



## William Buster Brown, Sr,

January 4, 1926 - June 9, 2013

William Buster Brown, Sr., age 87, of Chattanooga, TN better known as “Panama Bill” died Sunday June 9, 2013. Mr. Brown was born January 4, 1926 in Ladds, Marion County, Tennessee. His father was a turbine operator at Hales Bar for the old Tennessee Power Company at the time of Mr. Brown’s birth.

Mr. Brown was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Other memberships include the Masonic Lodge 673, Scottish Rite, and the Alhambra Shrine for over 50 years each. In the Abou Saad Shrine of Balboa, Panama, he served as Captain of the Motor Patrol in 1968 and President in 1969.

Mr. Brown became active in organized labor at the age of 18 when he joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). In 1965, Mr. Brown and his wife, Opal, moved to the Panama Canal Zone. Mr. Brown held the office of Business Manager for 12 years with IBEW local 397, as well as Business Delegate for the Central Labor Union and Metal Trade Council (AFL-CIO). He also served as representative in the Office of Wage and Grievances on the Governor’s staff. In 1967, as Legislation Representative, Mr. Brown helped draft the Treaty Labor Annex, which is still in existence. He later served as President. Mr. Brown retired from the Panama Canal in 1988 as Electrical Senior Lockmaster of the Miraflores Locks on the Pacific side.

Mr. Brown was the son of the late Julia Rice-Brown and Alvis Lester Brown. In 1946, Mr. Brown married Opal Harris-Brown, who passed away in

July 2005. Brothers include William Claude Brown and Robert Brown, both deceased, and James David Brown. Preceded in death by his daughter Micki Jo Brown-Cooper. He is survived by sons, Larry Steven Brown, Sr., William Buster Brown, Jr., six grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. Arrangements are by Ryan Funeral Home in Trenton, GA. Visitation will be Tuesday 4 till 8 PM. Memorial service will be Wednesday at 1 PM in the chapel conducted by the Lookout Valley Masonic Lodge # 673 F&AM. Interment will be at Lakewood Memory Gardens West in Lookout Valley, Tennessee by members of the Masonic Lodge 673. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children and the St. Jude Children's Hospital.

# Tribute Wall



“ *William Buster Brown, Sr,*

October 09, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy, thoughts & prayers are with the family of Mr. Brown. May our Lord and Saviour be with you during your time of need and always! Mr. & Mrs. T. D. La Ferry*

**Tom & Barbara La Ferry** - June 11, 2013 at 03:20 PM



“ *So sorry to hear about Buster. Did he pass in Chattanooga or elsewhere? Someone in the family please contact me on my email so that I can update the family genealogy files to reflect accurate info. Love you all and am thinking about each of you boys. Please give me your email addresses so we can keep in touch. Love, Aunt Kitchy*

**Crystal Burnham** - June 11, 2013 at 03:02 PM



“ *MR. BROWN , I WILL MISS OUR MONTHLY CONVERSATIONS AND HEAR YOUR WONDERFUL VOICE . I HAVE LOVED YOU FOR MANY YEARS. SO SORRY WE DIDN'T GET UP THERE TO VISIT. I WILL TRULY MISS YOU !!!  
ALL MY LOVE TAMMY PLEASE TELL MY BEST FRIEND MICKI I SAID HI AND YALL HAVE FUN AGGRAVATIING MS. OPAL...*

**TAMMY AND DOUG MCFARLAND** - June 11, 2013 at 08:47 AM

SW

“ Rest in peace cousin. My love and thoughts are with all the family during this sad time. Billy, Steve, Bucky, Tabitha, the other grandchildren, brother David and all the nieces and nephews. May God comfort you. Love, Cousin Sandi

Sandra Rice Wangsness - June 11, 2013 at 12:39 AM

LM

“ Sorry to hear of Uncle Buster passing away. Will never forget what you were willing to do for me...just a few of us know, but it made me feel like you really cared for me.

Leah Mertens - June 10, 2013 at 11:46 PM

WS

“ Will have fond memories of uncle Buster, love and prayers to all the Brown family.

Whitney Brown Stone - June 10, 2013 at 11:02 PM

LD

“ I am cousin of Buster Brown and am Lynn (Rice) DeLille. Am very sorry to hear about him. Pray for his family and his brother James David Brown. Love u all the family. Lynn DeLille

Lynn DeLille - June 10, 2013 at 09:28 PM

JB

“ David/Papaw... We are thinking of you and love you always!

Janet, Cayci, and Hayley Brown - June 10, 2013 at 08:57 PM

JA

“ I AM SORRY FOR YOUR LOST. MAY BUSTER REST IN PEACE.  
JOEY ATCHLEY HARRISON MASONIC LODGE 114 HARRISON  
TN

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**JOEY ATCHLEY** - June 10, 2013 at 03:42 PM