



Eley Webb Downes

October 13, 1928 - May 22, 2017

Eley Webb Downes, 88 of Easton, MD, passed away on Monday, May 22, 2017, at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Easton, MD.

He was born in Denton, MD, on October 13, 1928, to the late George Washington Downes, Sr. and Janessa Truxon Downes.

Eley was educated in the Caroline County school system. After graduating from high school, he joined the US Navy and served for four years and was a Navigator of the USS Missouri. Upon his honorable discharge from the Navy, he returned to civilian life.

He was employed as a foreman in the Packing Department at Esskay Poultry Company in Cordova, MD, for several years. Eley broke barriers and became the first black policeman on the Easton Police Force in the early 60's working on the force for many years. A few years later, he again broke barriers where he was employed with the Maryland DMV as the first black license examiner.

Several years later, Eley was promoted to Manager of DMV in Salisbury, MD, where he was employed for many years until his retirement in 1979, due to health issues.

Eley is survived by his wife of 58 years, Joyce Ann Wilson-Downes of Easton,

MD; eight children, Eley Downes (Cecilia), Diane Milligan (Larry), Lorraine Brice (Royce), Denise Jenkins (Wayne), Glen Lee Downes, Debra Waters (Brian) Patricia Morris and Clarence Downes (Stephanie),;one sister, Anna Ross(16); grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters, Lillian, Elva, and Margaret and one brother, George Downes, Jr.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday May 31, 2017, from 10-11 AM at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 1210 S. Washington St., Easton, MD. The funeral will begin at 11 AM immediately following the visitation. Burial will follow at the Eastern Shore Veteran's Cemetery in Hurlock, MD.

Cemetery Details

Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery

Hurlock, MD

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **31**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
1210 South Washington Street
Easton, MD

Funeral Liturgy

MAY **31**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
1210 South Washington Street
Easton, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Eley Webb Downes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - May 30, 2017 at 12:29 PM

VT

That was so touching prayers goes to the family and my God bless y'all

Valerie Toogood - May 31, 2017 at 11:18 PM

AB

Beautiful tribute. Thank God for his life

Alfreda Dennis Bowyer - June 03, 2017 at 07:40 AM



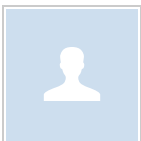
“ *Eley Webb Downes*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Eley Webb Downes*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Eley Webb Downes*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



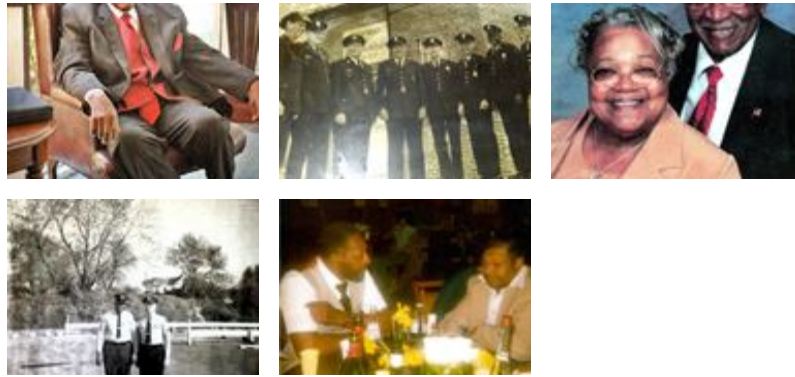
“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eley Webb Downes.*



June 02, 2017 at 06:43 PM



“ *84 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - May 30, 2017 at 12:10 PM



“ *To Clarence, Stephanie and Family,
Deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved
one. May God send you strength and comfort
your heart.*



Candy Elder - May 30, 2017 at 08:27 AM

KW

“ *Kathy Wilson-King lit a candle in memory of Eley Webb Downes*



Kathy Wilson-King - May 25, 2017 at 08:38 PM

WJ

“ *To the the family of Mr. Eley Downes please accept my condolences I fondly remember Mr Downes as one the the first black policeman who worked with my father Walter Chase Sr on the Easton Police department in the early 1960's*

Walter Chase, Jr.

Walter Chase, Jr - May 25, 2017 at 01:36 PM

BW

“ *I worked with Joyce for many years at the Pines and that's when I met Eley. Eley always had a smile and a gentle spirit about him. He will be missed by many. God gained another angel. My condolences to Joyce and his children and family.*

Barbara Wallace - May 25, 2017 at 08:48 AM

MS

“ *I remember Eley as a great person. Always smiling and laughing. I met him through Easton Police Dept. Knew him when he was at DMV also. Great man. Will be missed by many.*



Mel Marshall Sr - May 23, 2017 at 08:56 AM