



Joseph F Downey "Papa"

March 23, 1921 - August 17, 2016

Joseph F. Downey

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Our father, Joseph (Joe), was born in New Bedford, MA. He was the 3rd oldest child in a family of eleven children. Dad was a WWII veteran. He attended officer's training school and was a captain in the Army in the 9th Coast Artillery. On leave from the army, Dad was involved in a motorcycle accident which resulted in nearly 2 years in army hospitals. He then retired in 1947. Dad moved to California where he attended classes at the Northrop Aeronautical Institute. During that time, he met and married our mother, Florence, who was the love of his life. They were married for 37 years. Dad worked for many years as an aeronautical engineer for McDonald Douglas in the missile division. He and Mom had five children. We have wonderful memories of our growing years taking many vacations and always having a home full of guests, visitors and family gatherings. Although Dad had only one leg, he never considered himself handicapped. Dad bowled in a weekly league, water-skied, river rafted, golfed, worked on cars and rode dune buggies in the sand dunes.

Mom died in 1990. Dad moved to Red Bluff in 1993 to begin a new chapter. He kept busy helping with his son's construction business, golfing at Wilcox Country Club and attending Sacred Heart Catholic Church where he regularly donated blood. Our dad was a man who deeply loved his Catholic faith. He was politically conservative, loved Rush Limbaugh, President Ronald Reagan

and Pope John Paul II.

During his declining years, when Dad needed extra care, Michael Black came into our lives. He was not only a caretaker for Dad, he became a friend and extended member of our family. Their bond grew to be something very special. In addition, the love and care from the staff at Brookdale succeeded in making it a home for "Papa."

He is survived by sisters Patricia Olivera and Barbara Affonce; grandchildren Kimberly Cowen; Haley Downey; JT, Justin and Daniel Roe; Jessica, Jake and Grant Cruzan; Dylan and Cal Grossman; and Erica and Luke Downey; and great-grandson Carter in addition to 54 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by granddaughter Sammie-Flo.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Unbound Child Sponsorship (www.unbound.org).

We will continue to live out your legacy of faith, family and fun.

Downey Proud!

Marian & Bruce Roe, John & Katie Downey, Janet & Tom Cruzan, Paula & Wes Grossman, Steve & Teri Downey

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

Hook Rd
Red Bluff, CA

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG 22. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (PT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
515 Main St.
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Funeral Service

AUG 22. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
515 Main St.
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Graveside Military Honors

AUG 22. 3:15 PM - 3:30 PM (PT)

St. Mary's Cemetery
Hook Rd
Red Bluff, CA

Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joseph F Downey "Papa".*



August 21, 2016 at 11:34 PM



“ *Sandy, Jim and Mike Downey purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Joseph F Downey "Papa".*



Sandy, Jim and Mike Downey - August 21, 2016 at 07:26 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph F Downey "Papa".*



August 20, 2016 at 07:56 PM



“ *Such an awesome man. Very caring and loving to all he met. Papa Joe will be sorely missed. He will suffer no more and is joined with the love of his life. Prayers to his children John, Marian, Janet, Steve and Paula. To all the rest of his family and friends. Rest In Peace "Papa Joe"*

Terri Wright - August 20, 2016 at 01:27 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph F Downey "Papa".*



August 20, 2016 at 11:08 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Joseph F Downey "Papa".*



August 19, 2016 at 08:25 PM