



William Jerry Downs

August 11, 1946 - December 6, 2018

Obituary

WILLIAM JERRY DOWNS

William Jerry Downs was born on August 11, 1946 in St. Louis, MO to Pearline Downs and William Winslow as one of 6 siblings: Harold, Mary, Herman, Helen and Nelson.

He received his education in the St. Louis Public School System. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in the 101st Airborne Division in Infantry Operations. During his service he received a Bronze Star Medal from the President of the United States and an Army Commendation Medal from the Secretary of the Army. He afterwards served in the Army Reserve Unit. He began working for the U.S. Government in 1970 and worked for General Services Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Services and Department of Homeland Security and finally took mandatory retirement in August 2003. He was also an active member of other military organizations: The Veterans of Foreign War, Trench Rats and was active upon his death as a member of Disabled American Veterans. Shortly after retirement, he began attending Faith Bible College and eventually received 2 Doctorate Degrees in Theology and Counseling. He later began teaching at college and had begun teaching this past semester in September 2018 before he was hospitalized. He was looking forward to getting back to the class.

On September 8, 1979, he married Eartherline Bell and remained in that union for 39 years until his death. From this union, he had two daughters, Pearline and Pamela. Prior to his union with Eartherline, Jerry had a son, David Ross. He accepted Christ at an early age. He became a committed member of Community Praise Worship and World Outreach Center under the leadership of the late Pastor Clifford W. Bell. He continued to faithfully serve and support in leadership with his wife, Pastor Eartherline Downs until the very hour of his departure from this earthly life. Jerry made his glorious transition on December 6, 2018. He was preceded in death by his parents; 1 brother, Herman Downs; 1 sister, Mary Downs and 1 grandson, Cameron Hardy, Jr.

Left behind to cherish his memories are his wife, Eartherline Downs; 2 daughters: Pearline Hardy (Cameron) Florissant, MO; Pamela Downs (Kansas City, MO); 1 son, David Ross (Oklahoma); 4 grandchildren, Gabriel Ross, Shiloh Hardy, Shermar Hardy, and Shakar Hardy. He also leaves 2 brothers, Harold Downs, (Gloria); Nelson Downs; 1 sister, Helen Downs; a god-mother and god-brother, Lois and Richard Clements; and a cousin, Charles Barge (Deloris); all from St. Louis, MO. He also leaves a host of friends, in-laws, nieces and nephews, as well as his church family. We will all miss you Jerry. Funeral Services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at Blue Hills Church OF The Nazarene 10306 Blue Ridge Blvd. KCMO 64110. Visitation 10:00 A.M. Private Disposition.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of William Jerry Downs, please visit our Tree Store.

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Tribute Wall

FJ

“ Though I know this is a difficult time for the family, my hope is that you will be comforted from God's inspired word the Bible. John 5:28,29 and Revelation 21:3,4 gives hope of a future resurrection and the complete elimination of death, pain and mourning. May the sure promise of a resurrection, comfort and strengthen you in the days ahead, knowing that the One who promised, "cannot lie" (Titus 1:2) Please accept my deepest condolences.

For Jerry - December 17, 2018 at 12:32 PM

RA

“ Mrs Eartherline Downs & Family! Our Neighbors will Definitely Miss the Great Smile and Kindness of your husband, William "Jerry" Downs! Thanking God for giving Us a Great! Caring Neighbor! (Surely goodness and Love will Follow me all the days of My life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6(LOVE your neighbor, Stanley & Joyce Peeples)

Renaissance Homeowners Association - December 14, 2018 at 10:41 PM

RA

“ A candle was lit in remembrance

Renaissance Homeowners Association - December 14, 2018 at 10:24 PM

RA

“ Mrs Eartherlene Downs & Family! PRAYING without CEASING, May God Comfort and give You Peace, Mr William Jerry Downs was a Loving Neighbor and will definitely be Missed! Always gave everyone the Greatest Smile and participate in Our Neighbor Activities! " Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me, Jesus said, John 14:1 (Renaissance Homeowners Association

Renaissance Homeowners Association - December 14, 2018 at 10:22 PM

JC

“ THE WORLD HAS LOST A SHINING LIGHT. JERRY COULD SMILE AND BRIGHTEN ANYONE'S DAY. IT IS CERTAINLY OUR LOSS AND HEAVEN'S GAIN. REST WELL SWEET THING.

JANET CLAY - December 14, 2018 at 03:48 PM

VH

“ Usually I would see Jerry at the Bell family reunion. What I remember most about him was his big, welcoming and warm smile. My sincere and heartfelt condolences go out to the Down's family. May God give you strength at this most difficult time.

Vivian Ladd Hatcher - December 14, 2018 at 12:47 PM

RV

“ Jerry was truly one of a kind, from his silly comments like "The British are coming" to his prolific use of what he called Kansas City Spanish. There is and never will be another Jerry Downs. I am and always will be honored to have shared the birth of my first daughter with you, but most importantly to have had the pleasure of calling you a friend. You blessed so many souls with just a smile. The stories that could be told. Heaven has another Gate Keeper, keep them laughing like you did with all of us. Be at peace my friend

Robert Visnaw - December 14, 2018 at 12:27 PM

RB

“ We will miss Jerry in the neighborhood.... such a positive and gentle man. Always loved having him join in the HOA "dinner out" events.

Ross and Nata Beaudoin - December 14, 2018 at 12:09 PM

TF

“ What a great person to have as a neighbor!!! We will miss him soooo much. Much love to the family.

The Spears Family - December 12, 2018 at 08:56 PM

TP

“ Jerry was always one of the guys a young officer could look to for advice. He was very friendly with his officemates, but he was no nonsense in the field when the chips were down. He was one of a kind - sorry to hear that he is gone.

Tony Putnam - December 12, 2018 at 07:55 PM

CM

“ Rest well my friend. You meant the world to me and your coworkers at KAN INS. A big man with a bigger heart. Until we meet again, rest well Soldier.

Cliff & Donna Timmons Springfield, Missouri - December 12, 2018 at 07:29 PM

JP

“ Njerry was one of the kindest men I ever worked with at INS. I'm sorry for your loss.

Jane Patty - December 12, 2018 at 04:19 PM

CW

“ I worked with Jerry at the Kansas City INS Office. Jerry always had a smile on his face and a kind word to brighten your day. It was never the same after he retired. He was such a humble person, but he had seen so much in his life from Vietnam to the clean up of 9/11. We will miss you buddy.

Charles Winner - December 12, 2018 at 03:25 PM

ES

“ A SPATHIPHYLLUM was ordered on December 12, 2018

Expression of Sympathy - December 12, 2018 at 10:45 AM