



Rex Sput Powell

Aug. 18, 1957 - May 1, 2025

Rex Sput Powell, 67, of Morganton, NC passed away Thursday, May 1, 2025. Born on August 18, 1957, he was the son of the late Ivey Powell and Mae Powell Maloney. Sput earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Western Piedmont Community College in 1996 and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Lees-McRae College in 1999. Before his law enforcement career, Sput served two years in the United States Army. He began his distinguished law enforcement career in 1989 with the Burke County Sheriffs Office. After a decade of dedicated service, he was appointed Chief of Police at Broughton Hospital in May 2002, a role he held until his retirement in 2012. Demonstrating his continued commitment to public safety, he returned to active duty as a part-time school resource officer from 2023 to 2024. Spuds dedication extended far beyond policing. He was an active volunteer firefighter and first responder with Oak Hill Fire and Rescue following his retirement and served as a current board member. He began his fire service journey as a volunteer with the West End Fire Department and later became Assistant Chief at Oak Hill Fire Department. He was also a charter member of Burke County Search and Rescue and was honored as Burke Countys First Responder of the Year in 2023. Additionally, he was a charter member of the Blue Knights MC XXIII.

His commitment to community and faith was evident through his active membership at El Bethel Baptist Church, where he served with the Medical Mission Team and Baptist Men. He was also involved with Gideons International and served on the board of Hearts Hands and Hope for Haiti. Sput contributed to youth development as a former football coach at Oak Hill Elementary and played a key role in establishing what is now known as the Oak Hill Recreation Foundation. He continued to support youth athletics through his love for Draughn Wildcat football and softball, which he attended at every available opportunity. Sput Powells life was marked by unwavering service, leadership, and compassion. May his memory bring comfort to those who know him.

compassion. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him.

Yet, while his many professional and civic achievements may be impressive, they were not the centerpiece of his life. If you asked Sput what he was most proud of, we are certain that he would say it was his wife, children and grandchildren, but most importantly his relationship with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sput is survived by his wife of nearly 42 years, Barbara Lingafelt Powell of the home; children, Becky Powell of Morganton, Chris Powell (Taylor) of Hickory, and Nichole Tetreault (Brian) of Morganton; grandchildren, Cloe, Rhylin, Peyton, Landyn, Bentley, and Lyncoln; sister-in-law, Nancy Powell of Morganton; numerous beloved nieces, nephews, a large extended family, and many others he considered as his kids, which he loved dearly.

In addition to his parents, Sput was preceded in death by his brother, Levi; and sisters, Barbara and Katie.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 7 p.m., Monday, May 5, 2025 at El Bethel Baptist Church. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 7, 2025 in the church with the Rev. Justin Cunningham officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Honors will be provided by the Oak Hill Fire Rescue Department, Burke County Sheriffs Office, Burke County EMS, and the Broughton Police Department.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to support causes close to Sputs heart, Hearts, Hands, & Hope for Haiti, c/o Rick Coffey, PO Box 1045, Blowing Rock, NC 28605 or El Bethel Baptist Church Building Fund, PO Box 2518, Morganton, NC 28680.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Visitation

May 5, 2025
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

El Bethel Baptist Church

Service

May 7, 2025
2 p.m.

El Bethel Baptist Church

Committal

May 7, 2025

El Bethel Baptist Church

Tribute Wall

I was deeply saddened to hear about Sput's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. — Jim Nelson

—James Nelson

Barbara you & Sput were 2 peas in a pod, where one was so was the other, always giving of yourselves to Help others. Sput will be missed beyond measure, but it was his time to be with Jesus. We may never know on this side what God is planning to use him for. It's been 7 years for mr&I still miss David EVERY day & I know it will be that way for you. If there is any way I can help you please !st me know. You will be in my prayers

—Shelia Whisnant



Thank you for you loving for Haiti, for you helped to Haiti, may God received in the place who are prepared for all son of lord. RIP

—Dr kenn

Barbara and family, we are so sorry to learn of the death of your husband. Just from reading his obituary, he must have been a true servant of God. We will be praying for you and your family. John and Reba

—Reba and John (JP) Lingafeldt



A life well lived serving the Lord and others.

—Debra Fleming



Prayers for you and your family Barbara! We loved Sput , he was a great man and will be missed!

—Regina & Greg Huntley



Prayers

—The Conley's



—ADAM WHISENANT



Rex served the county well. Sorry for the loss . Prayers for family and colleagues.

—Jacqueline C Kanipe

A special kind of person, just recently met him, while doing what has been witnessed doing by so many, serving, To the family he was what GOD is calling all of us to be , an example of how we should be walking among our neighbors

and all we meet, I'm striving to meet Spud and so many others , at the feet of JESUS WORSHIPING THE FATHER,, REJOICE A LIFE WELL LIVED !!!



—Nita



Beautiful human. I will miss our talks at school.

—Meredith Searcy



Sput was truly one of the best people I have known since coming to Morganton 35 years ago. He had a true servant's heart and was friend to many. I am fortunate to have known him and ridden and served with him in the Blue Knights. He was a big supporter of Southmountain Children and Family Services and we will all miss him greatly. Our prayers go out to Barbara and all their family. Well down Brother. Now ride easy and Rest in Peace.

—Chris Jernigan



I am so glad I got meet SPUD and his WIFE. I will keep the



I am so glad I got meet SPOT and his wife. I will keep the family in MY PRAYERS.

—Margaret Tate



I just wanted to express how sorry I am for your loss. I am praying for your family and sending lots of love. I also want to thank your family for taking my grandchildren under your wing and doing everything that y'all have done for my grandsons. We love you and we're here if you need anything.

—mary daniels



—Jenifer Fowler



You will be missed dearly you were another hero to me especially after daddy died and the time I had to have a feeding tube you told my mom and dad what store to go to and to put whatever I needed on your account that is going beyond what you have to do and I love uncle sput see you again on another day

—Shelly Reitzel



Barbara, Becky, Chris and fiancé, Nicole, Chloe, and Ryland. I want you to have my deepest condolence and sympathy. Know that I am praying for all of you as you go through this difficult time. Spot was a wonderful man. He was always



difficult time. Sput was a wonderful man. He was always there for anyone that needed help, for the people in Haiti, for anyone in the Oak Hill community that ever called for a first responder or needed a firefighter. None of his works will go unnoticed, even though he was the top person that

would never say what all he had done for others. He was truly a servant of the Lord.

—Terry Horton



I loved working with Chief Powell all of those years at Broughton, up on the hill, as us folk who have worked at Broughton for a long time say. I met him in the early 2000's when I first started working there and always noticed how loved he was in the Broughton community, as he was a hard worker and central figure there in his role. I have worked with his daughter Becky for a long time and my heart goes out to her and his wife and family for their loss. He will surely be greatly missed.

—Molly, Mary and Kathy Snow



To the Powell family, our deepest condolences. We are heartbroken and very sorry for your loss. He was a good man and wonderful human being. Love and prayers, Tom and Gail

—Tom and Gail

Earth's loss is Heaven's gain! My heart is saddened for all of us who knew Sput! May God wrap HIS ARMS OF COMFORT AND LOVE around you and give you peace! Love and prayers to all!

—Faye Lingafeldt Willen

Prayers for the family during this time. I was saddened to learn about Sput's passing this morning. I had the wonderful opportunity to work with him at the sheriff's office and a couple of years at Broughton. He was indeed a man of faith who sincerely touched my life. He will be missed.

—Jason Daniels



—cynthia k barrier



Barbara, Praying for you and the whole family. Such a loss for us, but a beautiful gain for Heaven. I pray for comfort and peace. Lean into Jesus.

—Mary Skaar

My condolences to the family Rex was a great class mate and friend and a great teammate much love Pastor James Rutherford and family

—James Rutherford



We are so sorry for your loss, Sput was a great man. We will continue to remember you all in our prayers in the coming days. Love, Melissa & Scott

—Melissa Lalonde





Sorry for your loss. Keeping all of you in my thoughts and prayers.

—Tammy Bradley

Barbara and family: words can't express our sadness we feel for you all. Sput was one of the best men we ever known. It was a joy working for himwe really had a great time and he taught me a lot (about life as well as plumbing). Rest in peace Sput....we will miss you.

—Bert and Missy Eastwood

Lifting family and friends up in prayers as their loss is felt deeply by so many. Sput was always first arrival to my mom's home when she called 911. He would ask her what she was doing in the floor. He leaves a blessed legacy. Prayers to all as we remember him and his accomplishments. I can only Image the sights he is seeing now, thanks for a job well done my child. Welcome.

—Linda Whisenant Eaker

Becky - so sorry for your family's loss. Your family are in my prayers. He will surely be missed, but a wonderful servant for the Lord and his community.

—Ruth E Weaver



—Delbra Taylor





—Jeff and Tamara Hibbard

—Faye Keller Gee



—Shannon Gragg



He was a really good guy and a really good officer and a friend I've known him for a long time and he will be missed a lot prayers to the family and all of his friends he taught me to stay out of a lot of trouble and I appreciate him talking with me and making me understand to stay away from trouble he has grown his wings and flying up in heaven now and looking down on his family his friends and his grandkids prayers for you all I'm so sorry for your loss

—Shonna Smart



Most heartfelt condolences for the family during this most difficult time. One of the finest men in our community and influenced so many, prayers for strength and courage.
Nancy and Joseph Hasty

—Nancy Hasty





The best of us

—Leah & Robert Glynn



Sending you all prayers for peace and comfort. Spud left an amazing legacy and will be truly missed. I am so sorry for this devastating loss. Love you all.

—Angie Benson



—Richard Branch



Prayers for the family and friends. God bless

—Jessica DuBois



So sorry for your loss. Ya'll are in my prayers.

—Teresa sturgill

So sorry for your loss.

Our sincere condolences on your loss of Sput. May his memory be a blessing.

—Alice Beck and Patti Patton Lunsford



To Barbara and the whole family, I am so very deeply saddened to hear of Sput's passing. I've known Sput for over 30 years and have always looked up to him and admired him. He was a good man and a great Christian who showed the compassion and servitude of Christ to all he met. Psalm 25:5 "my cup runneth over." Sput exemplified a life of living in the fullness of God. He did so much for so many and he helped so many people. I have no doubt that on May 1st, Sput closed his eyes here on earth and opened them in the presence of our Lord in heaven. He heard "well done good and faithful servant." Prayers and condolences to the whole Powell family. Sincerely, Ashley Taylor

—Ashley Taylor



Sorry for your loss. Went to school with Sput. I was ahead of him but knew his family and him. So long ago. Always a friend. May he rest in peace. If you need anything contact me. Pat Beach Bare

—Patricia Bare



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—Patricia Bare



Sorry for your loss. Went to school with Sput. I was ahead of him but knew his family and him. So long ago. Always a friend then. May he rest in peace. If you need anything contact me. Pat Beach Bare

—Patricia Bare



I will forever remember everything you did for my husband... you truly were a wonderful man... rest easy sput.. you will be missed

—Ashley Wesley Harmon

I'm so sorry Barbara. Hugs and prayers for you.

—Ramona Barnes

May you be engulfed with love, peace and comfort from your family, friends and Savior. We have lost a good man but heaven has gained a first class Angel.

—Bob Duckworth

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—Bob Duckworth

I went to school and played football with Spud for years. We had just reconnected after I moved back in the area after retirement. He had been a good friend and will be missed. I am so sorry for your loss.

—David Edwards



—Vanya McElrath

To the family of our brother in blue. Looks like he served everyone from country to neighbors and even kids. It speaks a lot of a man when you don't know him but can just read his history and be proud that you are part of a group like him. Thanks for the service RIP by Blue Knight brother. NCBK XIII President Brian Duckworth Morganton is my hometown and glad to see people representing it.

—NCBK XIII Brian Duckworth



My condolences are extended to the family. I have known Sput for more years than I can recall. Sput was a true man amongst men and was always a true professional, gentleman and friend. Sput has touched more lives with a positive influence than anyone could ever imagine. His is truly a life unfinished and for those who've known him are better for it. Barbara, you and family are in my thoughts and prayers. Rest easy brother, until we meet again. As you told me when we last parted ways..."I love you brother." You will never be forgotten.

—Steve W Graves

This man was a beautiful sight to us all and guess what he prepaus for HEAVEN" me including and I love his family!!!. He would want u to celebrate

—Shannon Gragg

Heartfelt condolences to the family and friends on the homegoing or Brother Rex "Sput" Powell from the officers and members of the Blue Knights Internationsl Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club. He has preached his own homegoing with the wonderful testimony he had for His Lord and Savior and love of family. William A. McCoy, Chaplain, Chapter XIII Blue Knights Internaional Motorcycle Club, Cumberland County and area surrounding.

—William (Bill) McCoy



Sending my deepest, most heartfelt condolences to the family during this most difficult time. Sput was a special person & a great friend of our family. He will be forever missed! Sending prayers of comfort to the family.

—April Benfield



Rip from a West End Fire fire fighter 6212 we have the watch form here. Sput Powell rest in peace until we see each other again one day

—Tyler KELLER



—CONNIE CARSWELL



—Patty Johnson



I am at a loss for words today. Even though we didn't talk often as we once did I think of you and Barbra about every time I get on my motorcycle. I think of the rides we took to great places. The fun the four of us had every time we were together. I told the story tonight about when we drove the bus to a Boiling Springs football game. You convinced the security guard that I was famous. She insisted that you take our picture with her Camera' lol. I think Katie still talks to Chris some also. The younger people stay in touch better. I will forever have a hole in my heart for your loss. but I know that you will be there to show mw all the best riding, Love you brother' and I know that you are riding on the streets of gold.

—Eric Brown

—Karen



I didn't know your husband, but I can see that he was a child of God, thought of highly, just a good man. I am praying for you, and your family. God Bless

—Debbie Rhoney

Sput is a great man. His family, community and world have suffered an enormous loss. However, heaven got a little sweeter.

—Bill and Lisa Baker

sput was not only a wonder man but a wonderful friend. he went out of his way to help others even if they didnt ask for help. He always found out WHO needed help. He will be missed by so many people. Sending hugs and prayers to all hs family...

—Joy Boone

Thank you Sput for caring for Hillcrest and all you have done for the community, but most of all thank you for the godly example you have been to all. May you continue your work in heaven as God gives you your new assignment. Psalm 116:15 ESV [15] Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. May God strengthen Barbara and the family.

—Debbie Dockery

We are extremely sorry for your loss. Chris, our son, Leighton called this morning to inform us and to request that we remember your family in prayer. That is done. Reading of Mr. Powell's faith in Jesus Christ gives us comfort, as I'm sure it does for the family, friends and associates. May his service to Christ and his community be remembered as you honor the life of this great man.

—David Harris



—Lori Meadows



—cynthia k barrier

As Jonathan and I became wildcat family 3 years ago. We were immediately welcomed by Chris' entire family! Sput and Barbara were visible all of the time for events and family things supporting their own children and the other children/students in their lives!! Sput, I will also be eternally grateful for the Fire fighting knowledge and inspiration you given our son. Lifelong skills! Barbara, Chris, Becky and the rest of the Powell family. YOU WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS!! He will be your guardian angel through the festivities and lifelong adventures you will seek! He was proud of you and that showed in his actions!!! WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! & WE LOVE YOU ALL! LOVE., the Winkler Family!

—Susan and Jonathan Winkler



Barbara, So sorry to hear about Sput. Our prayers are with you and your family.

—Rev Tim Elliott and Anita

Barbara and family we are so heart broken to learn of Sput's passing. Heaven has certainly received great servant of our Lord and Savior. Such a Great friend for so many years. May God draw each of you close in his Loving arms and give strength and support as you go the days ahead. Our Prayers will continue lifting each of you before our Lord and Savior. Our Love.

—Sam and Jan Buckner



Barbara I am so sorry for the loss of your best friend. He was truly a blessing to everyone. I love you dear friend! Prayers each day for God's grace to see you through. Love you! Penny

—Penny Smith

—Grace Boyer



I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and your family. Your Hillcrest family are always here for you.

—Jennifer Mangle

To Barbara, Becky, Cheis and Family I am sorry for your loss. I hope you carry the beautiful memories throughout your lives. Life is filled with challenging experiences I cannot imagine what you're going through Sending love and light to you all during this season of loss. The rain may be falling but the sun will eventually shine its light on ya'll .

—Randy Spake



Although i did not know Sput near as well and near as long as some did, I still knew he had the kindest soul and he was such a selfless man. Through out my years of playing softball at Draughn, he was always there with Barbara to cheer Coach Powell and his girls on. I'm so thankful that i had the chance to meet him and always hear what an amazing man he is. Thank you for all of your many sacrifices, You will forever be missed Sput

—Laney Winebarger

I am so sorry for your loss. This man was an amazing gift from the Lord. He has gifted his life to so many people that can never be counted . My heart aches for your family, and the infinite lives his life has saved. Sput Powell gave the spirit of the Lord to everyone who never knew they needed it. The Lord, Jesus Christ.....

rejoices in his entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven. He will never be forgotten. And his legacy will Never be forgotten Rest in peace Sput.



My brother and friend, I will miss you so and you knew myself, Wayne, Travis, daddy (Pete Webb) and mom (Marcella Clark) loved you very much. I was raised with you being my big brother since I was a little girl. I grew up and out lives continued with our law enforcement careers and EMS and firefighting. You very a great man and I'm so glad you are in the arms of Jesus now. You will be greatly missed by all. Your amazing family will love, mourn, and love on with the upmost support from others. Till me met again in heaven my friend.

—Debbie Webb Case



Sending love and light to your precious family during this difficult time.

—Kimberly Shell

Sput and I had many wonderful times together playing at grandma and grandpa Stewart's house growing up. I am glad we also got to get with many times at football games when we older even though we lived in a different state. He was always supportive of Chris and Becky and their careers. He will be greatly missed.

–Ken Andrews

–LAURA McCOY

He was my buddy. He loved Jesus, his family and his community. If anyone ever had a true servant's heart it was Sput. He enjoyed nothing more than service to others. Whether in Oak Hill, Burke County or in Haiti - Sput only asked "What can I do to help". If we all just tried to be a little more like Sput, this world would be a much better place to live. For now my buddy I say so long- I look forward to someday seeing you on the other shore.

–Tracy D Chapman



Love & prayers

–Tammy Brown



–Glenda



Family I am so sorry for your loss. In I worked at Broughton when he was Chief for Broughton. A very kind Man he was. I know he will be missed. May God comfort your broken Hearts. Terry Moses

–Terry Moses





I will miss you my friend!

—carla adams



Your family is in our thoughts and prayers

—Linda and Bryan Kincaid



A few days ago my daughter and I had a discussion about Rex and something he was selling. I told her how I knew him, as he worked for the Sheriff's department during some of the years I worked for the County. We are sorry for your loss; I do believe he is heaven's gain. Prayers for you and all family members and the Oak Hill community.

—Jacqueline C. Kanipe