



Thomas "Brink" Howard

June 28, 1948 - October 10, 2024

Thomas Brinkley "Brink" Howard, Jr. passed away October 10, 2024 at Benton House in Newnan. He was born June 28, 1948 in Atlanta to the late Thomas Brinkley Howard and Ruth Emma Myers Howard. Brink spent most of his childhood in Decatur and Druid Hills, attended Gordon Military Academy, and graduated from Druid Hills High School. He later earned a degree in Law Enforcement from Georgia State, setting the stage for a distinguished career in public service.

Brink's life was marked by a steadfast commitment to justice and the safety of others. He began this journey in the Army and, after completing his military service, joined the DeKalb County Police force as a rookie in 1972. His dedication and skill quickly propelled him to the rank of Detective after just three years. Brink served in both Fulton and DeKalb counties as an undercover narcotics agent and homicide detective, embodying the courage and integrity that defined his character.

After 20 years in law enforcement, Brink transitioned to corporate security, working for notable companies such as McDonald's Corporation, Valvoline, and Pennzoil. His expertise in safety and security continued to benefit others throughout his professional life.

Known affectionately as "Bear" to his friends - a nickname whose origin sparked playful debate, with some citing the "grizzly" toughness his work demanded, others the "teddy" warmth of his personality, but it was really because he was quite fearless. Brink was a man of great humor and unwavering positivity. For the last 16 years of his life, he faced the challenges of spinocerebellar ataxia, a degenerative neuromuscular disease, with remarkable courage and a steadfast sense of humor. Despite the pain and discomfort, Brink maintained his infectious smile and continued to be a source of encouragement for others. His battle with this condition showcased his resilience and the strength he drew from his deep faith in Jesus Christ.

Brink was an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where he particularly enjoyed the camaraderie of the Men's Club. His mornings often started with breakfast at Christy's, and he was usually accompanied by his loyal companion, his dog Molly. Brink was known for his independent spirit, doing things his way - often to the loving frustration of his sister and many others.

As the "fun" uncle, Brink delighted in causing just a bit of mischief with his nieces throughout their childhood, creating lasting memories and strengthening family bonds. Growing up, his great-nieces and great-nephews lovingly called him "Uncle Money," thanks to his ability to pull quarters out of their ears, a trick that never failed to delight. His love for his family was evident in every interaction, and he leaves behind a legacy of laughter, protection, and unwavering support.

Brink is survived by his sister, Anita Haynes; nieces, Sharon Gruber (Mike) and Kimberly Robertson (David); great-nieces and nephews, Allie Napier (Joe), Megan Welch (Turner), Thomas Gruber, Elena Robertson, Lydia Robertson, Daniel Robertson, and Michael Robertson; and a great-great-niece, Maren Napier.

Funeral services will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 576 Roscoe Road, Newnan, in memory of Brink's dedication to his faith community.

The family extends their heartfelt appreciation to the entire staff of Benton House of Newnan and to Guiding Light Hospice for their compassionate care, unwavering support, and the friendship they offered Brink in his final days.

Brink Howard's life was a testament to the power of perseverance, faith, and the positive impact one individual can have on his community. His legacy of protection, justice, and kindness will continue to inspire all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory, 770-253-4580

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **26**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
576 Roscoe Road
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall

BH

“ I met "TB" back in 1999 when he hired me. I worked for him and learned more than I ever could have imagined during those three years at Penske Auto Centers. After that business ceased operations, we remained close, always keeping in touch with silly text messages and voice messages, and goofy phone calls. We both moved out of the Michigan area but still remained in touch. Each time I was in the Atlanta market we would always get together for dinner and a cigar, when he was able to still get out. Last year we had a short visit but crammed a lot of memory reminiscing in those few short hours. We considered "T" a member of our family and my kids always referred to him and Uncle T. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family, but it also feels an extreme amount of sadness as I learn of his passing. Just as I always closed our calls, TB, "Your Ohio family will always love you, brother."
~Bryan Hajek

Bryan Hajek - November 01, 2024 at 11:27 AM

PH

“ I met Brink the first day my sister entered Benton House he was the first to welcome her. Everyday he had a smile on his face and a positive attitude always saying "I'm great".

Phyllis - October 26, 2024 at 10:02 PM

RR

“ Brink was a fun guy. Very pleasant and always helpful. His thoughtful guidance will be missed.

Roy Reynolds - October 26, 2024 at 08:03 AM

JP

“ *Brinks was always full of fun and smiles when you saw him at Benton House and was compassionate and concerned about others. RIH my friend.*

Janet Pippins - October 25, 2024 at 09:29 AM

MS

“ *I'm very sad to know I won't see his smiling face anymore. He never had a bad thing to say, had a real knack to lift my spirit, without ever complaining about the problems he faced. Praying for his family 🌹*

Margie Stephens - October 25, 2024 at 09:14 AM

LM

“ *Lexie Millard sent a virtual gift in memory of Thomas "Brink" Howard*



Lexie Millard - October 23, 2024 at 08:20 PM

TL

“ *Theresa G Lee lit a candle in memory of Thomas "Brink" Howard*



Theresa G Lee - October 23, 2024 at 10:48 AM