



Edward "Bret" Coulson

November 30, 2023

Edward "Bret" Coulson, 64, of Dumfries, Virginia died November 30, 2023, at home.

A pillar of the Prince William County community, Bret served in a variety of leadership capacities, including as the President of the Historic Dumfries Virginia, Inc. / Weems-Botts Museum and as the Director and Vice-President of the Friends of Dumfries Slave Cemetery, Inc.

Bret spent over 25 years as a senior political advisor between the U.S. House of Representatives, the White House, the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and Amtrak. Following his work in the federal government, he worked as an independent consultant for more than ten years, sharing his wealth of knowledge and expertise on program management, public communications, and government relations.

An unparalleled historian, Bret's love and passion for reading, continuous learning, and educating inspired him to write 6 books on a variety of subjects such as the Vietnam War, Civil War, and local Northern Virginia history. His family intends on publishing each historical manuscript in his memory.

Bret was preceded in death by his father and mother, James and Dale [nee Pinchot] Coulson. He is survived by his wife, Joan [nee Bagley] Coulson;

daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, Lexie Coulson, Stephen Boensel, and James Boensel; daughter, Sybella Coulson; son, Derun Coulson; brother, Scot Coulson; and sisters, Darcy [nee Coulson] Reed and Jaime [nee Coulson] Heil.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 15, 2023 at the Miller Funeral Home, 3200 Golansky Boulevard, Woodbridge, Virginia 22192. The family will receive visitors from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home and again at the Jeff Simpson Community Center located at 17757 Main Street Dumfries, VA 22026 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Donations in his name may be made to the Almost Heaven Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary, PO Box 648 Capon Bridge, West Virginia 26711.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.
3200 Golansky Blvd.
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-878-CARE (2273)
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

Memorial Service

DEC 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

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3200 Golansky Blvd.
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Tribute Wall

JA

“ *Jan Erik Andersson lit a candle in memory of Edward "Bret" Coulson*



Jan Erik Andersson - October 11, 2024 at 04:20 PM

JG

“ *It is with a heavy heart that I offer condolences to Bret's wife Joan and their children (and grandchildren). He was a Civil War Buddy...a fount of knowledge on our shared connection to the 74th Pennsylvania Infantry unit in which our great-grandfathers served. His encyclopedic knowledge of our shared history -- and his willingness to selflessly share it --was breathtaking. He will be missed by many of our sisters and brothers with relatives from the 74th. John R. Gray, Herndon, VA*

John Gray - December 15, 2023 at 04:15 PM

KR

“ *Kathy and Rick purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*



Kathy and Rick - December 14, 2023 at 11:47 AM

KR

“ Kathy and Rick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Bret" Coulson.

Kathy and Rick - December 14, 2023 at 11:47 AM

DE

“ Daniel, Kristen, and Erin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Bret" Coulson.

Daniel, Kristen, and Erin - December 13, 2023 at 02:31 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.



December 13, 2023 at 02:31 PM

OP

“ OSI Office of Special Projects planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Bret" Coulson.

OSI Office of Special Projects - December 13, 2023 at 12:40 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*



December 13, 2023 at 12:40 PM



“ *From: Tamika Harris-King & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*

Tamika Harris-King & Family - December 13, 2023 at 10:23 AM



“ *Tamika Harris-King & Family purchased the Ultimate Golden Godiva Tower for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*



Tamika Harris-King & Family - December 13, 2023 at 10:23 AM



“ *Anita E. Frevert, Ed.D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*

Anita E. Frevert, Ed.D. - December 11, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*



December 11, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ *Your Friends at Colgan Crew Association purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*



Your Friends at Colgan Crew Association - December 11, 2023 at 10:11 AM



“ *Your Friends at Colgan Crew Association planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*

Your Friends at Colgan Crew Association - December 11, 2023 at 10:11 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*



December 10, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*



December 07, 2023 at 11:12 AM



“ *Bret's love of family, history, and country is a model I will always use as a reference point. My condolences to his wife Joan and his children. He truly loved his family. He was always willing to share what he had learned and what he knew with anyone asking for his guidance or help. There are countless people whose daily commutes are better because of his work, and so many that are safer because of his work. We shared a love of history specifically the history of the American Civil War, the Union Army, and our ancestors' service in that with the 74th PA. He shared what he was working on and discovered in his research with so many of us and was always so happy to do so. I am so grateful to have known him and learned from him so many things. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.*

Rod Fleck - December 07, 2023 at 09:12 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*



December 07, 2023 at 08:23 AM

SI

“ Sincerely, K2 Group, Inc. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Bret" Coulson.

Sincerely, K2 Group, Inc. - December 06, 2023 at 05:50 PM

SI

“ Sincerely, K2 Group, Inc. purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.



Sincerely, K2 Group, Inc. - December 06, 2023 at 05:50 PM

DH

“ Bret's great leadership, tremendous intellect and unyielding dedication to the defense of our country are unsurpassed. His accomplishments in the highest positions of responsibility in the White House and Congress made our nation stronger and safer. He was always unwavering in decisions to improve our future by simply applying the correct values. No one cared more for the people of the United States. All our best wishes to Bret's family that he loved so completely



Dennis Hertel - December 05, 2023 at 10:03 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*



December 05, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Town of Dumfries and Council planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*

Town of Dumfries and Council - December 05, 2023 at 12:47 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.*



December 05, 2023 at 12:47 PM



“ *Bret's passion for local history was evident in all the projects he was juggling and his many volunteer efforts. He and I chatted often about preservation projects in the Dumfries area, our office will miss him greatly and the passion/dedication he had to preserving and telling history. We had so many projects to work on, we will now continue on in his memory - Rob Orrison, Prince William County Historic Preservation*

Robert Orrison - December 05, 2023 at 07:33 AM

AF

“ Aunt Carol (and Uncle Ray) Seng Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.



Aunt Carol (and Uncle Ray) Seng Family - December 04, 2023 at 08:20 PM



“ I am at a loss for words. Bret was such a good person. He was the best man at our wedding 34 years ago and I remember him delivering a beautiful and heart felt toast that touched everyone at the wedding. Too many years have passed since we were able to spend time with him, but he will always be remembered with love.



Jackie Butts - December 04, 2023 at 08:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward "Bret" Coulson.



December 04, 2023 at 06:08 PM

SS

“ A great human and wonderful friend! He was a joy to be around and know. He will be missed. My prayers and condolences to the family.

Sheila Scott - December 04, 2023 at 04:09 PM

MW

“ *A good man! He was an inspired source of ideas and contacts when I worked for the House Commerce Committee, his wry sense of humor was always in demand in the hard work of rooting out abuse in the federal agencies. God bless the memory of Bret Coulson and the family he loved. Marc Wheat*

Marc Wheat - December 04, 2023 at 03:50 PM