PEOPLE LIKED HIM

People liked him, not because he was rich or known to fame;
He had never won applause as a star in any game.
Honest, patient, brave and true: Thus he lived from day to day,
Doing what he found to do in a cheerful sort of way.
Wasn’t one to boast of gold or belittle it with sneers,
Didn’t change from hot to cold, kept his friends throughout the years
Sort of man you like to meet any time or any place.
There was always something sweet and refreshing in his face.
Sort of man you’d like to be: Balanced well and truly square;
Patient in adversity, generous when his skies were fair,
Never lied to friend or foe, never rash in word or deed,
Quick to come and slow to go in a neighbor’s time of need.
Never rose to wealth or fame, simply lived, and simply died,
But the passing of his name left a sorrow, far and wide.
Not for glory he’d attained, not for what he had of pelf,
Were the friends that he had gained,
But for what he was himself.

Edgar A. Guest

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family Gregory Bannamon is truly humbled by the outpouring
of love shown at his transition. We were comforted and sustained by
your generous expressions of love and support during our time of
bereavement, and we are most grateful for your kindness.

In lieu of flowers or cards, the family request that donations be
made to the American Cancer Society or the Visiting Nurse
Hospice Services of Georgia.
Gregory Howard Bannamon, age 61, passed away October 6, 2016, in Atlanta, Georgia, after a battle with cancer. He had previously been diagnosed and treated for cancer in early 2000 with a long period of remission. However, in 2016, the cancer returned and although his mind was willing to fight the battle, his body could not withstand the ravages wrought by lymphoma.

In 1955, Gregory Bannamon was born in Waycross, Georgia to Matthew and Doris Bannamon. Gregory spent his formative years and completed primary school in Waycross. He and his family later moved to Miami, Florida, where he completed secondary school by graduating from Miami Carol City Senior High School. While in high school, Gregory enjoyed many social activities, foremost was playing in the concert and marching bands, and later he had the immense pleasure to serve as the assistant drum major. After graduating from high school, it was his desire to serve his country and to see the world, which led to Gregory joining the United States Air Force, where his tour of duty took him to Anchorage, Alaska.

After leaving the military, Gregory relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, where he briefly attended Clark Atlanta University. Although he enjoyed college life, Gregory found the classroom unfulfilling and decided to go to flying school. He graduated from Miami Carol City Senior High School in 1975.

Gregory learned to speak several languages; however, he was fluent in Italian, Dutch and Spanish. Gregory knew language was a way to cultivate his second love which was meeting people and experiencing different cultures. Upon meeting someone new, he would ask their name and where they were from. The latter because in-variably Gregory would be able to connect to the individual by having something in common with them from his love of travel.

His love and talent for speaking several languages enabled him to become a purser on international flights, and garnered him the honor of having been selected to serve on two papal flights. His first papal flight was with Pope John Paul in 1995, and then with Pope Francis in 2015.

Gregory was a free spirit that celebrated life, love of people, cultural diversity and arts. He believed good food and music were the elixirs of life. Opening himself up to new experiences and cultivating relationships made him the person he wanted to be. He was never one to shy away from a challenge and was the first to offer unconditional love and friendship. Everyone would agree if Gregory was in a room, for an hour, with one hundred people that he did not know, at the conclusion he would have introduced himself to at least eighty-five of those people. He was just that incredibly sociable.

This attribute served him well as so many expressed their love for him and sorrow at his passing. He was near and dear, touching the lives of so many people here in the United States, and abroad. Although he loved the United States, he also considered Milan and Buenos Aires as adopted homes.

Gregory is survived by his parents, Matthew and Doris Bannamon of Atlanta, Georgia; sisters, Toni Bannamon of Atlanta, Georgia and Winifred Bannamon (Michael North) of Hollywood, Florida; aunts and uncles, Whelder Wynn (Jake) of Chiefland, Florida, Sara Jones of Atlanta, Georgia, Walter Murray (Barbara) of Decatur, Georgia, Kenneth Murray (Joyce) of Atlanta, Georgia, Diane Lewis (Johnny) of College Park, Georgia, and William Murray, Sr. (Zenia) of Atlanta, Georgia; numerous cousins, friends, and his extended American Airlines family.

“FLIGHT ATTENDANTS DO NOT DIE, THEY FLY HIGHER.”