



William Thomas Downing

JUL 16, 1930 - APR 22, 2006



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MORAN & GOEBEL
FUNERAL HOME AND
CREMATION SERVICES

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William Thomas Downing

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William Thomas Downing, 75, of Decatur, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, April 22, 2006 in his home, with his family by his side.

Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Bill's life will be 11 am. Wednesday, April 26, 2006 in St. Patrick Catholic Church, Rev. Jeff Grant celebrant. Visitation will be from 9:30 am. until the service time in the church. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Cancer Care Specialists of Central Illinois and/or St. John's Hospice. Moran & Goebel Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Born July 16th, 1930, Dad grew up on the north end of Decatur at the residence of 2430 North Water Street. He attended Decatur High for two years. He finished high school at The Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1948.

Dad attended Duke University in Durham, North Carolina from 1948-1952, graduating with an English major in 1952. Dad played basketball for Duke for his first three years, beginning as a walk-on. He wore number 11, which was the same number that Bobby Hurley later wore, and which was subsequently retired. Dad was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and completed the Reserved Officers Training Core ROTC program at Duke.

Dad served our country in the U.S. Navy as an officer, rank Lieutenant JG, from 1952-1954, much of it aboard the USS Triumph AM 323, a minesweeper with tours from Charleston, S.C. up and down the East Coast, and down the St. Lawrence Seaway to Quebec, and also tours in the Mediterranean. Dad had the utmost respect for our men and women serving their country in the military.

After fulfilling his ROTC commitment, Dad entered law school at the University of Notre Dame beginning in 1954 and graduating in 1957.

He married Mary Elizabeth Liz Sheehan on August 11th, 1956 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Decatur, Illinois and she survives. He is also survived by his children: William A. Carol Downing of Morton, Illinois; Thomas Poyntelle Tanya Renee



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Russell Downing of St. Charles, MO; Mary Elizabeth Downing Gregory Heck of Peoria; Gerald Laux Patricia Downing of Decatur and Jane Amelia Downing Massey of O'Fallon, MO. Grandchildren: Matthew Robert, Anna Elizabeth, Sarah Katharine, Laura Christine and Paul Andrew Downing; Michael Seard and Elizabeth Camille Massey.

He worked for a year as a law clerk for Judge Roger Kiley of the 1st Appellate Court of Illinois in Chicago, before returning to Decatur to practice law with his father, Poyntelle, Albert Smith, Marvin Jorgensen, Roswell Prince, Bob Uhl, and Jim Uhl at 295 North Franklin. Dad practiced law for over 46 years in Decatur, specializing in trust, real estate, and tax law. He was the attorney for First Mutual Bank, Decatur, Illinois and Gerber State Bank, Argenta, Illinois for many years.

Dad was active in the local chapter of the American Red Cross for many years.

Dad enjoyed playing and watching many sports with his family, and going on family vacations to Colorado and Florida. Dad loved his children and grandchildren very much. He instilled in his children the values of honesty, integrity, and hard work. He believed in the importance of a formal education, providing his kids the opportunity to attend college and graduate school. He was a great husband, father, grandfather, mentor, and leader. He was always there for his family. He was the epitome of personal and professional excellence.

Dad was preceded in death by his parents, William Poyntelle and Ruth Lavery, and two sisters, Amelia Frances Downing and Nancy Downing Buschmeyer.



Tribute Wall

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SA

Sarah posted:

Hi grandpa. I hope your happy in heaven. Love Sarah Katherine Downing. Mount Zion, IL US

September 7 at 7:00 PM

RG

Rick & Linda Grammer posted:

We would like to give our sincere and heartfelt sympathies to your family. We knew Bill first thru him being Janice Grammer's my motherlawyer for years and became ours also. We go to St. James and would talk to him there and just thru those conversations and his professional help we grew to know a wonderful man, a kind and caring man. Bill will be missed by many.SincerelyRick & Linda Grammer decatur, IL US

April 26 at 7:00 PM

JS

Judy Stewart posted:

We at Decatur Title are sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Downing. His visits to our office were always a bright spot in our day as he always had a smile and kind word for everyone. Our condolences to his family. We will miss him. Decatur, IL US

April 25 at 7:00 PM

AP

Annette Phillips-Phipps posted:

So very sorry to hear of Mr. Downing's passing. Although, I didnot know him personally, he was myDad's attorney for a good number ofyears, and Dad both respected andadmired him very much. I just lostmy own Father this past Janurary 2006. My family wishes to expressour deepest sympathy to the Downingfamily. My Mother, Anne Phillips,Brother, Robert Phillips and myself,Annette Phillips-Phipps Decatur, IL US

April 25 at 7:00 PM

CB

Charles Barnes posted:

I was truly saddened at the news of Bill's death. We had some wonderful conversations not so long ago and I had hoped to see him on one of my visits back to Decatur. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. St. Louis, MO US

April 25 at 7:00 PM



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SO

Sally Jorgensen Oldham posted:

We were so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I know Dad thought a lot of him and he was always so nice to our family. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family Jeffersonville, IN US

April 24 at 7:00 PM

RH

Rhonda L. Hutchens posted:

I had the great privilege of working for William Downing for 20 years as his legal secretary. I have never known anyone more honest and hardworking as he was, nor have I ever known anyone with greater moral character and integrity. His top priority in life beyond his faith in God was his love for his wife and children. I will miss him greatly and count it a blessing to have known him. Decatur, IL US

April 24 at 7:00 PM

BM

Belinda Mclaughlin posted:

I worked for Mr. Downing from 1989 until 1992 as a legal secretary. Mr. Downing was a wonderful boss and I will always treasure the memories of working for him. My condolences to Liz and the family! Decatur, IL US

April 24 at 7:00 PM

JM

Jim/Sharon Mason posted:

Bill was a true class gentleman. The world is a little better place because of his influence with his family, his community, and his clients. Bill helped us in the organization of Mason Steel and guided us for many years. We would definitely come to honor and pay respect to the Downing family except for the fact that we will be out of town seeing doctors regarding my Mother and Dad. We will have Liz and the family in our thoughts and prayers. Decatur, IL US

April 24 at 7:00 PM

SC

Scott & Mary Cleave posted:

"Baby sis" – Scott and I were so saddened to read of Bill's death in this morning's paper. We don't need to tell you what a superior man he was. We are proud to have counted him as a friend of many years. You have our best wishes and prayers. Scott and Mary Forsyth, IL US

April 23 at 7:00 PM



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TV

Tina Voss posted:

Mary~ You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. I am very sorry for your loss. Peoria, IL US

April 23 at 7:00 PM

HW

Heather Sidell And Kathy Wernowsky posted:

Mary~Sorry to hear of your great loss. You and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. We are here for you if you would ever need anything. Peoria, IL US

April 23 at 7:00 PM

KO

Kevin Oldham posted:

My grandfather Marvin Jorgensen, who passed away in 2004, was a law partner of Mr. Downing. I remember seeing and meeting him on many occasions at their office on North Franklin as a kid. My grandfather and my family thought a great deal of him. I am very sorry to hear of your loss. Louisville, KY US

April 23 at 7:00 PM

JT

Jim Thompson posted:

I am sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I have had a professional relationship with him for many years working on his building and on his home. He was a very fine man. When I was injured last year, he showed his concern for me personally and I am grateful. Please accept my condolences. Mt. Zion, IL US

April 23 at 7:00 PM

BM

Bill & Evelyn Massey posted:

The thoughts and prayers of our family are extended to you and your family, during this time of loss. We must remember the good times of our lives and rejoice with memories of the trips to Destin and the Coral Reef, as well as your Colorado adventures. Likewise, we share with you the sad times our families have experienced. Escatawpa, MS US

April 23 at 7:00 PM



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Paul E. Bender posted:

Bill will always have a special place in my heart. Normal, IL US

April 22 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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