

## Kenneth Downs

June 19, 1941 - August 16, 2022

Funeral Services for Kenneth Downs, 81, of Gilmer, Texas, will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, August 19, 2022, at McWhorter Funeral Home with Brother Billy Byrd and Brother Dicky Mauk officiating. Interment to follow at Oak Hill Cemetery. The family will receive friends at 10:00 am prior to the service. Kenneth was born June 19, 1941, to Dewey and Gladys Downs in Gilmer, Texas and passed from this life August 16, 2022, surrounded by his family. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Carolyn Downs; children, Debbie Kuza (Michael), Pam Clemens (John), and Gabriel Downs (Stephanie); grandchildren, Mitch Clemens (Courtney), Bradley Kuza, Andrew York, Adam Kuza, Kade Clemens, Shelby Downs, and Beth Downs; great grandchildren, Landon and Ansley Clemens; and sister-in-law, Sue Downs. He is preceded in death by his parents; and his brother, Mike Downs. At a young age of two Kenneth remembered watching his dad after a leave at home to return to duty in the Navy during WWII. One of the saddest memories while his dad was in the service was while playing with the other boys and they would see a military car drive up in their neighborhood. They would all run to see if the car was going to their house. They knew if it did that meant their dad would not be coming home. This left an impression on his heart for the love of family and the military. After Kenneth's dad was discharged from the Navy, they moved back to Gilmer and built their house where he lived until he married the love of his life Carolyn Richardson on June 1, 1963. Kenneth started working with his dad, Dewey, from eight years of age until he

started working at American National Insurance Co. After leaving the insurance business, Kenneth worked a short time at Mrs. Baird's, driving a truck, he worked at Trailmobile, then went back to what his dad had taught him as a young man. In his latter days he told his family he missed working. He was a perfectionist when it came to painting. His dad passed that trait onto him. Every detail had to be perfect. He loved making people happy when he finished a job.

Baseball was one of Kenneth's passions. He learned the love of the game from his maternal grandfather. Kenneth taught hundreds of kids how to love the game while teaching them how to play. He not only coached kids in the surrounding areas, he also coached his kids, grandkids, and even his great grandson. His love for baseball and life has been passed down to his loved ones he has left behind.

One of his most emotional moments was when he was saved and baptized late in life.

His family will always remember his love for God, love for family, and love for the game.

Pallbearers are Mitch Clemens, Bradley Kuza, Andrew York, Adam Kuza, Kade Clemens, and Carson Lambert.

Honorary pallbearers are Chance Downs, Colby Winn, Andy Richardson, Blake Lambert, and Nate Winn.

Please visit Kenneth's on-line registration book at [www.mcwhorterfh.com](http://www.mcwhorterfh.com) to leave a memory for the family

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

FM 2088  
Gilmer, TX 75644

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **19**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home  
1074 St. Hwy 300  
Gilmer, TX 75645  
(903) 734-7070  
info@mcwhorterfh.com  
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

## Service

AUG **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home  
1074 St. Hwy 300  
Gilmer, TX 75645  
(903) 734-7070  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *McWhorter Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth Downs*



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**McWhorter Funeral Home** - August 19, 2022 at 06:10 PM

CS

*I am so sorry for the family's loss. I remember him supporting the Union Hill Bulldogs baseball team He was always such a big supporter of all the kids! Such a good man!! Rest In Peace!*

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**Catherine Schmidt** - August 21, 2022 at 10:49 AM

LG

“ *Kenneth coached me in Little League baseball in 1964.*

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**LYNN J GRAVES** - August 20, 2022 at 05:22 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Kenneth Downs Funeral Service*



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**McWhorter Funeral Home** - August 20, 2022 at 08:52 AM

FC

*“ I am so sorry to learn about this. I truly can say I enjoyed knowing Kenneth and his sweet family  
Praying for you all in this truly hard time prayers ,love and peace*

Frankie (Gage) Copeland - August 20, 2022 at 07:13 AM



*“ Cousin, I was so sorry to hear that you had passed away. You were my Mom's favorite nephew. Give her a big hug from me. Carolyn and kids, I am so sorry for your loss. Kenneth Downs was a good man.*

Donnie Wacasey - August 19, 2022 at 11:22 AM



*“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Kenneth Downs.*



August 18, 2022 at 01:28 PM

KB

*“ Kenneth was always so friendly and nice. He was a pleasure to talk to. He will be missed! Love and prayers to his family! —Kathleen Bishop*

Kathleen Bishop - August 18, 2022 at 12:45 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Life Tributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - August 18, 2022 at 11:03 AM



“ There are 2 things I can say for sure about Uncle Kenneth. He loved BIG. He loved his family so much and was so proud of them. He had a laugh that filled a room and came from deep within that brought a smile and laughter to everyone’s face. He is going to be missed not only by his his family, but by everyone he has come into contact with over all these years. My love and prayers for peace goes out to Aunt Carolyn and Debbie, Pam & Gabe & all the family. ~Angie~

Angie Roberts Hardin - August 18, 2022 at 10:02 AM



He loved all of y’all. Thank you!

Gabriel Downs - August 18, 2022 at 12:14 PM



“ I've known Kenneth most all our long lives ,considered us distant relatives. We shared a common interest, our grandsons and Little League baseball. My sincere condolences to Carolyn and family.

Anita Meredith - August 18, 2022 at 09:27 AM

JB

“ Prayers for all the family and loved ones.  
Sorry for your loss.



James & Darlene Barber - August 18, 2022 at 08:37 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for  
the family of Kenneth Downs.



August 18, 2022 at 05:42 AM

JW

“ We were sad to hear about Mr Downs. He and Mrs Downs painted  
and papered when we built our house in Longview. He was not just  
a painter, but also a trusted expert who provided wise advice and  
helped us keep our sanity during the building process, assuring us  
that it would all come together and be alright. Yes, he was a  
perfectionist with his craft, but more importantly, he was our friend.  
We extend our sincere sympathies to all the family.

John and Terri Worley - August 18, 2022 at 03:39 AM

GD

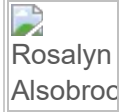
Thank you, he loved working.

Gabriel Downs - August 18, 2022 at 07:42 AM

LB

My prayers and thoughts are with all Kenneth's family & friends. May  
God give you peace and comfort for the lonely days ahead.

Linda Shaw Bond - August 18, 2022 at 08:16 PM



Rosalyn  
Alsobroc

*I haven't seen or talked to Kenneth in ages. The thing I remember most about him is that he was a gentleman. We owned an auto parts store and garage where the customers were not always so courteous. But, Kenneth was always a gentleman when I was present. I always appreciated that. He was also always helpful. He had such a good soul. That's why I'm sure he's up in Heaven waiting for the rest of us.*

Rosalyn Alsobrook - August 30, 2022 at 01:21 PM



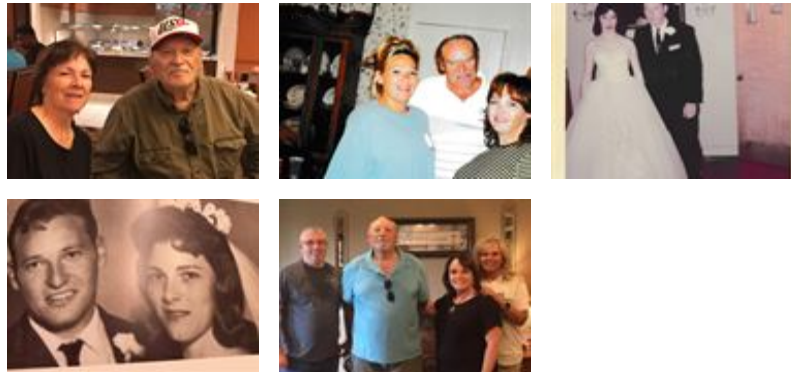
“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Kenneth Downs.*



August 17, 2022 at 05:58 PM



“ *208 files added to the album LifeTributes*



McWhorter Funeral Home - August 17, 2022 at 05:31 PM

TF

“ *The Figueros purchased the Beautiful Dreams  
for the family of Kenneth Downs.*



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**The Figueros** - August 17, 2022 at 05:14 PM

CJ

“ I was so sorry to learn of Kenneth's passing. He was my Little League baseball coach at Gilmer. In 1964 Kenneth and Danny Dawson managed the Gilmer Phillies, an expansion club in the Gilmer League. We were made up of mostly castoffs and first-year players.

*I remember showing up for practice at the old Gilmer High School field. When he saw me walking up he hollared, "Johnson, where in the \*&%! have you been. He had been trying to call me unsuccessfully for a previous practice. I thought to myself, "I'll show you, old man, who I am." During batting practice that day I was kinda upset and took out my frustrations by knocking the cover off the ball. He was impressed and put me batting clean-up in our opening game. From that day forward, we were good buddies.*

*I was so glad to learn a few years back that Kenneth was saved and gave his heart to Jesus. He publicly identified with Christ in baptism and became a part of the Lord's New Testament Church at Oak Hill. P-T-L!*

*Thanks be to God for Kenneth Downs who took time to invest in my young life and many others. My prayers and thoughts are with the entire Downs family.*

*Charles Johnson, pastor  
Rosewood Baptist Church*

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**Charles Johnson** - August 17, 2022 at 04:00 PM

GD

*Thank you for the prayers*

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**Gabriel Downs** - August 17, 2022 at 06:26 PM

LC

“ *Love to all, David, Diane and Will Cerny purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kenneth Downs.*



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**Love to all, David, Diane and Will Cerny** - August 17, 2022 at 03:04 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Kenneth Downs.*



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August 17, 2022 at 02:58 PM