



William "Bill" Edward Downey Jr.

March 29, 1954 - September 20, 2024

Bill Downey, born William Edward Downey, Jr., 70, of Bloomington, Indiana, passed away suddenly on September 20, 2024. He was loved by many and is survived by his wife of 44 years, Judy Cook Downey; daughter Lynn Downey Braswell, son-in-law Dan, and granddaughter Birdie Braswell; son Trent Downey and daughter-in-law Taylor Leyden; and siblings Suzanne, Bryan, and Geoffrey and their families. Bill has been welcomed home by his father William, Sr., mother Peg, and precious nephew Dechlan Downey.

Bill was one of a kind—funny, loving, spontaneous, brave, and thoughtful. The greatest love of his life was his family. The week before he died, he proudly reported that he and Judy had met 50 years before. He was a champion for his children, always advocating for them, and adored two-year-old granddaughter Birdie, who called him “Bumpa.” He delighted in comedy, soccer, long walks, deep talks, music (particularly gospel), and watermelon.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 29, 1954, to William and Margaret “Peg” Hemrick Downey, he grew up in Middletown, New Jersey, before relocating with his family to La Crescenta, California, in 1973. After meeting Judy through mutual friends, he created a beautiful life with her in Bloomington.

Bill earned a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University Bloomington.

Professionally, he worked in a variety of administrative positions in Monroe County, including for the bursar's office of Indiana University (I.U.), B & L Sheet Metal and Roofing, and various churches. Recently Bill had become an Uber driver, which allowed him to enjoy one of his favorite activities, listening to and connecting with people.

Bill was a devout follower of Jesus. Baptized with his wife in 1990, he was a long-term member at Exodus Church of Bloomington, becoming an avid reader of spiritual literature. He was an enthusiastic volunteer. He supported international students through the FriendSpeak program, was active in The Prayer Room ministries, along with other service programs.

Humor was Bill's lifeblood. He had a contagious laugh and keen comedic timing. Deeply creative, he initially majored in journalism, worked at the college newspaper, I.D.S., wrote and performed comedy for local radio and stage productions. Throughout his life he found avenues to perform, recently taking stand-up comedy classes while enjoying The Comedy Attic. Always thinking of others, Bill drew cartoons for special-occasion cards that he sent to family and friends.

Bill was also an avid sports fan. After losing sight in one eye as a teenager—which dashed his dream of becoming a professional baseball player—he switched to soccer and went on to become a dedicated fan and coach. Bill loved I.U. soccer, rarely missing a College Cup Final Four appearance. He coached in the local Kicks for Kids soccer program and supported Lynn and Trent while they played high school soccer.

Bill had a great desire to learn and understand, as evidenced by his library and decades of journals. A reluctant mechanic, he became proficient over the years, often claiming divine intervention—"grace of the living God!"—in cases of miraculous resolution. He earned his Hoosier cred with a stable of old cars

in the driveway, hopeful for repair. He will be missed; they will not.

Many people have referred to Bill Downey as being “the kindest man I ever met.” His gift for knowing exactly what to say at just the right time made each person feel heard, validated, and loved. He will be missed greatly by both family and friends who are like family, including Jeff and Darrell Stone of Bloomington, Jack and Leslie Clark of Fort Wayne, the members of his church family, and many others.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, September 30, 2024, at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1503 That Road, Bloomington, IN 47403. Calling hours are from 3-5 PM, followed by the service at 5 PM.

Online condolences and memories can be made at www.allencares.com and <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/WfePJ5Uw>.

Please direct any donations towards Carry Them Ministries at CarryThem.org <https://carrythem.org/> . This ministry supports malnourished infants and their mothers in Nigeria.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

SEP **30**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel Baptist Church
1503 West That Road
Bloomington, IN 47403

Memorial Service

SEP **30**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Emmanuel Baptist Church
1503 West That Road
Bloomington, IN 47403

Tribute Wall



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Edward Downey Jr..



September 29, 2024 at 10:33 AM



“ Kate and Bob Autio planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Edward Downey Jr..

Kate and Bob Autio - September 29, 2024 at 10:33 AM



“ I worked with Bill at B&L and he was such a kind, funny, and great guy! He had a contagious laugh that when he laughed, we all did. Although we are sad of his passing, I know he was united with the Lord with open arms which gives all of us comfort. He was a one of a kind for sure and loved hearing his stories and truly admired his love to help others, his love for his family, and his love for Jesus. Fly high Bill and it's not goodbye, but u til we meet again!

Shannon - September 28, 2024 at 11:18 PM



Bill brought much joy in my life as a member of the writing group, affectionately known as "Tea and Ink". Humor, wit and kindness are adjectives that come to mind when I think of Bill. So glad our paths crossed in Bloomington.
Wendy Lumsdaine

Wendy Lumsdaine - October 06, 2024 at 06:43 PM

GE

“ Judy,
Linda and I are so sorry to hear about Bill.
Working with Bill at B&L was a joy for me. We had many great
conversations about the Lord. I know he is happier now than he has
ever been and I know your loss will hurt for a while, but I pray the
Lord's grace will comfort and care for you through the days ahead. I
can't wait to see him again.
I praise God for the privilege of knowing Bill.

George Ellis

George Ellis - September 28, 2024 at 05:20 PM

DF

“ Deanna F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill"
Edward Downey Jr..

Deanna F. - September 26, 2024 at 10:19 PM

TA

“ Taryn A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill"
Edward Downey Jr..

Taryn A. - September 26, 2024 at 08:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
William "Bill" Edward Downey Jr..



September 26, 2024 at 06:00 PM

LT

“ Love - TommyTQL planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Edward Downey Jr..

Love - TommyTQL - September 26, 2024 at 06:00 PM

MK

“ I will never forget the kindness Bill and Judy showed me during a family emergency in Bloomington. I had never met Bill before that time, but he supported my family through a difficult time and I will be forever grateful. Our hearts are broken for you. Maribeth Kopriva

Maribeth Kopriva - September 25, 2024 at 10:59 PM

JC

“ I knew Bill through his deep, life long friendship with my parents. The enduring memory I will have of Bill is him being the absolute life of my wedding party. He probably knew less than 5 percent of the people there when he arrived, but he made his mark through story telling (“he was HUUUUGGGEEE” describing the first time he met my mother’s dad Bus) and dancing (if we had cell phones and social media then, the dance floor that night that Bill led would have gone viral). By the end of the weekend, he was known by all of them. My hunch is that’s how it went at most gatherings that were blessed by Bill’s larger than life presence.



Jeff Clark - September 25, 2024 at 10:27 PM

SM

“ *Bill was my baseball coach for many years and was truly one of the most authentically kind individuals I have ever met. He had an infectious positivity that he imparted upon all he came into contact with. I am so very sorry for your family, Bill was a testament to the best parts of the human condition, Godspeed!*

Steven M - September 25, 2024 at 07:10 PM