



George French Downs III

November 13, 1938 - July 5, 2013

Mr. George F. Downs III

George F. Downs III went home to be with his Lord in the early morning hours of July 5. He died at home with his family and friends caring for him.

Memorial services will be held at 10:00 A.M., Wednesday in the Grace Community Church. Cremation arrangements were by the Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory

He was born in Odessa, Texas in 1938 and was brought to Bartlesville six months later by his parents. He graduated from College High and then moved on to Stanford University. After taking time out to serve in the US Army, he finished up at Stanford in 1962. While at school he met and married Sue Ann Olsen. They were married just over fifty-one years. His pride and joy were his three daughters—Susan Elizabeth Downs, Ann Margaret VanHemert, and Esther Lois Maples. He loved his grandchildren Edward Dixon, Ben and Jackie Dixon, Purity VanHemert, Peter VanHemert, Aaron VanHemert and Annabelle VanHemert. He thoroughly enjoyed his great grandson, Pheonix Dixon. His dearly treasured sisters are Anita Hughes, Nancy Hoover and he considered Lee Hoover a good friend.

During his 22 years in the Republic of Panama, he had the pleasure of befriending and helping members of Wycliffe Bible Translators, New Tribes Missions and other mission groups. After 35 years of US Government service

he retired to Bartlesville. His first Sunday home he joined Grace Community Church and played stand up bass with the worship team from then on. He enjoyed the fellowship and was thrilled to travel on mission trips with Grace Missions International.

He will be remembered for his love affair with Volvos which started in 1966. He was known in US and international Volvo circles for his friendly and wise advice. He and his wife traveled to Goteborg, Sweden to see the Volvo home factory. Recently he was delighted to be a charter member of the Ozark Rollers, a new club in the Volvo Clubs of America.

One of George's unique distinctions is that he was president of both the Canal Zone Orchid Society and the Orchid Society of Panama.

George was and is a much-loved Husband, Father, Grandpa and friend to many. We will miss him very much but we look forward to being together again in the arms of the Lord.

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Tribute Wall

PD

“ I am sad to hear of the death of Mr Downs; At College Hi in Bartlesville, he was my brother's best friend and we stopped to visit him in 2010/11 when they held the Grand Reunion. I was going to let him know that my brother Jimmy Lee Dunn passed away this June 25th.
I do recall all the Volvos he had parked in the driveway of his home.

Pamela J S Dunn - July 09, 2018 at 01:12 PM

KA

“ Susan, Peggy, Ester and Mrs Downs,
Was so sorry to hear about the loss of Mr. Downs. I have very fond memories of hanging out at your home in NC and also going to church with you. Mr. Downs sure loved his family and his Volvos! Prayers and love are with you. Now and forever. Katherine

Katherine Doucette Ashby - November 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ So sorry to learn of the loss of George. He was a wonderful man and a good friend in the world of old Volvos. He will be sadly missed by many of his online friends.

Lee Holman - July 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I met George online through a Volvo forum and considered him to be a friend. His tales of his trusty volvo "Little Red" and his travels with it and his wife made me smile when I needed it the most. I was happy that I was able to return the favor later when Esther needed help.
I'll miss him but know that he is in a better place and helping others as he did here on Earth.

James Stoney - July 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ My deepest sympathies n the loss of such a wonderful husband, and father. I had the opportunity to experience the jow of his music and the light of his smile and will not soon forget it.

Carol Davis - July 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ Dear Susie and family,
It seems that God is always providing oportunities, if we just act upon them. My/our opportunity to get to know your wonder father and husband began with a request to assess a Volvo 1800 near your home. Little did we know that we would form a wonderful and lasting friendship with such a kind, knowledgable old "Walrus." I can imagine George sharing his Volvo wisdom with his Lord and Master, and having his thoughts listened too!

Mungu Akubariki (God's blessings)

Kent

Kent, Keir & Orion - July 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ George was my friend though we never met face to face. We met through old Volvo channels. His sage advice about Volvos and life was sustaining and encouraging to me and others. After discovering him to be a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ, we corresponded personally and shared the joy of our salvation. I pray that the Lord will comfort all his loved ones in this time of sorrow. I know George is fine and we will meet face to face one day. Well done, good and faithful servant!

Patrick Whitaker - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Susie and family,

We will miss George, especially on Sunday mornings during our service. He was one special fellow.

Bill Kittrell - July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ We will miss you and your incredible courage. The praise band won't be the same so I know they will have basses and Volvo's in heaven just waiting.

LeRoy and Lori Shepherd - July 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ George was every Volvo owners friend, especially the old ones. I knew him for about 15 years but we never met. We shared the same love of the 1969 164, which we both owned. We also both played bass. He was so helpful to me in my rebuilding my 164, and very complimentary of the job when I posted pictures on the Brickboard. He invited me to bring the car out to Bartlesville and have dinner but unfortunately I couldn't make it in time. I will think of him every time I drive my 164. Goodbye Walrus. I will miss you. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this very sad time.

Jack Petrilla - July 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM