



Johnny Ray McDowell

November 27, 1952 - October 23, 2025

Johnny Ray "Poker" McDowell, 72, of Delmar, Delaware, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, October, 23, 2025. Born on November 27, 1952, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Johnny was a son of the late Lawrence and Velma Harvey McDowell. He dedicated much of his life to his work as a self-employed carpet and flooring installer, where he earned a reputation for his craftsmanship and unwavering work ethic.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Johnny had a passion for the outdoors, often spending his leisure time crabbing and fishing with family and friends. He enjoyed bowling and playing poker, where he showcased his competitive spirit and sense of humor. A lifelong loyal fan of the Kansas City Chiefs, his enthusiasm for the team was infectious. Johnny was also known for his creativity. He had a remarkable ability to take an idea and turn it into something real, whether it was a project, a repair, or something completely unique from his imagination.

Johnny was the cherished husband of 32 years to Sheila Wilkins McDowell; a loving father to Michael McDowell, Kevin McDowell (Linda), Dawn Conaway (Steve), Kelly Huckins (John), Erica Taylor, and Josh McDowell; a Pop Pop to Taylor, Sean, Crystal, Victoria, Bryce, Brandon, Natalie, Dakota, Nicholas, Brooklyn, Jordyn, and Jaxon; and several great grandchildren. Also surviving him are a brother, William McDowell (Lorraine), sisters, Connie Coodey and

Kay Smith (Paul), sisters-in-law, Dorothea Winter and Sali McDowell, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers Ronald and Robert McDowell, and a brother-in-law Barney Coodey.

A celebration of Johnny's life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home of Delmar.

Tribute Wall

SM

“ We were together for 40 years. We had our ups and downs but who doesn't? He was my best friend. He was always there when I needed him. Love ya Poke.

Sheila McDowell - October 26, 2025 at 11:26 AM

DW

My first husband Tom Dietz and myself moved to Salisbury in 1984 we met Poker and Shelia at the bowling alley and began friends. What a great person Poker was to my family. He installed many carpets for us in our home. Poker put in my kitchen ceramic counter top it was beautiful. Poker gave my daughter her first tattoo. Lost contact with Poker when Tom passed away I lost contact with him and Sheila. But I want to say about Poker. He was a great friend that I will never forget 😞

Debra Whelan - October 26, 2025 at 02:14 PM

SH

The McDowell family and the Becerra family go way back, in Co. Bluffs, Iowa, we were neighbors, I love this family so many memories. Rest in Peace Poker, you will be truly missed. My condolences to all the families and friends of Poker. 🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️❤️

sonia Howell - October 27, 2025 at 09:00 AM

LB

He's been a great brother in law. He was always there if you needed anything. He was great to my sister and awesome with our parents. He will be truly missed by all of us, but especially by my sister and all of his children.

Linda Berg - October 27, 2025 at 10:36 PM