



Thomas Joseph Downey

November 23, 1930 - August 24, 2023

Thomas Joseph Downey age 92, passed away Thursday, August 24, 2023, at his residence in The Palmettos.

Born in New York, NY, he was a son of the late Thomas and Catherine Downey. Mr. Downey was a U.S. Korean War veteran with 5 years of service in the Army and 15 years of service in the Air Force. He moved to South Carolina with his first wife, Mary, after he retired from IBM after many years of service. He was an avid golfer, bowler, and fisherman. He was a handyman, enjoyed gardening, had a great sense of humor and was always willing to help others. Mr. Downey was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather who will be greatly missed. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary Downey; siblings, Richard and Gerard Downey, Virginia Duane, Catherine Byrnes and Theresa Broderick.

Survivors include his wife, Sheila Downey of Murrells Inlet; five sons, Thomas Joseph Downey II (Diana) of Mesa, AZ, Randall John Downey (Patti) of Rhinebek, NY, Daniel Dwight Downey (Kim) of Hughsonville, NY, Jeffrey James Downey (Monica) of Apache Junction and Scott Steven Downey (Mary) of Mesa, AZ; a daughter, Elizabeth Ann Downey (Len Storey) of Maui, HI; seven grandchildren, David Patrick Downey, Jamie Patricia Downey, Justin Gallagher, Caitlyne Downey, Travis Downey, Mark Downey, Nathan Downey and many beloved great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 10:00 AM Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Interment with full military honors will

be held at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warriors, 1120 G Street
NW Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **13**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Saint Michael's Catholic Church
542 Cypress Ave
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576-8739
(843) 651-3737

Tribute Wall

“Dad was always ready with a joke or a tale, and those tales got taller with each telling.

When we were kids, Mom and Dad often planned something for the weekend, whether it was the beach (often!), a park picnic, a local fireworks show, a visit to a local site of interest: Solvang, the old mission near Santa Barbara, Disneyland, Miami and Busch Gardens, Sequoia and Redwood National Parks, a zoo, the beach (yes, again) or just playing in the backyard.

We had countless games of baseball, touch football, or volleyball, often with Dad's sometimes made-up-on-the-spot rules. When they got us an above ground pool we stayed in the water until we just about grew gills. The boys will never forget Dad making them screen the garden soil for rocks, but they also had fun pulling the gang mowers with the tractor.

Of course, indoor time was usually TV, and one of ours and Dad's favorites was Batman (the original from the 60's, of course), and Saturday morning cartoons.

None of us will ever forget the cross country trip in the two-tone Chevy II station wagon. Dad took out the back bench seat and fashioned one of his own, complete with a storage area underneath for cereal, peanut butter, jelly, cookies, crackers and drinks. We've all heard Mom's tale of dousing her feet in the Holiday Inn fountain, and the peanut butter that poured from the jar, after crossing the southwestern desert at high noon. But we just had to go see Calico Ghost Town...because they both knew we kids would love it.

Dad's military background was not below the surface, he proudly wore his Korean War Veteran's hat. And he wasn't shy about using phrases like "commence smiling and waving!" as we pulled away from relatives' homes.

And Christmas, well, that was special. Mom and Dad would put toys

from the BX on layaway, paying into it all year so we could have an amazing Christmas morning. Even the one year they told us there would be slim pickins' under the tree, but they'd actually bought us the best gift of all: a big house in upstate New York, with a huge yard, fresh food from the garden, and lots of room to grow up.

When Mom started her long decline into dementia, Dad was there literally by her side, looking after her. His devotion and energy never waned, and Mom got her wish to never go into a nursing home.

After Mom passed, Dad got busy making new friends in the Village. We were delighted to find out about Sheila, and Len and I were especially pleased when they said they were coming to Lahaina, and by the way, "we're going to get married in front of your ice cream shop"! It was a little short notice, but we pulled together a pastor, a photographer, a cake and some good friends, Len's brother David and his wife, Deb happened to be visiting and I think there was music. It was a lovely ceremony, and the love those two octogenarians had for each other was so obvious! Wherever they went, they became the Tom and Sheila Show. Everyone always commented on their good mood and how they always made everyone laugh. We are so grateful Dad found another amazing woman to marry, and that they had such a good time together.

We're missing Dad's jokes, his laughter and the good times. We know you're in a better place Dad, but while you were here, you made this place pretty awesome, too.

Love you and miss you, Dad. Rest in peace, and rest assured we'll check in on Sheila for you as often as we can.

*With love,
Lisa & Len & Fifi*

Lisa Downey - September 12, 2023 at 10:28 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Thomas Joseph Downey.*



September 11, 2023 at 01:19 AM



“ *Tom, you were one of a kind. Always enjoyed visiting you and laughing with you. Steve and I will miss you. Sandy Thompson*

Sandy Thompson - September 03, 2023 at 10:30 AM



“ *Tom was always there with a jab and a joke. Tom, You will be missed by your favorite nose neighbor.*



Kathy Kenney - August 28, 2023 at 08:35 PM



Thank you, Kathy, for everything. You were the best neighbor they could have asked for! Thank you so much for your kindnesses throughout the years.
Lisa & Len

Lisa Downey - September 12, 2023 at 09:28 PM

SD

“ *Look be and miss you. Scott & Mary Downey*



Scott Downey - August 26, 2023 at 11:52 AM

SD

Love you and miss you.

Scott Downey - August 26, 2023 at 11:54 AM

MD

“ *Murrells Inlet Dentistry lit a candle in memory of Thomas Joseph Downey*



Murrells Inlet Dentistry - August 26, 2023 at 06:15 AM