

John C. Downey

July 7, 1950 - September 5, 2016

On September 5, 2016, John C. (Jack) Downey, age 66, of Wexford, beloved husband of Kathy King Downey; loving father of Megan Downey (Robert) Ambrogio & John Max-Patrick Downey; grandfather of Gavin John Ambrogio; son of John J. (Lisa) Downey & Mary Glaser (Raymond) Roposh; sister of Mary Graff, Denise (Frank) Carothers & Sarah (Richard) Manning; also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Jack was a teacher for Northgate School District for 39 years. He dedicated 44 years coaching student athletes in track-n-field, football, basketball & wrestling. Jack held the position of Head High School Track-n-Field coach for 27 years initially for Northgate and then Avonworth - Northgate Co-op. Jack graduated from Avalon High School in 1968, Westminster College in 1972 and earned his Masters from the University of Pittsburgh. Jack played football on the Westminster College National Championship NAIA Division II Football team in 1970. He was an avid fisherman, sportsman, enjoyed babysitting his grandson 3 days a week, walking North Park, playing cards and served as an Usher at Christ Episcopal Church.

Friends received Thursday, September 8th from 2 - 4 & 6 - 8 pm at Simons Funeral Home, Inc., 7720 Perry Highway. A Church Service will be held on Friday, 10:00 am, at Christ Episcopal Church, 5910 Babcock Blvd. Friends please meet at church. Contributions can be made at any Citizens Bank

Branch to the Jack Downey Track-n-Field Athletic Scholarship fund for the Avonworth - Northgate Co-op, or Contributions to Christ Episcopal Church North Hills. www.simonsfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Simons Funeral Home, Inc.
7720 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Visitation

SEP 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Simons Funeral Home, Inc.
7720 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Church Service

SEP 9. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Christ Episcopal Church
5910 Babcock Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Tribute Wall

CK

“ *Kathy and family, sending prayers and my deepest sympathies for your loss. May you find peace in many wonderful memories. So sorry to hear.*
Cheryl Kerr

cheryl kerr - September 10, 2016 at 07:38 AM



“ *kathy & Family, So sorry for your loss. God Bless You All. We will keep you in our thoughts & prayers during this difficult time. love,*
Jim&Cindy Bearrow

Cindy Bearrow - September 09, 2016 at 06:50 PM

RG

“ *I have Jack to thank for never being in a position to be seriously injured playing football. One practice in 8th grade I was the linebacker and he was the ball carrier. I showed excellent form in getting low, wrapping up his legs. Unfortunately he was running way faster than I and he made me look like Flat Stanley. From the number of teammates who ran over to see if I was alright, I got the feeling I shouldn't be messing with the big boys like Jack.*

People like Jack helped make growing up in the North Boros a cherished memory. As handsome and popular as he was, he had time for everyone, and always an easy smile.

Rest in peace, my friend, your work here is done.

Richard Gray - September 08, 2016 at 05:46 PM

DK

“ Coach Downey was always one of my favorite when I played football at Northgate. He was always motivating and positive. He will be truly missed...

Doug Kuszajewski - September 08, 2016 at 04:21 PM

EK

“ Dear Kathy and Family,

I am so sad to hear of Jack's passing. Please know that my thoughts and especially prayers are with you all at this time.

Sincerely,

*Ed Kraus
Amherst, NY*

Edward J. Kraus - September 08, 2016 at 02:56 PM

BF

“ Jack was liked by everyone on the Westminster Titan football team and he would always give encouragement to the youngers players on the team. It was my privilege to have known him and to call him "friend" Bill Fitts

Bill Fitts - September 08, 2016 at 01:40 PM

WL

“ *John "Big Jack" Downey was the most warm-hearted and caring person I have ever had the blessing of knowing. Everything from sports to personal matter he would always be willing lend an ear and provide the most respectable advice. Sometimes this beautiful world works in the most unfortunate of ways. It is a tragedy to see such a respectable and beautiful soul taken before their time is due. I will never forget everything you have done for everyone who surrounded you. Rest in Peace Big Jack.*

Warren Lea - September 08, 2016 at 11:45 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of John C. Downey*



September 08, 2016 at 10:21 AM

ES

“ *Kathy, Megan, Jack.
It's been 32 years since you came into my life.
What a lucky day for me.
I have been given lots of love, and we have shared many things
together.
I just love you Jack Downey.
I had a chance to share a day with you, and we talked of many
things.
What a blessing you have been in my life.
Jack will always be with you whatever you do, and wherever you go.*

Caring Thoughts, and love.

Mrs. Eileen

Eileen Schaffer - September 08, 2016 at 03:30 AM



“ *How sad and what a loss of a great person. I always enjoyed my
times with Coach Downey. Prayers to his family.*

Anthony Boerio - September 08, 2016 at 12:57 AM

DR

“ *Diana Risch lit a candle in memory of John C.
Downey*



Diana Risch - September 07, 2016 at 08:27 PM

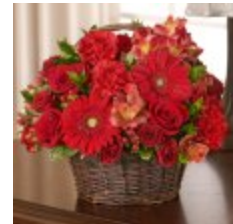
DR

“ *Kathy and family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family as you
mourn the loss of your husband.
May God Bless You
Gary & Diana Risch*

Diana Risch - September 07, 2016 at 08:25 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red was
purchased for the family of John C. Downey .*



September 07, 2016 at 07:43 PM

PH

“ *I have many fond memories shared with Coach Downey. My
dearest sympathy to the Downey family.*

Paul Hamm - September 07, 2016 at 06:43 PM

JM

“ *Coach Downey was a great man. He started my track career and
taught me much more! I am sorry for your loss. He will be missed.
- Jess Mathieson*

jess mathieson - September 07, 2016 at 05:40 PM

SC

“ I met Jack as a freshman @ Westminster and got to know him as a football team mate. He was also the RA of my freshman dormitory hall and Sig Ep fraternity father. It was my privilege to call him "friend".

Jack's caring, fun filled nature will be a lasting legacy to me, and undoubtedly, many others as well.

My deepest sympathy to Kathy and family members. May God's peace be with all of you.

Scott Colvin

Scott Colvin - September 07, 2016 at 04:29 PM



“ Looked forward to track every year with him, taught me many lessons on the track and in life. He will be sorely missed

Jeff Howard - September 07, 2016 at 03:49 PM

DG

“ My deepest sympathies to John's family. As a team mate of his at Westminster I have many fond memories of the camaraderie we shared during those four years. He always had a smile and a twinkle in his eye. May he rest in peace and may God comfort his family and friends

*Don Grimm
Titan Football 1968-1971.*

Don Grimm - September 07, 2016 at 02:36 PM



“ *A wonderful, caring man. He will be missed.*

Donald Matthews - September 07, 2016 at 11:29 AM



“ *Kathy, I am so sorry for your loss. My sympathy to you and your family. I will be praying for all of you.*

Phyllis Gastonguay - September 07, 2016 at 10:48 AM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John C. Downey .*



September 07, 2016 at 10:47 AM



“ *From Linda (Gardner) Hicks. I so fondly remember the whole Downey family as the Gardners lived only 2 houses away from the Downeys on Sedalia Ave. years ago. Jack was really one of the most outstanding student-athletes at AHS; liked by everyone. I fondly also remember his sister Mary, as well as their parents. Bill Downes notified the Class of 1967 with Jack's passing and I am sure everyone is saddened by Jack's passing. Take care.*

Linda Hicks - September 07, 2016 at 10:15 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John C. Downey .*



September 07, 2016 at 09:41 AM



“ *Wow I can't believe I just seen this I remember having Mr. Downey as my 6th grade teacher in Avalon. I loved his class he always made it fun I'll always remember u Mr. Downey r.l.p praying for the whole family*



Jackie Rivera - September 07, 2016 at 09:32 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. He was one of my favorite teachers in high school and my track coach.*

Lisa Franciscus Stanley - September 07, 2016 at 09:28 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Remember the good times at Avalon High.*

Dorothy Macel Caplan - September 07, 2016 at 09:00 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Mr. Downey was a wonderful teacher. Prayers for the entire family.*

Terry Negri Walker - September 07, 2016 at 08:51 AM



“ *Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of John C. Downey .*



September 07, 2016 at 08:32 AM



“ *Bill & Jeanne Downey and Lani Downey Faust purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of John C. Downey .*



Bill & Jeanne Downey and Lani Downey Faust - September 07, 2016 at 08:29 AM



“ *Mr Downey was an amazing teacher they don't make them like him anymore He was kind caring and loved his job I thank you for being a part of my education at Northgate All you student are better for having been taught by you
To your friends and family thank you very much for sharing him with us
RIP Mr Downey you will truly be missed*

Suzanne Kapinos Benedict

Suzanne Kapinos Benedict - September 07, 2016 at 08:27 AM



“ I remember having Mr. Downey in 10th or 11th grade. He was always a fair teacher and would always be there for questions after class. Always talked football with him. Teachers like him will be sorely missed.

Joe Sekura - September 07, 2016 at 07:58 AM

AL

“ It was an honor to be Jack's next-door neighbor for eleven years. We will really miss him. We are praying that God will comfort you Kathy, Megan, and Jack.

Russ, Ali, Leah, Ruby, Virginia, and Daisy Lucas

Ali Lucas - September 07, 2016 at 07:28 AM

DL

“ We are deeply honored and blessed to have known Jack. He was truly a blessing in our lives and we will miss him so much. He was one of the best Thanksgiving Turkey carvers anyone could imagine!

The Prayer Warriors kept prayers steadily flowing for Jack and family throughout this ordeal. President Jimmy Carter (as a brain cancer survivor) sent a letter of encouragement to this fabulous man who was admired and loved by all who knew him.

This has been so unbelievable. We continue to pray for our beautiful and loving Pittsburgh family left behind suffering such grief and unspeakable sorrow. We love you all so very much. Jack, rest in peace.

Dawn and Warren Lea

Dawn Lea - September 06, 2016 at 11:38 PM

 Sherry Callahan

“ *Mr. Downey was awesome...he was a great teacher and respected coach at both Avalon High School and Northgate High School...he will be greatly missed by many...God bless his family and all that knew him...RIP Mr. Downey and thank you!* ”

Sherry Callahan - September 06, 2016 at 10:57 PM

GM

“ *It was a pleasure to work with Jack at Avalon. He had such a great sense of humor.Thoughts and prayers go out to the Downey family at this difficult time.* ”

Gretchen Monahan - September 06, 2016 at 09:58 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John C. Downey .* ”



September 06, 2016 at 09:04 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of John C. Downey .* ”



September 06, 2016 at 08:55 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of John C. Downey .*



September 06, 2016 at 08:54 PM



“ *I was fortunate to share my career at Northgate with Jack, I truly liked him because he was a genuine nice guy. When I remember any occasion where we shared a beer or event it makes me smile. He will be missed. My deepest sympathies to his family.*

Larry Thomas

Larry Thomas - September 06, 2016 at 08:50 PM

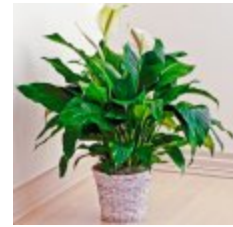


“ *To the family and Friends of Mr. Downey, My sincerest condolences for such a loss and a life cut way to short . I was a student at Northgate and not very fond of the actual school part! I loved the social aspects! Mr. Downey was one of the few Classes I actually enjoyed and have fond memories of. He was kind and thoughtful and patient and a Great teacher. Gods Peace. Tracey Schutte Teanio*

Tracey Teanio - September 06, 2016 at 08:20 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of John C. Downey .*



September 06, 2016 at 08:19 PM



“ *i remember when he taught 6 grade math class.*

Allie Williams - September 06, 2016 at 08:18 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to you Kathy and your family. You will be in my prayers.*

Jody Yavorka Gilardi

jody yavorka gilardi - September 06, 2016 at 07:55 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jack's family for this tremendous loss.*

I feel honored to have known Jack and enjoyed working with him.

He is one of the first people I met when I was hired at Northgate.

Jack was the nicest, most genuine person I have ever known. I

always knew that if I saw Jack he would say hello with such a warm

looking smile. You are blessed to be able to call him your

husband,dad,pap,son, brother,uncle, neighbor coworker, or friend.

Jack is a person not to be forgotten, because good people are worth remembering.

With love and prayers,

Jerry and Kathy Steines

kathy - September 06, 2016 at 07:49 PM

MK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mabby Kramer - September 06, 2016 at 07:16 PM

SP

“ *It was a privilege to meet Jack. May God's love and grace surround and uphold Kathy and all his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace. Blessings and peace, The Reverend Suzanne M Post*

Suzanne M. Post - September 06, 2016 at 07:03 PM

SW

“ *My condolences to all of you in Jack's passing...prayers coming your way and my God hold all of you in his arms.*

Susan Diroll Williamson - September 06, 2016 at 06:47 PM

WR

“ *With deepest sympathy your neighbors on Pine Ridge purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Flo or Basket for the family of John C. Downey .*



With deepest sympathy your neighbors on Pine Ridge -
September 06, 2016 at 04:10 PM