



## Durwood Owens Jr.

October 31, 1952 - May 8, 2020

LEXINGTON - A private graveside service for Burbage Durwood Owens, Jr., 67, will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at Hillcrest Cemetery in Conway, SC, directed by Goldfinch Funeral Home.

Mr. Owens was born October 31, 1952 in Conway, SC and passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2020. He was the son of the late Mamie Johnson and Burbage Durwood Owens, Sr.

Mr. Owens graduated from Coastal Carolina University. He was employed by PYA/Monarch and US Foods for 43 years and was Division President of the Lexington branch for 20 years. He was a former board member of the Chamber of Commerce in Lexington and Columbia, Coastal Educational Foundation, HRSM at University of South Carolina and Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Mr. Owens was a member of Mt. Horeb UMC. He was an avid Gamecock fan and loved to hunt, cook and fish. Above all, he wholeheartedly loved his family and friends.

Mr. Owens is survived by his wife, Connie R. Owens; son, Bradley M. Owens (Mandy); daughters, Jenna O. Miller (Trevor), Cristyn O. Schroeder (Joe); grandchildren, Callie, Eli, Owen, Murrye, Grei and Rhece; sister, Martha O. Howe (Bill) and beloved nieces and nephews.

A special thank you to Dr. Terry Day and his team at MUSC, Dr. Jerry Robinson, Dr. Steven Madden and Lexington Oncology, and Compassionate Care Hospice for their excellent care.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Harvest Hope Food Bank at [harvesthope.org](http://harvesthope.org) or Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church at [mthorebumc.com](http://mthorebumc.com).

Caughman-Harman Funeral Home, Lexington Chapel, is assisting the family with arrangements in Lexington and Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel, is assisting the

family with local arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

RB

“*Durwood was the kindest, most supportive and knowledgeable boss anyone could ask for. He was a devoted family man and even after we retired and left South Carolina, I enjoyed texting with him, especially during football season and holidays. He always asked about my family, even when he was no longer able to speak to me except by texting. I will greatly miss my former USF boss and good friend. He was head and shoulders above other men, in every way. Thank you Durwood, for being Durwood, and being the outstanding leader to all of us at USF. ---Rick Bennett*

Rick Bennett - September 27, 2020 at 08:52 PM

GI

“*My deepest sympathy to the entire Owens family. My family and I have known Durwood and all the "old school guys" from PYA/Monarch since the mid 1970's. I remember my dad let those guys use our restaurant for several sales meetings and they would cook and try out new products. Durwood always had funny stories to share of my grandfather who ran CINO's at Coastal Carolina College. I always admired Durwood for his character. He believed in customer service and the small business person. No matter what position he held within the company he would make time for me. He supported our business from day one. If I called with a problem, he never told me no. He said "we can get it worked out". He NEVER let our business down! He was a great man! Rest in peace my friend.*

*George Oliver, III  
Oliver's Restaurant, Inc.*

George Oliver, III - May 18, 2020 at 02:05 PM

OI

“*Olivers Restaurant Inc lit a candle in memory of Durwood Owens Jr.*



Olivers Restaurant Inc - May 18, 2020 at 01:03 PM

S(

“ So very saddened to hear the news of Durwood’s passing. Prayers for Connie and family. May the Lord wrap you in his love and fill you with comfort that only he can give.

Steve and Karen Lollis (Stephano’s) - May 15, 2020 at 08:21 PM

EJ

“ We are so sorry to read of Durwood's passing. To Connie and all the family, you have our prayers and condolences. Durwood was a good friend of my brother Andy and we always thought highly of him. May God bless you all and help you through this time. We send our love to you . Sincerely Al and Eloise Dusenbury.

Earl A. Dusenbury Jr. - May 14, 2020 at 09:39 AM

 Martha Evans

“ I will always appreciate Durwood making my daughter, Elizabeth, feel like one of your family! He taught her to water ski, he insisted she stay for steak dinner...he was the Dad she always wanted! I will never forget that! Thank you, Durwood, may your rest in the arms of Jesus, our Savior! Bless Be His name and bless be your Home going!

Marti Evans

Martha Evans - May 13, 2020 at 11:34 PM

LS

“ Durwood hired me in '89 and i worked under him for 22+ years ! He was a Great guy and Fair. He Listened, he was Compassionate, his door was always open ! He 'wanted' to Know every employee, he was always Smiling and Kind to everyone. He was a Great Leader ! - - Connie my heart goes out to you and your family ! Prayers for your comfort and peace at this veryyy Sad time !! - Durwood was 'One of a Kind' - he touched many lives and helped them all !!  
- Lisa Stroud

Lisa Stroud - May 13, 2020 at 02:01 PM

KM

“ He ment everything to me. He was a friend, colleague, and boss, the best I ever worked for. My brother, I'll miss you.

Kinny Massey

Kinny Massey - May 13, 2020 at 01:24 PM

SW

“ Durwood will be missed. Connie, you and your family are in my prayers. God didn't make them any better than Durwood. I am thankful to have known and worked with him. May he rest in peace!

Sandy Whaley - May 13, 2020 at 10:02 AM

RH

“ Rodney Hammond lit a candle in memory of Durwood Owens Jr.



Rodney Hammond - May 12, 2020 at 08:38 PM

KA

“ Durwood always was a friend, and leader  
And not about himself. His position never  
Went to his head. One boss u could always  
Count on. He loved his family and never strayed from family values. Your miss  
dearly.  
I already miss our Gamecock talk and especially closeness toward the end of his  
Life. One Word describes U. Greatness.  
Keith, Julie and Ava.....

Keith, Julie, and Ava - May 12, 2020 at 05:17 PM

DY

“ Dearest Connie and family, it was with great sadness that I learned of Durwood's  
passing. What a pleasure it was to know and work with him for so many years.  
Such a kind, generous and loving man and he will truly be missed. Prayers of  
peace and comfort.

Hartman H. Yarborough

Delle Yarborough - May 12, 2020 at 01:43 PM

KR

“ I'm heartbroken but so grateful to know Durwood. My prayers continue for Connie & family. This is an incredibly hard day for all those who loved him. But to know Durwood professionally or personally, you have memories that will be shared for years to come. One thought- punctuality was not one of Durwood's greatest attributes, as many who worked with him know, but this is one of the reasons why. No matter what was going on, he answered his own phone, he took on tasks that could & should have been handled by others, and he invited anyone who stopped by to come have a seat and talk, and talk. He wanted to talk about you. He asked about you. You. Am I right? I'll never forget him. I miss him.

Kathy Rogers

Kathy Rogers - May 12, 2020 at 12:20 PM

SK

“ Thanks to Durwood I was afforded the best job of my life. He was instrumental in me getting hired as a Meat Marketing Specialist for PYA/Monarch back in the 90's. I enjoyed almost 15 years of service with an outstanding organization, which was a direct result of his great leadership as president of what is now US Foods. Durwood was my mentor and go to guy for all the good and sometime trying times, and ALWAYS had the answers. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Connie and the entire family. May God Bless you All 🙏 Keith Skipper

Skipper Keith - May 12, 2020 at 10:42 AM

SR

“ Connie, Brad, Jenna and Cristyn,  
Are thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this trying time. Durwood was a very lucky man to have such a wonderful family. The strength in your family will get you through this emotional time. There is not a person in this world that I respected more and enjoyed working for more than Durwood. I am so glad I got to see him at the last Christmas lunch at US Foods. He will always be in my thoughts. May God bless you and the entire family.

Love you,

Steve & Cheryl



Steve Russell - May 12, 2020 at 07:53 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Durwood Owens Jr..*



May 12, 2020 at 07:49 AM

RG

“ *Been with him since 1975. We both started at PYA in a matter of days of each other. He was a great leader, and a true friend. I am going to miss him and especially those gamecock conversation we shared on what we thought should happen . My Prayers are with Connie and the family. Missed but not forgotten*

ronald griffith - May 12, 2020 at 07:26 AM



“ *Faith, Hope and Love to everyone in this Amazing family! You all mean a lot to me!*

Garry Stevens - May 11, 2020 at 10:15 PM

MH

“ *Michael Holley lit a candle in memory of Durwood Owens Jr.*



Michael Holley - May 11, 2020 at 07:52 PM

LC

“ *Lally Coleman lit a candle in memory of Durwood Owens Jr.*



Lally Coleman - May 11, 2020 at 12:50 PM

RM

“ *Connie and Family please accept my heartfelt condolences! My life was enriched by having the honor to know and work with Durwood. Many smiles will still be available to me for the rest of my life as I remember him and times in his presence.*

Ryan McNutt - May 11, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Durwood Owens Jr..*



May 11, 2020 at 10:37 AM

AF

“ *Alonzo Sarvis and Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Durwood Owens Jr..*



Alonzo Sarvis and Family - May 11, 2020 at 08:27 AM

SR

“ *Connie and family,*

*Sorry to learn of Durwood's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Sylvia Richardson*

Sylvia Richardson - May 11, 2020 at 02:53 AM

PS

“ *Durwood Owens was one of our best! He led with passion and empathy. He always put customers and associates first. He was a rousing orator. He touched so many with his larger than life personality. His impact at US Foods went far beyond Columbia, where he built a powerhouse. He will be missed by all of us.*  
*Pietro Satriano, CEO US Foods*

Pietro Satriano - May 10, 2020 at 10:08 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Durwood Owens Jr..*



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May 10, 2020 at 09:15 PM

RM

“ *Durwood was like a second father... he always was there to lend a ear or shoulder. I will never forget my first meeting with him when I came onboard with PYA... we had to wear our PYA pin and have a mission statement with us at all times... if we did not we had to pay \$5.00.... of course he was asking for mine and yes I had mine. Durwood was always a shining star for a lot of us, he will be missed . I am very thankful to have him in my life and learned a lot from him. He was always there for me. God bless you all and may GOD wrap his arm around all of you.*

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**Renee Mitchum-Foulis** - May 10, 2020 at 09:05 PM

BR

“ *There just aren't enough words to describe what a great man Durwood was. Truly one of a kind. He exemplified the meaning of the word leader. His heart was pure and huge! So many great years working together. To Connie and the family our heart prayers go out to you all. May God bring peace and comfort to you all. With love and admiration,  
Rick Barrett*

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**Barrett Rick** - May 10, 2020 at 05:02 PM

LR

“ *My daughter just called me to let me know about Durwood's passing and I am so sad. He was a great friend. I attended Coastal Carolina College with him (many classes together as well as together in a study group many times), and we graduated together. As well, Durwood and I started working at PYA Monarch in Conway about the same time. I left PYA 5 years later. Let it be known to all that Durwood was a "First Class" individual and a pleasure to be around. My heartfelt prayers for Connie and his family including Martha Howe, his sister and Bill Howe, brother-in-law, all "First Class" like Durwood.*

*Rest in Peace Durwood. You will be truly missed here.*

*Leo Rabon  
Florence, SC*

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**Leo Rabon** - May 10, 2020 at 04:41 PM

JA

“ *Connie and Family, so sorry to here about this. Please know I'm thinking of you and praying for some comfort at this difficult time.*

June Moore Anderson - May 10, 2020 at 03:48 PM

LS

“ *Lyn Snyder lit a candle in memory of Durwood Owens Jr.*



Lyn Snyder - May 10, 2020 at 03:14 PM

NC

“ *I send up prayers of comfort for all of Durwood's family. And may you rest in peace, Dur, and may all be well with your soul.*

Norma Cooler - May 10, 2020 at 02:46 PM

JT

“ *John Tabakian lit a candle in memory of Durwood Owens Jr.*



John Tabakian - May 10, 2020 at 02:28 PM

JT

*Durwood Owens , was not only a great leader  
But a man of great integrity, always compassionate about the many customers and employees he represented. His great heart only served an example for all to follow. May God bless you Durwood, and may Our lord give His wife Connie, Peace in knowing that he now serves a greater purpose and never forgotten by the men and women who served under him.  
God Bless you Durwood, and Peace to Connie and his entire family.*

John Tabakian - May 10, 2020 at 02:42 PM

RB

“ Rhonda Sanders Butler lit a candle in memory of Durwood Owens Jr.



Rhonda Sanders Butler - May 10, 2020 at 01:34 PM

Shaun Elliott

“ Durwood was one of a kind, giant man with a heart like no other and an amazing leader and friend. He made it a purpose to know everyone’s name that worked under him no matter what position they held, he fought hard for everyone. He was a humble man that never forgot where he came from and always was willing to help anyone. He encouraged everyone to achieve their personal best and if you were willing to listen would teach you how to get there. Daddy O Will be greatly missed but never forgotten because he left an impact on everyone that he came in contact with. He set the bar high as one of the greatest in the food sales industry. Thank you D

Shaun Elliott - May 10, 2020 at 01:09 PM

LC

“ Linda Carroway-Jones lit a candle in memory of Durwood Owens Jr.



Linda Carroway-Jones - May 10, 2020 at 11:37 AM

DF

“ I was very blessed to have worked for Durwood. He was a fantastic leader and genuinely cared for those of us lucky enough to work for him. Prayers and Love to Connie and the family.

Danny Frick - May 10, 2020 at 11:01 AM



“ He was a good man and family man

Heather Hardee - May 10, 2020 at 10:48 AM

RG

“ My first meeting with Durwood ..1970 he was a salesman and I drove down from Greenville to ride with A PYA Salesman and my ride with was Durwood ... we met at Mammy’s Kitchen and this big skinny tall guy introduced hisself and said “ I just got a new car and we can break it in” ... a Chevette .. no air ... a plain Jane auto.. and here was a guy that looked 7 Ft tall ... In a Chevette. For over 40 years we would talk about the Chevette with no air in July at the Beach.. and back then we wore ties. Loved this guy!



ron green - May 10, 2020 at 10:46 AM

KP

Mr. Durwood was a leader in the truest sense. I will never forget early in my career when he sat down with me on a trip and just talked to me. It meant the world to me. He was always so kind and positive. He was a giant man of a man and not just in physical stature. Even as he was retired, he influenced me. He sent me this long text to congratulate me and give me advice when I received my promotion. It meant a lot to me and I saved that text to refer back to it. Go enjoy your full time job in Heaven Sir. Thank you for leaving a positive example for all of us to live by!

Kevin Patrick - May 10, 2020 at 11:31 AM

JR

“ Durwood will be missed by myself and the entire Sub Station II family. My condolences to Connie and the girls.

John Ruffalo - May 10, 2020 at 09:38 AM

IS

“ I was blessed to be raised with Durwood! He was a great man, leader and friend. He will truly be missed! My prayers to his family! I am truly going to miss my friend.

Irvin A Smith jr

irvin smith - May 10, 2020 at 09:32 AM

BL

“ Condolences to Connie and family. Durwood was a great leader and friend. He will be missed you all. RIP



Brenda Lail - May 10, 2020 at 08:50 AM

DC

“ I am sad to read this.I remember Derwood from working at Olivers. He was so kind and sweet. Always something nice to say With a BIG Smile!!! My Prayers are with all. Debbie Bryant Collins

Debbie Bryant Collins - May 09, 2020 at 08:56 PM

GL

“ Durwood was a Conway High School friend: kind and a gentle Giant! He was a true friend. We are praying with your family, sorry for your lost. George Lewis

George Lewis - May 09, 2020 at 07:19 PM

SR

“ Growing up Durwood was always around with O'Brian. Great Memories. So sorry for your loss Mrs. Connie and family. He was a true friend.



Shirley Rabon - May 09, 2020 at 07:19 PM

WL

“ . . . I enjoyed being his classmate at Conway High School. In World History Class one day the teacher discussed how the cow was considered to be sacred in India and, even though hunger existed, cows would not be eaten. Durwood blurted aloud, "I bet it's every cow's dream to go to India." Laughter erupted - it was always a fun time when in his presence. May he rest in peace. Life was better having known him.

Wanda R Lewis - May 09, 2020 at 07:07 PM

SK

Thanks to Durwood, I was afforded the best job of my life when he was instrumental in helping me get a job as a Meat Marketing Specialist with PYA/Monarch back in the 90's.He continued to be my mentor and go to guy for both the good and some trying times. My heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Connie and the entire family. May God Bless you all 🙏

Skipper Keith - May 12, 2020 at 09:00 AM