



## Robert W. "Bob" Downey

June 4, 1950 - January 10, 2024

Robert "Bob" Wendell Downey, 73, of Jackson, OH, died at Holzer Medical Center on Wed., Jan. 10 in Jackson, OH. Bob was born on June 4, 1950, in Gallipolis, OH to the late Robert Downey and Juanita (Perkins) Downey. He grew up in Jackson, OH as the oldest of his siblings, Penney and Ronald, and graduated from Jackson High School in 1968. He graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1972. Upon graduation he met his wife of 48 years, Patty (Wyant) Downey, through a mutual friend. They wrote letters while he served in the Navy in Honolulu, Hawaii and earned his Master of Education degree at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Upon completion of his naval service, Bob returned to Jackson, OH in 1975 and married Patty on August 3, 1975, and had their son, Jason, in 1980. Bob began his teaching career at Meigs Junior High in Pomeroy, OH in 1975. He taught 8th grade Earth Science at Gallia Academy for 27 years until his retirement in 2007. As a lifelong resident of Jackson, OH he was a devoted neighbor, friend, and family member to many. He would do anything for anyone and was always quick to help anyone. He was a member of the Jackson First Church of the Nazarene and attended Sunday school for many years. He loved socializing over coffee at the Donut Shop for many years and was a skilled handyman and gardener. He took great pride in building several homes with his father and supplying fresh produce from his garden to family and friends. Above all, Bob was a devoted husband and father. He never missed a day without calling Jason, or an opportunity to support him in his

childhood and professional career. He was an avid sports fan and loved attending Cincinnati Bengals, Cincinnati Reds, Ohio State football, and high school football and basketball games with Jason. Additionally, he loved attending concerts and taking road trips. He traveled to all 50 states and especially enjoyed trips to Dollywood with Patty. He enjoyed watching and going to NASCAR races and attending space shuttle launches in Cape Canaveral, FL. In recent years, he enjoyed cruises to South America, Europe, and just this past week to Mexico with Patty, Jason, Jason's wife, Elizabeth, and her family. He is preceded in death by his parents, Patty's parents, Chester Wyant and Odey Wyant, and brothers-in-law, Martin Fichtelman, Danny Lewis, and Dalbert Wyant, and sister-in-law, Donna Wyant. He is survived by his wife, Patty, Jackson, OH; son, Jason (Elizabeth) Downey, Columbus, OH; brother, Ronald (Barb) Downey, sister, Penney Lewis, two brothers-in-law, Orville Wyant and Kenneth (Shirley) Wyant of Jackson, OH; and two sisters-in-law, Thelma Fichtelman, Waverly, OH and Pauline (Paul) Texter, Chandler, AR. Additionally, he will be missed by many nieces, nephews, family, and friends. The family is extremely appreciative of the medical care Bob received in Jackson at the Holzer Medical Center, First Settlement Physical Therapy, and at the Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital over the last 5 years. Bob truly lived life to the fullest, persevered through adversity, and remained positive until the end. Friends may call from 2-6PM Sunday, January 14, 2024 at the Mayhew-Brown Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11AM Monday, January 15, 2024 at the Jackson First Church of the Nazarene, 251 Powell Dr., Jackson, OH with Pastor Mark Erskine officiating. Burial with military honors by the Jackson Chapter 45 DAV will follow at the Fairmount Cemetery in Jackson, OH. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Jackson First Church of the Nazarene, 251 Powell Dr., Jackson, OH 45640 or a charity of your choice. To share memories of Bob, visit [www.mayhew-brownfuneralhome.com](http://www.mayhew-brownfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fairmount Cemetery

12 Fairmount St.  
JACKSON, OH 45640

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 14. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Mayhew-Brown Funeral Home  
135 Broadway Street  
Jackson, OH 45640  
(740) 286-4161

## Funeral Service

JAN 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Jackson First Nazarene Church  
251 Powell Dr.  
Jackson, OH 45640

# Tribute Wall

KE

“ Mr. Downey was my 8th grade teacher as well in 84 His was one of my favorite classes. I remember when he'd pass around the various rocks and tell us not to lick the salt rock. He'd have a grin and shake his head after hearing a student say “yuck.” He seemed to love his job and we enjoyed having him teach us. Prayers for the family.  
Keith Davison

Keith - March 18, 2024 at 07:06 PM

WP

“ Mr. Downey was my 8th Grade Earth Science teacher. I still remember his rock containing fossils he would show the class as well as his mechanical model of the solar system. I remember that he made a VHS video of our class (apparently we were so outstanding that he wanted video proof of our existence)! A decade later, my nephew was his student and I got to interact with him on an adult level at a parent teacher conference. I do not know if he ever heard the phrase "Your life is the only Bible some people will ever read". If he did or did not know that phrase, he had no problem in living up to that ideal in the presence of his students. THANK YOU, Mr. Downey, for your Christ like witness to the young and impressionable minds that were in your classes during your years of teaching! William E. Plants

William Plants - January 25, 2024 at 02:22 PM

BI

“ Many good memories and conversations with Bob. He loved the family trips and telling about Buckeye stadium game days. Thoughts and prayers to you all at this time of loss. He was such a good guy!!!! He will be missed....



Brenda Garrett, Waverly OH! IO! - January 20, 2024 at 10:12 AM

CS

“ *Mr. Downey was a great teacher of whom I have many fond memories. We'd chat after class sometimes, or after school, and he'd tell me about Hawaii or some science topic we didn't get to cover in class, or try to answer some off-the-wall question I had back in 8th grade.*

*Sincerest condolences to all who will miss him.*

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**Charley Sheets** - January 17, 2024 at 03:58 PM

TM

“ *This is Tim Massie and I was the assistant high school principal at Gallia Academy for several years when Bob was teaching there. I was very sorry to hear of his passing. He was a fine man and a great teacher. Bob was one of those teachers you could always count on. His students respected him because he showed them respect. He provided an atmosphere in his classroom that was conducive for his students to learn. He worked hard and expected his students to do the same. I enjoyed hearing him tell stories of his travels with his family and I know he was proud of his son, Jason. I always enjoyed our visits at the retired GA teachers get togethers at Bob Evans and had missed talking to him the last several gatherings. I'm sorry I was unable to attend his visitation and funeral., but I wanted to share my memories of Bob with you. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Tim Massie*

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**Tim Massie** - January 15, 2024 at 04:43 PM



“ *A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.*

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January 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.



January 13, 2024 at 03:03 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.



January 13, 2024 at 11:11 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.



January 13, 2024 at 11:05 AM



“ From Allison and Mark Abell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.

**From Allison and Mark Abell** - January 13, 2024 at 11:05 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,  
  
May your memories of Robert Wendell Downey, give you peace, comfort and strength...  
  
Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.  
My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....  
  
US Navy Veteran, Robert Wendell Downey, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†  
  
† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - January 12, 2024 at 06:09 AM

MP

“ *Patty, Jason and family,  
Our prayers are with you in the loss of Bob. Karen and I have good memories of the times we were pastors at Jackson First Church. We appreciated the support that Bob, Patty and Jason gave us as their pastor. Bob always displayed a very positive attitude. We will continue to ask God to bring you comfort and peace in your loss in the days ahead of you.*

*Pastor Mike and Karen Percell  
Bradenton, Florida*

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**Mike and Karen Percell** - January 11, 2024 at 08:58 PM

BV

“ *Mr. Downey was the coolest science teacher ever! I had him in GAHS Jr High in 1982 and 1983. The same year "She Blinded me with Science" came out!! Everytime I hear it to this day, I think of him. 42 years.....now*

*I learned a lot from him and will never forget his classes. Thank you for your US Navy Service to our country. Semper Fi, RIP. So sad to hear and prayers to his family. I know the Periodic Tables thanks to him!!! God Bless*

Bryan Vance - January 11, 2024 at 07:19 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.*



January 11, 2024 at 02:24 PM

BZ

“ *I have heard so much about Bob from Jason and Liz over the last 20+ years. They are the ultimate testament to what a wonderful person he was. I regret that we are out of town this weekend but hope to see you soon.*

Bill and Jeannie Zox - January 11, 2024 at 02:05 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.*



January 11, 2024 at 11:46 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.



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January 11, 2024 at 11:21 AM



“ Jonathan Noble and Paul George planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.

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Jonathan Noble and Paul George - January 11, 2024 at 11:21 AM



“ I grew up knowing Bob as my good friend's Dad, but I was lycky that he was also my Dad, Bill Morris', cousin. And one of his favorite cousins, to be exact! It became clear through so many stories that Bob was the same sweet, sincere and fun person as a kid that he was to all of Jason's friends our whole lives. Always so caring to each of us, so interested in our lives, and so concerned to know if we're keeping in touch with Jason and each other.

My Dad loved and appreciated Bob as his cousin, and I am so grateful that Jason and I got to continue that relationship. Rest in Peace, Bob. You will be missed by so many.

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Hillary Needham - January 11, 2024 at 09:22 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.



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January 11, 2024 at 08:58 AM



“ Michael and Mary Ann Wyant and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert W. "Bob" Downey.

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Michael and Mary Ann Wyant and family - January 11, 2024 at 08:58 AM



“ I taught with Bob at Gallia Academy for several years. He was a consummate teacher and professional. The students loved his classes. He was kind and considerate to all of his fellow teachers and students. Jason , he would talk of you often and keep us abreast of your accomplishments. He was so proud of you! Bob will be missed!

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Joyce Hill - January 11, 2024 at 08:45 AM



“ Bob used to come and visit his parents grave at Fairmount cemetery. We would talk often. He would give their resting place his special touch. Bob was a deep and caring person. he will be missed. Ed and marge Henderson

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eddie d henderson - January 10, 2024 at 10:57 PM

MS

“ Bob was along time friend. He was always friendly and caring. A good man all around. He will be greatly missed. Michael Simpson

Mike Simpson - January 10, 2024 at 10:49 PM

TA

“ Thomas and Violet Arthur. Bob was a wonderful friend and neighbor. We lived across from him and his wonderful wife, Patty, for almost 13 years. He was always ready to help any neighbor and give produce from his garden or fruit from his trees. He was a kind soul. So sorry to the family for your loss. May God bring peace and comfort to all who care for him.

Thomas and Violet Arthur - January 10, 2024 at 09:17 PM

PS

So sorry to read of the passing of Bob. We were cubscout leaders in the 80's when our boys were young. He was so good with the boys. Many thoughts and prayers for the family from Penny Sheeter and family.

Penny Sheeter - January 11, 2024 at 04:15 PM

KC

“ Mr. Downey was so good natured and encouraged creativity and critical thinking in the classroom. I was lucky to have had him as a teacher. My condolences to those who loved him.

Karen Craigo - January 10, 2024 at 09:03 PM

BD

“ Mr. Downey was my 8th grade science teacher. I remember him taking our entire class out to see a solar eclipse. He was always fun and funny. I'm so sorry for your loss, he was a wonderful human.

Brooke Divilbiss - January 10, 2024 at 08:06 PM

ES

“ So sorry to hear of Mr Downey’s passing...our son Chris will still mention Mr Downey occasionally as he had him for science at Gallia Academy...he loved his class and certainly remembers things he learned...such a dedicated educator...our deepest condolences  
Ed and Jane ann Slagle

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**Ed and Jane ann Slagle** - January 10, 2024 at 07:07 PM