



## Joseph Downey Sr.

February 12, 1919 - March 23, 2013

Joseph Strong Downey, (known by many as Mr. Joe), died March 23, 2013, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was 94.

He was born in Rock Hall, MD, on February 12, 1919, the son of the late Joseph Downey, Jr., and Angie Strong Downey. He graduated from Rock Hall High School Class of 1930. Mr. Joe attended Washington College in Chestertown and then went to work for Glenn L. Martin in Baltimore.

He married Florence Rebecca “Becky” Parsons of Rock Hall, MD, on March 29, 1941. She predeceased him on July 21, 2005.

Mr. Joe served in the U.S. Army during World War II stateside, training troops in Macon, GA. He returned from the war in July of 1946 and operated the Atlantic Service Station in Rock Hall. He later owned and operated Rock Hall Texaco and Dairy Queen along with a car wash in Rock Hall. In 1971, he bought the Tasty Freeze in Chestertown and later changed the name to Downey’s Chicken in 1978. He will be remembered for his outstanding fishing talents in local waters, where many of the local charter fishing captains would call “Mr. Joe” to help them locate the fish.

Mr. Joe also was an accomplished pilot, flying his gliders over the Eastern Shore. He also built and flew model airplanes.

In 1978, he was involved in the international Ice Boat Races held in St. Michaels, MD; he also traveled extensively racing ice boats. He enjoyed raccoon and fox hunting, deer hunting, and at one time, over his many hunting seasons, is on record for harvesting the largest deer in Maryland.

He was a member of Chester Lodge #115 AF&AM where he recently had received his 60 year pin. He was also a member of Boumi Temple in Baltimore, the Sgt. Preston Ashley American Legion Post #228 in Rock Hall, Rock Hall Yacht Club, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kent.

He is survived by his children, Joseph Strong "Sox" Downey, Jr., and his wife, Millie of Centreville, MD, and Ann Dowling and her husband, Larry of Rock Hall, MD; his grandchildren, Lori Miller, Gail White, Betsy Hickman, Laura Barry, and Sam Dowling; great grandchildren, Jordan Usilton, Morgan Usilton, Logan Usilton, Payton Usilton, Michael Reynolds, MacKenzie Montgomery, Colby Dowling, Jacob Hickman, Samuel Hickman, Cora Barry, Abigail Barry, and Grant Barry, and three great-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son, Richard "Ricky" Downey in 1983.

Services will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2013, at 11 a.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home, 130 Speer Road, Chestertown where relatives and friend may call on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, from 6 to 8 p.m. A Masonic Memorial Service will be held at 8 p.m. that evening.

Interment will be in St. Paul's Church Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Pauls Cemetery (Kent County)

7600 Sandy Bottom Road  
Chestertown, MD

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-0055  
info@fhfuneralhome.com

## Service

MAR 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Chestertown Location  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-0055  
info@fhfuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home** - January 18, 2023 at 09:20 PM



“ *Joseph Downey Sr.*

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October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Joseph Downey Sr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Joseph Downey Sr.*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Ann and family, so very sorry to hear of Mr. Joe's passing . He was truly one of a kind and will be missed by many our sincere condolences to you and your family  
Phil and Melissa Thomas*

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**melissa thomas** - March 31, 2013 at 07:02 PM

WA

“ Sorry to hear of you loss, my sincere condolences, He sure was a great man. Wish I could be there. Wendy ( Parsons) Abbott

Wendy Abbott - March 28, 2013 at 06:31 AM

GO

“ We're going to miss you Mr. Joe!

George O'Donnell - March 27, 2013 at 05:19 PM

PR

“ Phil Russell lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.



Phil Russell - March 27, 2013 at 04:35 PM

JM

“ You are in my thoughts and prayers. Mr. Joe was a wonderful man, friend, and cousin. He was very special and will always be in my memories.



Jo Downey Manning - March 27, 2013 at 01:38 PM

JM

“ Jimmy And Carole Manley lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.



Jimmy and Carole Manley - March 27, 2013 at 12:41 PM

BF

“ *Buddy And Debbie Fuchs sent a virtual gift in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Buddy and Debbie Fuchs** - March 27, 2013 at 12:24 PM

SM

“ *Susan Martinez lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Susan Martinez** - March 26, 2013 at 08:35 AM

SH

“ *Shelley And Ed Hillyer lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Shelley and Ed Hillyer** - March 26, 2013 at 07:52 AM

KP

“ *Keith & Kim Parkerson lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Keith & Kim Parkerson** - March 26, 2013 at 07:29 AM

TB

“ *Tink And Beverly Blakeney lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Tink and Beverly Blakeney** - March 26, 2013 at 06:44 AM

BS

“ *Bobby Sweetman lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Bobby Sweetman** - March 26, 2013 at 03:10 AM

WB

“ *Joe & Millie: so sorry to hear your Dad passed. He was born the same year as Wheeler and my Dad. You were very lucky to be able to share so many years with him. Nice to see so many posts from previous employees.....makes you know the kind of "Boss" he was. Loved by all! Please know we are thinking about you and you family during this time of loss.*

*Holly and Wheeler*

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**Wheeler and Holly Baker** - March 25, 2013 at 08:44 PM

AI

*Mrs. Ann, Betsy and everyone, very sorry to hear about Mr. Joe. With Love, Amy and Michael Iseman*

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**Amy Iseman** - March 27, 2013 at 09:32 AM

BS

“ *Sox and Ann and families, our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*



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**Buff and Betty Ann strong** - March 25, 2013 at 06:23 PM

BS

“ *Buff And Betty Ann Strong lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Buff and Betty Ann strong** - March 25, 2013 at 06:20 PM

JE

“ *To Ann, Larry and family,*

*We will miss seeing Mr. Joe at the boy's ball games - he was one of the first things we would look for when we would get to the ball park. He was an all around great guy and we know you how much you loved him. Rock Hall has lost so much this past month - good bye Mr. Joe and keep on smiling until we see you again.*

*John D. and Jo Ann Edwards*

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**John and Jo Ann Edwards** - March 25, 2013 at 06:12 PM

DW

“ *Diana Strong Williams lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Diana Strong Williams** - March 25, 2013 at 05:38 PM

AD

“ *To Ann and Sox and family,  
I know you are aware of how much your sweet Dad meant to so many people. He had such a great way about him that you always anted to make sure you got to say hi to him if he were anywhere near. Working for him and getting to know all of the great Kent County friends we made during our teenage years was such a blessing and a time I will always cherish. His family was always such a joy to be around and know. I will think f you in my prayers and always remember him with a smile.  
April Dadds*

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**A[pril Dadds** - March 25, 2013 at 05:17 PM

RP

“ *Rose Perry lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Rose Perry** - March 25, 2013 at 03:49 PM

JB

“ *Joyce And Wayne Bradley lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Joyce and Wayne Bradley** - March 25, 2013 at 03:03 PM

DH

“ *Denise Hepbron lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Denise Hepbron** - March 25, 2013 at 01:31 PM

SF

“ *Some of my greatest memories are with you Pop never forget our Sundays shooting and you making me listen to Ray Charles, Tom Jones and Roy Orbison which I hated at the time but now brings me so much joy and reminds me of you. We love you so much and miss you so much already.*

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**Sam Dowling & Family** - March 25, 2013 at 12:28 PM

TM

“ *Mr Joe was a regular at The Mainstay and he attended over 150 concerts. We always reserved a big rocker in the front row for him. He especially loved fiddle music and bluegrass. The Mainstay will miss his humor and his support.*

*Tom McHugh Director, The Mainstay in Rock Hall*

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**tom mchugh** - March 25, 2013 at 12:26 PM

WF

“ *Walter & Connie Fithian lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Walter & Connie Fithian** - March 25, 2013 at 11:14 AM

SD

“ *Sheila Dlugoborski lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Sheila Dlugoborski** - March 25, 2013 at 10:24 AM

KU

“ *Kim Usilton lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Kim Usilton** - March 25, 2013 at 09:58 AM

MJ

“ *Mark And Sandy Joiner lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Mark and Sandy Joiner** - March 25, 2013 at 09:19 AM

JE

“ *Jim And Mary Ann Edwards lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**Jim and Mary Ann Edwards** - March 25, 2013 at 08:21 AM

MK

“ *Dear Downey family, What a sweet man and a wonderful long life. I will always remember that great smile and sense of humor. Many fond memories of our chats at Downey's and the kindness he showed to others. Thoughts and prayers are with your family .*  
*Margaret Cohey Kaufman*

**Margaret Cohey Kaufman** - March 25, 2013 at 08:10 AM

SR

“ *Susan Legg Rennaker lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**Susan Legg Rennaker** - March 25, 2013 at 07:45 AM

KC

“ *Kim Elbourn Conley lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**Kim Elbourn Conley** - March 25, 2013 at 07:40 AM

AM

“ *The Downey Family*  
*So sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Joe ,*  
*what a great guy. He will be fondly missed*  
*and greatly remembered.*

*Amy Wiscott Wenck*

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**AmyWenck** - March 25, 2013 at 07:34 AM



SW

“ *Sandy Price Walton lit a candle in memory of*  
*Joseph Downey Sr.*

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**Sandy Price Walton** - March 25, 2013 at 07:20 AM



BN

“ *Barbara Nolan lit a candle in memory of*  
*Joseph Downey Sr.*

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**Barbara Nolan** - March 25, 2013 at 07:10 AM



MK

“ *Marion Myers Kellas lit a candle in memory of*  
*Joseph Downey Sr.*

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**Marion Myers Kellas** - March 25, 2013 at 06:54 AM



TF

“ *THE WENCK FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**THE WENCK FAMILY** - March 25, 2013 at 06:23 AM

CC

“ *Cherie Clough lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**Cherie Clough** - March 24, 2013 at 09:37 PM

 Peggy Clothier

“ *Peggy Clothier lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**Peggy Clothier** - March 24, 2013 at 09:32 PM

KC

“ *Kim And Catey Crew lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**Kim and Catey Crew** - March 24, 2013 at 06:45 PM

JF

“ *Judy Fleming lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**Judy Fleming** - March 24, 2013 at 06:04 PM

JB

“ *Jack & Anne Bigelow sent a virtual gift in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**Jack & Anne Bigelow** - March 24, 2013 at 03:36 PM

DH

“ *Denny And Judy Hickman lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**Denny and Judy Hickman** - March 24, 2013 at 03:34 PM

TW

“ *Troy & Dawn White lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



**Troy & Dawn White** - March 24, 2013 at 03:02 PM

PE

“ *Peggy States Edwards lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Peggy States Edwards** - March 24, 2013 at 02:38 PM

PE

*Prayers and thoughts to the family of Mr. Joe Downey. What a great man, always smiling and had something nice to say. I started work at Kent and Queen Anne's Hospital the winter of 1972. I have some fond memories of Mr. Joe taking care of the employees in snow storms. We would call for an order and alot of times I would go pick it up, he would say how long have you been there and I would tell him many of us stayed over, he would say wait one minute. He would send an order of that great fried chicken, and sandwiches to the staff at the hospital and never took a cent. Thank you Mr. Joe. Heaven has received another legend from Kent County. I know all of you have memories, keep them within your heart, they will always be there. It was an honor for me to have known Mr. Joe. Carlton and Peggy Edwards*

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**Peggy States Edwards** - March 24, 2013 at 02:45 PM

JH

“ *Joan And Bob Hatcherson lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Joan and Bob Hatcherson** - March 24, 2013 at 02:32 PM



“ *Sox and Aunt Ann, Us Downey girls are sending prayers and hugs to u and your families. Love ya. He was a great boss. U all was good to us. Thank you.*



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**Carol Ann Fox** - March 24, 2013 at 02:19 PM

BL

“ *Ann and Sox, you are in my prayers. You must have so many good memories and I share some of those. Love Chip*

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**Barb Liska** - March 24, 2013 at 01:17 PM

SW

“ *Sox and Anne, we extend our sympathy to you in the loss of your father.  
A truly nice man.  
Sis and HarryT.*



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**Sis and HarryT. Williams** - March 24, 2013 at 11:17 AM

FD

“ *Franklin And Jane Dill sent a virtual gift in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



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**Franklin and Jane Dill** - March 24, 2013 at 07:56 AM

MK

“ Marion Myers Kellas lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.



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**Marion Myers Kellas** - March 24, 2013 at 04:23 AM

TJ

“ Tom And Nancy Lee Jewell lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.



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**Tom and Nancy Lee Jewell** - March 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ What a nice,nice man. Mr. Joe was always so kind and a gentleman.always had a smile and a kind word.i am honored to have known him.



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**Bettyann glenn** - March 23, 2013 at 10:02 PM

CB

“ Ann and Sox.....soooo sorry to hear about you losing your wonderful Dad! I have a wonderful memory of being at your house in Rock Hall and your parents were going to a dance somewhere and when I saw him in his tux I knew that was he the most handsome man I had ever seen! Forgot to mention that was in the 60's! Great memories!

So sorry for your loss!

Chris (Brace) Barron

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Chris (Brace) Barron - March 23, 2013 at 08:29 PM

KG

“ Kim Greenly lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.



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Kim Greenly - March 23, 2013 at 08:21 PM

KG

Such a wonderful man, with a heart of gold! You could always make people smile just by saying hello. I will never forget the last time I saw you and the conversation we had. You were an exceptional man and very wise. You will be missed deeply! Condolences and prayers to the family. May you rest in peace.

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Kim Greenly - March 23, 2013 at 08:30 PM

SQ

“ Sara And David Quinn lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.



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**Sara and David Quinn** - March 23, 2013 at 07:51 PM

AH

“ Ann, and family, I am so sorry to hear about Mr Joe passing. I have had many laughs with him in the 12 Yrs that i have known him. I have enjoyed the many times i waited on him and the many talks and laughs we shared. I am sure he is smiling down on all of you .Anita Hayes



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**Anita Hayes** - March 23, 2013 at 07:25 PM

C(

“ So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. My first job was working at the Tastee Freeze on Kent Island, too many years ago! Joe was a very nice man to work for. Those were very fond memories.



*Carol Lorenz (Baker)*

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**Carol Lorenz (Baker)** - March 23, 2013 at 06:14 PM

MU

“ *Mary Ellen Unruh lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



Mary Ellen Unruh - March 23, 2013 at 06:04 PM

GP

“ *Gene And Lynda Palmatary lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - March 23, 2013 at 05:24 PM

GP

*To the Downey Family: A note of deepest prayers and sympathy to your family in the loss of a fine man. Will always remember the great times at the "freeze" and Mr. Downey's great smile. My father loved going to the "freeze" getting his milk shakes while he was in the nursing home. He would always asked if I was taking him to Chestertown to get his chocolate milkshake. If Mr. Downey was working, he would always come out and speak to my father. Remember the wonderful memories you have in your hearts and God will give you the strength and love to get through this difficult time. Blessings to you, Gene and Lynda Palmatary, Centreville.*

Gene and Lynda Palmatary - March 23, 2013 at 05:29 PM

LP

“ *Lola Price lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.*



Lola Price - March 23, 2013 at 04:45 PM

GC

“ Gail & Herschell Claggett lit a candle in memory of Joseph Downey Sr.



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**Gail & Herschell Claggett** - March 23, 2013 at 04:37 PM

VI

“ I am so sorry to hear of Joe's passing. He was such a kind and friendly person. Our world would be a better place if there were more people like him. I will always remember he said I had a "million dollar smile" and that always made me smile even more. My condolences to all of his family. You will be in my prayers. He will be truly missed.

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**valerie whaley ivins** - March 23, 2013 at 02:11 PM

JE

“ To the Downey Family-We are so sorry for the loss of your father and grandfather.Mr Joe was full of life and lived life to its fullest.He was always friendly and kind hearted to everyone,and loved that fishing rod and reel.We will also miss him and send to each of you our sincere sympathy.God Bless you in the days ahead.Sincerely,Jim and Mary Ann Edwards

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**JIM AND MAFY ANN EDWARDS** - March 23, 2013 at 11:27 AM