



Mary Downs

July 7, 1932 - September 13, 2025

Mary Elizabeth Mink Downs, of Wachesaw Plantation, died peacefully September 13, 2025 at her home, with her spouse of 73 years at her side.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Clayton and Mary E. Mink.

Mrs. Downs was President of the National Honors Society, while attending Bartram High School. Upon graduation she worked as a private secretary for the Horace B. Nicholson Co., and attended the Univ. of Penn's Wharton School of Business.

She was an accomplished pianist, and studied at the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music. While living in Puerto Rico, she started painting and studied under a local artist. Her family moved to Scotia, NY, and she was very active in the local garden clubs, becoming President of the Indian Hills Garden Club, and Asst. Treasurer of nine counties Federated Garden Clubs of NY State. Mary was also an accomplished seamstress. When living in London, England, she became a member of the Royal Horticultural Society. Mary and her husband retired to Wachesaw Plantation in 1992. She became very active in St. Michael Church in Garden City, and served on the Liturgy and Environmental Committees, and was a Lector for 27 years.

She was pre-deceased by a son Christopher R. Downs, brother William Mink, and sister Doris Wills.

Surviving are her husband, Harry A. Downs; daughter, Mary E. Rybicki and husband Joseph, of Milford, DE, son Harry, Jr. and wife Mary Frances, of Dalton, MA; daughter, Michele M. Witman and husband Joseph, of Milner, GA; eight grandchildren; Christine Resh, Kimberly Vella, Kevin Frayne Jr., Richard Downs, Matthew Downs, Krystle Witman Hardin, Joseph Witman Jr, Jonathon Downs, and ten great grandchildren: Braden, Parker, and Jaxson Resh, Johnny and Josie Vella, Aubriana and Kinley Downs, Jace Witman, Harper Witman, and Maverick Downs.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 2:00 PM, Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at St. Michael Catholic Church, with burial following at Hillcrest Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 5:00-7:00 PM, Monday, September 22, 2025 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to St. Michael Catholic School.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 347-4909
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel
11528 Highway 17 Bypass
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
<http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

A Mass of Christian Burial

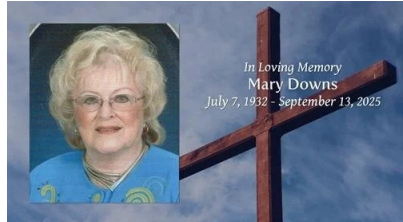
SEP **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Church
542 Cypress Avenue
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

Tribute Wall



“ *Goldfinch Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Downs*



Goldfinch Funeral Home - September 18, 2025 at 11:03 AM

FF

“ *Prayerful Remembrance at the altar. Mrs. Downs always had a smile on her face and radiated joy. God reward her with the gift of Heaven. Mr. Downs thank you for helping her carry the cross and assisting her in her earthly journey. You both were a living example to many on what Love is. God Bless. Father Ed....*

Father Ed Fitzgerald - September 22, 2025 at 06:07 PM

BO

“ *PLEASE ACCEPT OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY FOR YOUR LOSS.MARY WAS A SPECIAL LADY AND WILL BE MISSED BY ALL..BILL AND JUDY OBRIEN*

BILL AND JUDY OBRIEN - September 21, 2025 at 10:23 AM

MP

“ Missy (Gorman) and Steve Piasecki purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mary Downs.



Missy (Gorman) and Steve Piasecki - September 20, 2025 at 08:01 PM

MP

“ Missy (Gorman) and Steve Piasecki planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Downs.

Missy (Gorman) and Steve Piasecki - September 20, 2025 at 08:01 PM

BF

“ Barbara & Fran purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Downs.



Barbara & Fran - September 19, 2025 at 12:36 PM

MP

“ For 18 years you were a wonderful neighbor to the Gorman's. So many memories..... swimming in our little pools on the patio, Summer hot dog lunches, holiday parades and cookouts. Your beautiful eyes and loving smile were a big part of my childhood. Thank you for the wonderful memories. May you be at peace with the angels.
Missy or as you and mom tried to call me...Mary Kay

Missy Piasecki - September 18, 2025 at 01:18 AM

KV

“ *Kimberly Vella lit a candle in memory of Mary Downs*



Kimberly Vella - September 17, 2025 at 08:32 PM

GB

“ *Prayers and love to Mary and Joe Rybicki and family, for the loss of your Mother. God bless and keep you comforted during this sad time. Love, Gwenn and Brynn.*



Gwenn Benn - September 17, 2025 at 04:52 PM

KA

“ *Our sincere sympathy for the loss of your loved one. May cherished memories and earnest prayer bring comfort for family and friends at this time.*
Psalm 46:1

Kathryn - September 16, 2025 at 04:15 PM

LN

“ *Linda & Vincent Nastri lit a candle in memory of Mary Downs*



Linda & Vincent Nastri - September 16, 2025 at 10:40 AM

MD

“ HEY MOM, REMEMBER THESE..



MICHELE M. DOWNS-WITMAN - September 15, 2025 at 10:53 PM

MR

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Mary Rybicki - September 15, 2025 at 10:38 PM

MR

“ Mary Rybicki lit a candle in memory of Mary Downs



Mary Rybicki - September 15, 2025 at 10:37 PM

KW

“ Always and forever in our hearts, you’ll always be our Nana.
Never a second goes by thinking about you.
This morning, while sitting on the porch with the dog, a hummingbird
flew up in front of me. Never once did it fly it away. I knew then, it
was you coming to say hello to me.
Every distinct thing I see or do, always brings your memories up in
my mind,..the laughters, the jokes, the crafts we did as kids.
Every picture below, is a reminder of that memory.
We love you always.
Krystle, Chris, Joey and Jace



Krystle Witman-Hardin - September 15, 2025 at 09:51 PM

MD

“ HEY MOM U WILL SURELY BE MISSED ALWAYS FROM ME, MICHELE, AND THE FAMILIES OF THE DOWNS-WITMANS..THANK U FOR ALWAYS BEING THERE FOR ME AND FAMILY.. AND U WERE INDEED THERE..I WILL MISS YOUR LAUGHTER, AND SMILE ALWAYS WILL BE THERE WITH MY ANGELS AND YOURS... THANK YOU FOR LIVING ME, (MICHELE), AND ALWAYS GAVE A HUG AND KISS.. I LOVE U..!! REST IN PEACE MY MOM..



MICHELE M. DOWNS-WITMAN - September 15, 2025 at 08:00 PM

BW

“ Branden & Ashley Wilson purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mary Downs.



Branden & Ashley Wilson - September 15, 2025 at 07:17 PM