



Lee H. Bettis, Jr.

June 23, 1941 - December 10, 2025

Lee H. Bettis, Jr., retired U.S. Marine Colonel and long-time Albany banker, died December 10, 2025. He was 84.

Born June 23, 1941, in Memphis, Tenn., he was the first born of Lee and Maxine Bettis, who predeceased him. He also was predeceased by an infant son and his oldest grandson, Stanton Jones.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Evie Bragg Bettis of Albany; a daughter, Suzanne Bettis (Jennifer) of Apalachicola, FL; a son, Ty Bettis (Raines) of Albany; his younger brother, Hal Bettis of Houston, Tex.; four grandsons, Bragg Jones (Kaitlyn), Charles Jones (Lela), Harren Bettis, and Smith Bettis; two great granddaughters, Madison Fleming and Lilly Jones. Bettis was baptized and confirmed at Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, and was a long-time member of St. Paul's, Albany. While living in Apalachicola, Fla. from 2017 to 2022, he was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church. He served as senior warden there for two years. Bettis graduated from Central High School, Memphis, in 1959. He then went to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville on a football scholarship, where he graduated in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

After graduation from UT, Bettis worked two years for Third National Bank, Nashville, Tenn., before joining the U.S. Marine Corp. In April 1966, he was commissioned a second lieutenant. Bettis was a graduate of the Naval War College and also received a master's in management from Salve Regina

College, Newport, R.I. His military schooling also included Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, Va., and the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy. His assignments included tours in Japan, Vietnam, the Washington, D.C. area, and two assignments at Albany's Marine Corp Logistics Base—the first one in the 1970s and the final one in 1986. In February of that year, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

After 25 years of service, Bettis retired from the Marine Corps on April 1, 1990, and began an Albany-based banking career, first as Citizens and Southern National Bank's regional vice president for marketing/economic development. Then, in October 1992, he joined AGE Federal Credit Union as president. The following October, he was elected CEO. AGE later converted to a savings bank and began doing business as Heritage Bank of the South. A holding company had been formed, Heritage Financial Group. Bettis was CEO of the bank and its parent organization, each based in Albany. Bettis left both positions in 2003.

During his banking career, he was active in Albany's civic life. Bettis was a 1989 graduate of Leadership Albany, chairman of the board of United Way of Southwest Georgia, and general chairman of the Darton College Foundation Capital Fund Drive. He also was active in the Dougherty County Rotary Club, the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army, Boys Club of Albany, and Liberty House.

The family wishes to thank Peggy Bozeman, Billie Kearns, Brenda Mathis, and his many other kind and dedicated caregivers.

Funeral services will be held Monday, December 15, 2025, at 1:00PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in downtown Albany. His ashes will be interred in the church's memorial garden following the funeral.

The family suggests that memorial gifts be made to St. Paul's, 212 N. Jefferson St., Albany, Ga.

31701 or to a charity of one's own choosing.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 15. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
212 N. Jefferson
Albany, GA 31701

Tribute Wall

GD

“ Love and prayers for Evie and family. I have fond memories of our time as neighbors.

Gay Dasher

Gay Dasher - December 16, 2025 at 08:58 AM

ML

“ Much love, Kara & Bob Landiss planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lee H. Bettis, Jr..

Much love, Kara & Bob Landiss - December 14, 2025 at 01:26 PM

ML

“ Much love, Kara & Bob Landiss purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Lee H. Bettis, Jr..



Much love, Kara & Bob Landiss - December 14, 2025 at 01:26 PM

KM

“ Suzanne so sorry for your loss sending thoughts and prayers your way.

Karen Mathis

Karen Mathis - December 13, 2025 at 10:31 AM

DK

“ Hey Ty, I'm so sorry for your loss. I'm keeping you and your family in my thoughts.

Douglas Kaliher - December 13, 2025 at 10:11 AM

KF

“ Kai & Sabrina Fornes purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Lee H. Bettis, Jr..



Kai & Sabrina Fornes - December 13, 2025 at 09:13 AM

DS

“ Evie, please know that you and all of your family are in my thoughts and prayers! Lee was one of the best bosses I ever had! He was a joy to work for and always supported my team. I'm so sorry for your loss! Debbie Sutton



debbue sutton - December 12, 2025 at 10:02 PM

SJ

“ Susie and John jones planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lee H. Bettis, Jr..

Susie and John jones - December 12, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lee H. Bettis, Jr..*



December 12, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ *Lee was a great friend during his career with C and s bank . He was a talented banker and Served his country well with his career in The marine corps! May he rest in peace! Condolences to Eve and their children and h Grandchildren!*

patsy martin - December 12, 2025 at 07:44 PM



“ *SZ purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Lee H. Bettis, Jr..*



SZ - December 12, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ *SZ planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lee H. Bettis, Jr..*

SZ - December 12, 2025 at 05:49 PM

TL

“ *The Lauthers purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Lee H. Bettis, Jr..*



The Lauthers - December 12, 2025 at 02:53 PM

SJ

“ *My heart is broken. What a truly wonderful man. Lee was so much more than my boss over the years. He was my mentor, my friend and was like a father to me. My prayers to all of the family. Heaven gained a very special angel. Love you all. Susie*

Susie Jones - December 12, 2025 at 01:39 PM

RF

Evie, I am so sorry for your loss and seems like a huge one for a lot of people. Thoughts and prayers to all of you. Retta Sue Fann

Retta Fann - December 12, 2025 at 03:23 PM

RC

Evie, so sorry for your loss. Prayers of comfort as you go through this sad time. Becky Coffey-Cortner

Rebecca Cortner - December 12, 2025 at 03:35 PM

BK

Evie and family - You are all in my thoughts and prayers

Betty Krika - December 13, 2025 at 11:29 AM

BB

Evie, Suzanne, Ty and family, I am so very sorry. Lee was the best boss anyone could ask for. He was a wonderful man who was kind, thoughtful and sincerely cared for his employees. The world has lost a dear and special person. My thoughts, prayers and love to each of you.

Betty Bramblett - December 13, 2025 at 04:24 PM

ER

Sending Condolences to the family of Mr. Lee Bettis. He will be greatly missed. I had the pleasure and honor of working with him at AGE Credit Union. He was such an "Approachable" boss. May he rest in peace!

Evelyn Ross - December 15, 2025 at 10:32 AM

LD

My condolences to Ty and the family.

Lydia Davis - December 18, 2025 at 01:15 PM

CB

*I know Evie & Lee from the time they were in Apalachicola. They were both so friendly & easy to get to know. Sweet & kind; I loved them from the git go. My heart hurts for Evie & the family. Sincerely with love,
Carole Brazsky*

Carole Brazsky - December 23, 2025 at 08:28 PM