



Edward Thomas Downes

October 2, 1942 - May 10, 2024

Edward Thomas Downes, "Red Dog," a devoted husband, father, and respected member of his community, peacefully passed away on Friday, May 10, 2024, in his hometown of Laurel, with his loving family by his side. Eddie leaves behind a legacy of hard work, dedication, and love. He was born October 2, 1942, in Laurel, a son of the late Roscoe Edward Downes and Irene Virginia (Foskey) Downes.

Eddie proudly served his country in the US Army National Guard from 1959 to 1964. Throughout his life, he excelled as a locomotive engineer in the railroad industry, working for Pennsylvania Railroad, Penn Central, Conrail, and Norfolk Southern. He advanced as an assistant superintendent for the Amtrak Baltimore Division but missed his love as an engineer and returned to the Laurel area and retired as a locomotive engineer in 2003. His commitment to his work was matched only by his commitment to his family and community. For many years he also owned and operated Red Dog's Tavern in Delmar, raised chickens and loved spending time on the farm.

Eddie was a proud member of the Roelma Lodge #206 in Sharptown and a 32nd degree Master Mason. He was also a past member of the Laurel Ruritan Club and served as the Chairman of the BLE Local Chapter. Known for his impeccable work ethic and love for his community, he was a member of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church where he found solace in maintaining the church and grounds of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church and serving as the Chairman of the Trustees of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

Eddie's greatest passion was his family and had many fond memories of trips to Lancaster with Peggy, and supporting his children as they grew up in all of their school functions and sporting events. Once grandchildren came along, he became a proud Pop-pop who loved picking them up from school, simply spending time with them and rarely missing a school play, a ball game or whatever they were involved in.

He is survived by his beloved wife of over 61 years, Peggy Ann (Insley) Downes; children, Edward Thomas Downes, Jr. and wife, Michelle, Darrell Thomas Downes and wife, Lezlie, Daniel Thomas Downes and wife, Luz, Angela Ann Hill and husband, Tracey and Lisa Ann Culver and husband, Jason; grandchildren, Trey Downes, Tyler Downes, Bethany Laird, Mike Dodson, Matt Dodson, Logan Downes, Danny Downes, Lindsay Wilson, Hernan Guerrero, Vivian Guerrero, Carlos Guerrero, Brandi Perry, James Hill, Carlos Gonzalez, Alicia Gonzalez, Moshe Zrihen, Chanah Trevorow, Jaylah Culver and Noah Culver; 31 precious great grandchildren; a sister, Nancy Twilley and husband, Denny; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Alda Godwin. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the nurses and staff at VITAS Hospice for their comfort and care for Eddie.

Join us in honoring Edward's life and legacy at his funeral service, to be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 12:00 pm at the Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Prior to the service, a visitation will take place from 10:00 am to 12:00.

Following the service, Red Dog will be laid to rest at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Laurel. Pastor Tim Dukes will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his memory to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Fund, c/o Angel Hill, 34580 Susan Beach Road, Laurel, DE 19956.

His presence will be deeply missed, but his memory will forever live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Laurel-Sharptown Road
Laurel, DE

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 18. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 E Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525

Funeral Service

MAY 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 E Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525

Tribute Wall



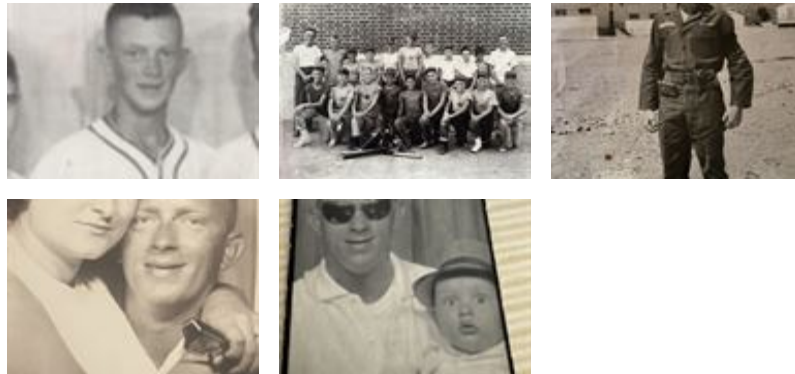
“ *Short Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Edward Thomas Downes*



Short Funeral Home - May 17, 2024 at 11:02 PM



“ *171 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Short Funeral Home - May 17, 2024 at 10:40 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Edward Thomas Downes.*



May 17, 2024 at 06:31 AM

-T

“ -American Airlines IT Regionals Team purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Edward Thomas Downes.



-American Airlines IT Regionals Team - May 16, 2024 at 11:50 AM

MY

“ Mauricio Y. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Thomas Downes.

Mauricio Y. - May 14, 2024 at 07:50 PM

DM

“ Diana M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Thomas Downes.

Diana M. - May 14, 2024 at 07:25 PM

EP

“ Danny we are so sorry for the los of your dad, we are with you in spirit, hoping that God is with you and all family , and always remembering the wonderful father and incomparable person Mr Eddie
big hug to you
Juan M Guerrero- Eliana

ELIANA PRIETO - May 14, 2024 at 05:12 PM

NE

“ Nubia E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Thomas Downes.

Nubia E. - May 14, 2024 at 05:04 PM

TF

“ The Grajales and the Hoyos family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Edward Thomas Downes.



The Grajales and the Hoyos family - May 14, 2024 at 04:57 PM

CM

“ Red Dog... was my Railroad Buddy for many years, and I will miss Him every day. My thoughts go out to his Family Norris Melvin...RIP



charlotte melvin - May 13, 2024 at 06:33 PM

SM

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Eddie Downes!! He was a wonderful man!! My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. May you R.I.P. Mr.Downes



Sylvia Milburn - May 12, 2024 at 02:54 PM

EN

“ *Edgar has so many happy and fun memories with his good friend. Thought & Prayers are with the family. ~Edgar & Bettyann Nichols*



Edgar & Bettyann Nichols - May 12, 2024 at 11:03 AM

BM

“ *Bobby an Mania planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward Thomas Downes.*

Bobby an Mania - May 11, 2024 at 08:09 PM



“ *"Cardinals" Black 36" Cylinder Sonnet was purchased for the family of Edward Thomas Downes.*



May 11, 2024 at 08:09 PM