



THE OKLAHOMA EDUCATIONAL MEMORIAL TRUST FOUNDATION HONORS

Gregory Garner Bowles



The Gregory G. Bowles Foundation is forged from Greg's relentless pursuit of excellence and his passion for making a meaningful impact. Tragically, Greg succumbed to cancer in his fifties (November 23, 1968 – September 2, 2023). In his will, he expressed his desire to create a non-profit organization that would benefit the community he loved so dearly. His brother, Brian Bowles, made Greg's dream a reality when he co-founded the Gregory G. Bowles Foundation.

Greg believed in the transformational power of community-focused initiatives. His foundation aims to partner with other organizations and foundations to amplify its reach, exploring joint ventures that reflect Greg's spirit of collaboration.

What sets the Gregory G. Bowles Foundation apart is its commitment to the "little guy"—the overlooked and underserved. While many foundations focus on grand, sweeping initiatives, Greg's legacy emphasizes inclusivity and the importance of addressing the smaller, yet equally vital, needs of individuals. His foundation works to ensure that no one is left behind, providing resources and opportunities to help others achieve their potential.

Greg Bowles was a man of vision, brilliance, and authenticity. From his humble beginnings in East Tulsa, he was laser focused on his goals - determined to become an engineer. Greg was helped by the support of family and friends who believed in his potential. He graduated from East Central High School and attended the University of

Tulsa, where his determination and sharp mind shone brightly. While he wasn't driven by grades alone, Greg excelled, making the most of his time and experiences.

Greg had an infectious laugh and a lively sense of humor that endeared him to those who knew him. Though brilliant, he was grounded, often turning down recognition and preferring to focus on the work at hand. Greg's life was vibrant and multifaceted, filled with high-adventure hobbies like competitive skydiving, motorcycling, car collecting, electric guitar and photography.

Sailing held a special place in Greg's heart. The serenity of the open ocean combined with the thrill of speed was a perfect metaphor for his life—pursuing adventure with purpose. He also loved traveling, whether it was exploring Argentina or forging lifelong friendships on European tours.

Greg's love for Tulsa ran deep. He admired the city's Art Deco architecture, iconic landmarks, and the unique charm that made Tulsa home. He supported many local initiatives, finding ways to give back to the community that helped him succeed.

Greg's career was nothing short of extraordinary. Starting in oil and gas, he worked with companies like Warren Petroleum and Chevron, where his analytical mind and innovative thinking propelled him into leadership roles. At Louis Dreyfus, Greg helped grow the company's business development division from \$500,000 to \$300 million. He was instrumental in pioneering processes to capture valuable byproducts like butane, transforming waste into profit.

Greg's entrepreneurial spirit led him to start his own ventures, including partnering with community leaders, such as George Kaiser, on projects that pushed the boundaries of energy and real estate. Whether developing ports in Oregon or creating innovative ownership models for medical office buildings, Greg's work was marked by creativity and a deep understanding of the people he served.

Greg lived a life that embodied intelligence, humor, and generosity. He was a man who believed in excellence, not for accolades but for the joy of doing things well. He taught those around him to embrace challenges, to strive for their best, and to never lose sight of the importance of helping others along the way. He demonstrated courage and strength in kindness with his whole being.

When people think of Greg, they remember his brilliance, authenticity, and humility. They recall a man who approached life with enthusiasm, whether competing in skydiving, laughing with friends, or navigating the high seas. His favorite book, *Atlas Shrugged*, reflected his belief in self-reliance and the power of individuals to create change.

The Gregory G. Bowles Foundation stands as a testament to his legacy. Through its work, Greg's vision continues to inspire and uplift, proving that one man's determination can make the world a better place for many.

- Adapted from GGBowlesFoundation.com