl's passing. I am so very sorry for your loss. He was my closest friend and a great teammate at PC. We had great times together there. I had the opportunity to stay with him at Fort Lewis during my shipment to Korea as an MP. We lost touch after that and went our separate ways, but he will forever be in my memory.
Johnny Bankhead*

JOHNNY BANKHEAD - June 10, 2025 at 08:51 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Dowl" Thompson.*



May 17, 2025 at 07:44 PM