



Gary L. Downs

August 13, 1940 - October 27, 2017

Gary was born in Corning, Arkansas August 13, 1940. His parents moved to Detroit awaiting his dad's call to duty in WWII. Afterward, the family then moved to Madison Heights, Michigan, where Gary met his future wife in 9th grade Latin class at Madison High School.

Gary Downs and May Burke wed in 1958 in Madison Heights and were blessed with three sons: Gary David, Daniel Henry and Stephen Lee. Gary apprenticed in the glass/glazing trade with his father-in-law.

After moving from the suburbs to a 40 acre farm in Goodells in 1967, Gary continued to work in the glass trade in Detroit, while also being Little League coach and Cub Scout leader for his sons. Several months of lengthy commute resulted in starting his own business close to home....a glass shop in Yale. And in time, each of our sons worked with their dad in the business.

Life was good in the country setting until the school situation became complicated...one child in Yale, one in Avoca...one in Ruby. We just up and moved to Yale. Hard part of that was the miles that then separated us from dear friends, Archie and Bessie Campbell.

In time, as our sons grew up and moved on to other jobs or college, we moved to St. Clair where our youngest son graduated high school. And Gary was once again involved in his own business...this time in New Baltimore (more travel time!! sigh.) Yet, again, our sons worked with us.

In the late 1960's, we discovered the joy of traveling. Up north, out west....camping, canoeing, pitching a tent...wonderful memories for us and

the boys. On our 50th wedding anniversary in 2007, Gary and I flew to Madrid, Spain, and spent a month cruising the Mediterranean Sea, visiting several historic cities between Barcelona and Istanbul, and ending this trip with a visit to son Dan, daughter-in-law Pam and their two beautiful daughters at their manse in a small French village near Tarbes, France.

Always a family man....when the grandchildren started arriving, he was 100% up to be a 'grandpa'....and a wonderful grandpa he was.

We were blessed with 7 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Gary cared so much for each one of them that we drove 1,000 miles each way six times a year for 16 years to visit the "Georgia kids" until he became too ill to make the trip.

Gary sold his business and retired in 1995. Work, kids and travel were his hobbies. Generous, loving and selfless with his time and talents, he ask very little for himself, except an occasional outing to the casino where he enjoyed playing poker.

New Year's Eve 2015.....in ER at McClaren. Start of the end....small cell lung cancer.

Gary passed away peacefully, in the arms of his sons and wife.

I feel so blessed to have had the privilege of sharing Gary's life. He is my hero. May Downs, wife of a remarkable husband and dad and grandpa and great-grandpa.

Gary is survived by his wife, Esther May Downs, sons and spouses; David and Cheri Downs, Daniel and Pamela Downs, Stephen and Lynn Downs, grandchildren; Adam and Ashley Downs, Susan Downs Weathers, Amber Downs, Korren Downs, Amanda Downs, Arianna Downs, and Shayelle Downs, great grandchildren and those who called him "papa; Clayton Shane Downs, Colby James Downs, William Byers, Caitlyn Downs, Logan Aspinwall, Brooklynn Evans, Arissa Lee Goodwin, Jacob Byers, Callie Ann Cline, John Parker Goodwin, Shane Evans, Kaylynn Gallagher, and sister and brother-in-law, Sharon and Douglas Terrance.

A memorial Celebration for Gary, will be held on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 2:00pm in the Church of Christ Church, located at 756 -17th Street, Port Huron. Please join us and feel free to share any memories you have of Gary.

Cremation arrangements by – Jowett Funeral Home – 1634 Lapeer Avenue, Port Huron.

View obituary and share memories at www.jowettfuneraldirectors.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

Church of Christ
756 17th Street
Port Huro, MI 48060

Tribute Wall



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gary L. Downs.



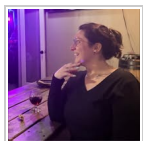
November 04, 2017 at 02:10 PM



“ This is a man I truly admired and respected. He had a good heart and was always very patient with all those he came in contact with, even me. Family, well that is something that he always put first. He was a good husband, father, grandfather to everyone of his family members and they knew that he loved them dearly. Work, this is also something he never stopped doing the whole time I've known him making a safe and clean place for people to live. What a great guy and a wonderful, wonderful man. Just knowing him and his family has enriched my life forever. Thank You for the experience Mr. Gary Downs. I will also miss running into you when ever are paths crossed in life. Good Bye my friend.

Margo Bauer

Margo Bauer - November 02, 2017 at 12:20 PM



“ Amber Downs lit a candle in memory of Gary L. Downs



Amber Downs - November 02, 2017 at 09:17 AM

JD

“ *My heart is broken over the loss of Gary "Papa". He was a super special person and would not sit still, even on vacation in Georgia. He dearly loved his great grand children and was dearly loved in return. His passing will be a tremendous loss. My condolences to May and all her family.*
Joyce

Joyce Diller - October 30, 2017 at 09:27 AM

SU

“ *Susan lit a candle in memory of Gary L. Downs*



Susan - October 30, 2017 at 07:42 AM

LK

Lonnie and I send our sincerest sympathy to your entire family. Nice to read about his life. Time and space left us apart, but we know what it means to lose our family members. Bible can really be source of comfort and hope. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. The Kovarik Family

Lonnie Kovarik - November 02, 2017 at 01:16 PM