



John Downs

August 16, 1939 - December 15, 2023

In Loving Memory of John Owen Downs. It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of beloved father and grandfather, John Owen Downs, who died at age 84 on Dec. 15, 2023, surrounded by the love of family and friends. John was born Aug. 26, 1939, in North Vernon, IN., where people still call him Jack or Moose for some reason. He was tall, strong, and a natural athlete, playing football, basketball, and baseball in high school. He later auditioned for the Cincinnati Reds, though he didn't make the cut. John went on to dedicate his life to his country, serving 42 years in the U.S. Air Force, 21 years as an active-duty member and 21 years as a civil servant, and only retiring when he became the primary caregiver for his wife, who had Alzheimer's disease. Colleagues remember his integrity, strong work ethic, and for being the first one in the office each day and the last one to leave. Beyond work, John enjoyed golfing, attending sporting events, and listening to one baseball game on the radio while watching another one on TV. He was an enthusiastic volunteer at the Air Force Museum and could rattle off facts about every plane. An avid reader of thrillers and Western novels, John once took his family on a road trip through Pierre, SD., to see if he could locate a café mentioned in a Louis L'Amour novel. (He did.) He was preceded in death by his spouse, Heide-Marie Downs; his sister, Nell Ann (Downs) Pfeifer, and his parents. He is survived by his children, Monica (Jeffrey) Klarer, Mark (Cheryl) Downs, and Margaret (Jason Yasuda) Downs; nephew, Tony (Lynne) Pfeifer, niece Kathy (Mike) Malone as well as 6 grandchildren; John, Samuel, Amanda, Autumn, Allison, Everest, and 5 great-grandchildren. A celebration of John's life will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2024, from 4:00-6:00pm at Adkins Funeral Home in Enon. Friends and family are invited to join together to share memories and offer support. A funeral mass will be held at St. Peter's church in Huber Heights, on Friday, January 5, 2024, at 10:00am. A private burial will be held at a later time at Dayton National Veterans Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made in John's name to Honor Flight Dayton, 200 Canary Court, Enon, Ohio 45323 or honorflightdayton.org. Your kindness will help continue the legacy of generosity that John embodied throughout his life.

Previous Events

Celebration

JAN 4. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Funeral Home
7055 Dayton Road
Enon, OH 45323
(937) 864-2288

Funeral Mass

JAN 5. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter's Catholic Church
6161 Chambersburg Road
Huber Heights, OH 45424
<http://www.saintpeterparish.org/index.html>

Tribute Wall

BD

“ John Downs was a Patriot and one of the best people I have known. He was an excellent caregiver. I have known him since 1976 and then worked with John later when he oversaw the Reserve IMA program. We had lunch together several times a month for the last 20 years or so; McAlister's was his favorite place. He was very proud of his kids and grandkids, RIP, my dear friend. I miss you.

Bob Darden

Bob Darden - January 04, 2024 at 12:57 PM

VE

“ We were neighbors to John and Heidi on Honeyleaf Way, back in the early 80s. We remained friends after we all retired from the AF and enjoyed getting together with John several times a year for lunch and to catch up. We will miss reminiscing old times with him. May he rest in peace.

Vita and John Eonta - December 29, 2023 at 05:46 PM

TD

“ I have known Mr. Downs since I began working at Dr. Theil's dental office over 20 years ago. I remember when he used to bring his wife in with him and how much care he took of her. To say that he was a very caring and giving person is just an understatement. I have never known someone who truly cared deeply about everyone like he did. He did some amazing things for people and was always the most kind and generous. I will miss his smile and kind words. I hope the family finds peace and comfort knowing how much he gave to all he touched.

Theresa Denlinger - December 28, 2023 at 05:44 PM

RB

“ It was very hard to hear that John is no longer with us. We were friends for 62 years starting when we were Air Force roommates in 1961 at Sembach Air Base in Germany. I have many good memories of John that started then and continued. I'll miss him and am thinking of his family during their time of sorrow. Robert and Heide Bents

Robert Bents - December 28, 2023 at 02:13 AM



“ *Father - Large Memorial Stone was purchased for the family of John Downs.*



December 21, 2023 at 09:10 AM

TS

“ *The Summerfields planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Downs.*

The Summerfields - December 21, 2023 at 09:10 AM

CB

“ *So sorry to hear about Mr. Downs passing. John has been my neighbor for years and we would shoot the breeze in our back yards. I first noticed that his light hadnt been on at home and going to check on him when I was notified he had passed. He was an interesting man who was very proud of his family. May God bring comfort to all of his family during this time.*

Curt Blair - December 20, 2023 at 08:40 PM

BW

“ *Sincere sympathy from the North Vernon High School Alumni Association.*

Bonita Welch - December 19, 2023 at 01:56 PM