



## Mr. George William "Bill" Leonard Jr.

June 20, 1950 - September 2, 2015

George William "Bill" Leonard, Jr., 65, of Salisbury, passed away Wednesday, September 2 at home after a two year battle with cancer.

Bill was born in Salisbury on June 20, 1950. He was the second child of three children born to Bill, Sr. and Barbara Owen Leonard of Salisbury, NC.

Bill graduated from Boyden High School in 1968, where he played football. He attended Duke University and then Catawba College, where he graduated with a business degree in 1972. Bill operated Owen-Leonard Heating and Air Conditioning in Salisbury for 42 years. In later years, Bill also worked as an assistant tennis coach at Catawba College.

As part of the choir at First Baptist Church of Salisbury, Bill enjoyed participating in the Living Christmas Tree each December. His love of music characterized him throughout his life. He was also known for his love of animals, tennis and a particular fondness for the beach.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Wigginton Leonard; mother, Barbara Owen Leonard; sisters Pat Ludwig and Laura Leonard; son, Nathaniel Leonard and daughter-in-law Suellen Leonard, daughter, Natalie Hill and son-in-law Drew Hill; three nieces, Mary Kate Ludwig, Emily Ludwig and Alex Jowers; two nephews, Chris Bowen and Tom Bowen; and six grandchildren, Pierce Leonard, Honey Hill, Creed Leonard, Hutch Hill, Selwyn Leonard, and Macy

Heart Hill.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, George William Leonard, Sr.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, September 6 at 4pm at First Baptist Church of Salisbury with Rev. Dr. Kenneth Lance officiating. Visitation will take place following the service in the church fellowship hall.

Donations can be made in Bill's memory to First Baptist Church 223 N. Fulton St. Salisbury, NC 28144 or Catawba College 2300 W. Innes St., Salisbury, NC 28144.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

SEP 6. 4:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church Salisbury  
223 N. Fulton St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

## Reception

SEP 6. 5:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church Salisbury  
223 N. Fulton St.  
Salisbury, NC 28144

# Tribute Wall

TC

“ We at J. Newton Cohen were very saddened to lose our business affiliate to cancer at such a young age. We have always felt that Owen Leonard and Cohen Sheet Metal worked together and shared the honor of bringing the luxury of our services to Salisbury during the advent of air conditioning. Even though I did not share a common friendship with Bill, I knew him through our business and our common commitment of bringing good value and service to our many customers.

At a time when it seems there are so many miss-fit contractors in the business community, I must say, even as a competitor, that the company of Owen Leonard will also be missed. I know first hand that Bill struggled to service his customers near the end of his struggle with cancer. That type of commitment is rare in today's business community. That type of commitment is what made him such a great man and leader. I can only pray and hope that his influence will inspire others as well as us here at J. Newton Cohen to carry on the same crusade to always give our best to the customers we serve. Rest assured that he will be sorely missed in Salisbury and Rowan County.

Finally, I am sorry that I was called away over the week end. Otherwise, I would have been there to help support the family in your loss. We want you to know of our feelings and respect for Bill. With kindest and most sympathetic regards.

Tommy Cohen

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Tommy Cohen - September 08, 2015 at 08:28 AM

GC

“ *Bill was a great athlete, but he was a greater man. Bill always had a kind word for everybody, and he was the kind of person his peers wanted to be. He was a man that our community will speak of with much pride for years to come. A fighter and friend to the very end. I look forward to the day when I can meet him again in God's wonderful palace. God bless you Bill, for the person you were!*

*Gordon Correll, Salisbury*

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**Gordon Correll** - September 06, 2015 at 02:08 PM

AD

“ *We have known Bill and his family for more than 25 years. Bill was one of the nicest men that we have had the privilege to know.*



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**Anganetta Dover** - September 04, 2015 at 04:18 PM



“ *Sentimental Dreams was purchased for the family of Mr. George William "Bill" Leonard Jr..*



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September 03, 2015 at 02:07 PM

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“ *Your Friends at The Atlantic Baptist Association purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. George William "Bill" Leonard Jr..*



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**Your Friends at The Atlantic Baptist Association** - September 03, 2015 at 01:32 PM