

OBITUARY



Lee H. Bettis, Jr.
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. 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.
Funeral services will be held Monday, December 15, 2025, at 1:00 PM 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.

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 hushes or shushes (6)	_____
2 bed maker’s action (7)	_____
3 Pitt and Paisley (5)	_____
4 visually estimated (9)	_____
5 turns on the AC (5)	_____
6 they work “by the foot” (11)	_____
7 Nashville puck handlers (9)	_____

OLS	DS	TUC	QUI	NG
ETS	LED	ED	EYE	PED
BRA	ICU	CO	KI	STS
RI	ORS	PR	AT	BAL

Tuesday’s Answers: 1. TRIP 2. WAITING 3. FREQUENTLY 4. DESCRIPTIVE 5. REPRODUCE 6. MANNING 7. COIL 12/17

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES	SOLUTIONS
1 oval and hexagon (6)	_____
2 reddish-brown (8)	_____
3 word of comparison (8)	_____
4 covers, in a way (7)	_____
5 large, to a barista (5)	_____
6 all the other stuff (8)	_____
7 “locked” fairy-tale princess (8)	_____

UN	SH	ES	VEN	KEW
INS	ET	LI	RAP	MAH
ERA	OG	TI	AP	ES
ANY	ZEL	UR	ISE	CET

Wednesday’s Answers: 1. QUIETS 2. TUCKING 3. BRADS 4. EYEBALLED 5. COOLS 6. PEDICURISTS 7. PREDATORS 12/18

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 “In the headlights” animal
- 5 Golf tops
- 10 Fury
- 14 Soul, in Spanish
- 15 “Alas and ___!”
- 16 Some Sharon Olds poems
- 17 Many an American employee
- 20 ___ sauce
- 21 Called
- 22 Brand of 5-Across
- 24 Breakfast bowl berry
- 25 List of pub grub
- 28 Contest that starts with a center-ice faceoff
- 32 Skin soother
- 33 HS diploma equivalent
- 35 “All over that”
- 36 Wellness space
- 37 Fruit also known as guanabana
- 41 Herbal refreshment
- 42 Residential upgrades
- 45 Director Lee
- 46 Quick ___ wink
- 47 Escapade
- 49 Chess greats, for short
- 52 Indigenous Canadians
- 55 Red Bull slogan, and what can also be said of 17-, 25-, 28-, and 42-Across
- 59 Butter Restaurant chef/owner
- 60 March follower
- 61 Sushi seaweed
- 62 Pops
- 63 Foul call, maybe
- 64 Scratched (out)
- 65 Con
- 66 Shoe bottoms
- 67 Simchat bat, for one

DOWN

- 1 Absurd
- 2 “First Lady of Song” Fitzgerald

3 Qatari commander

- 4 “The Entertainer” genre
- 5 Source of financial aid
- 6 Rio greeting
- 7 Muscle worked in dumbbell rows
- 8 Halloween mo.
- 9 Comedy scene
- 10 “Good 4 U” singer Olivia
- 11 Driver of “Ferrari”
- 12 Part of an inheritance
- 13 Founded, as a co.
- 18 Skyline obscurer
- 19 Diane of “Law & Order: SVU”
- 23 Excavated
- 24 “In conclusion ...”
- 25 Fun function
- 26 Chewy brand
- 27 Wander
- 29 Price for hand delivery?
- 30 Bearing
- 31 Coup d’___
- 34 Stumble or fumble
- 37 Vanity pieces

38 “Srsly!?”

- 39 Roe, e.g.
- 40 “Raging Bull” Oscar nominee
- 43 Sound check?
- 44 Water boy?
- 47 Olive family shrub
- 48 Vegan brand owned by Estée Lauder
- 49 Device on a snowboarder’s helmet, maybe

50 Wall flowers, perhaps

- 51 Pigs
- 53 Miso soup mushroom
- 54 Ibis kin
- 55 Wanders (about)
- 56 Blathers on
- 57 Varieties
- 58 “Oh sure, take their ___!”

ANSWER TO TODAY’S PUZZLE:

ET	LI	RAP	MAH
OG	TI	AP	ES
ZEL	UR	ISE	CET

ny's Answers: 1. QUIETS 2. TUCKING 3. BRADS
ED 5. COOLS 6. PEDICURISTS 7. PREDATORS 12/1

SWORD

12/18/25

commander	39 Roe, e.g.	flowers,
4 "The Entertainer" genre	40 "Raging Bull" Oscar nominee	perhaps Pigs
5 Source of financial aid	43 Sound check?	53 Miso soup mushroom
6 Rio greeting	44 Water boy?	54 Ibis kin
7 Muscle worked in dumbbell rows	47 Olive family shrub	55 Wanders (about)
8 Halloween mo.	48 Vegan brand owned by Estée Lauder	56 Blathers on
9 Comedy scene	49 Device on a snowboarder's helmet, maybe	57 Varieties
10 "Good 4 U" singer Olivia		58 "Oh sure, take their ___!"
11 Driver of "Ferrari"		
12 Part of an inheritance		
13 Founded, as a co.		
18 Skyline obscurer		
19 Diane of "Law & Order: SVU"		
23 Excavated		
24 "In conclusion ..."		
25 Fun function		
26 Chewy brand		
27 Wander		
29 Price for hand delivery?		
30 Bearing		
31 Coup d'__		
34 Stumble or fumble		
37 Vanity pieces		

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE:

E	T	I	R		S	E	L	O	S		M	A	C
D		K	E		K	N	A	P	R	A	V	A	D
I	R	O	N		L	R	I	P	A	P	X	E	L
S	G	N	I	I	W	U		S	Y		S	E	L
	E		C	R	E		G	M	S		K		L
			A	S	A			G	N	A			
T	N	E	M	E	V	O	R	P	M	I	E	M	O
A		T	E		P	O	S	R	S	O		P	A
T		I	N	O			D	E	G			E	O
E		A	M		L	H	N		U	N	E	M	A
			A	C	A		A		D	O	Z	I	
D	E	M	R	E	T				A	R	T	A	R
T		N	A		N	D	E	T	A	T	H	I	G
S		O	D	A	E				A	L	A	C	K
E		R	A	G			S	O	L	P	O	L	A

12/18/25

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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				22			23		24					
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36					37	38				39	40		41	
42				43								44		
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	47	48				49	50	51		52		53	54	
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62						63						64		
65						66						67		

By Rebecca Goldstein
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12/18/25