



Francis Michael Downing

August 9, 1927 - October 15, 2019

Francis Michael Downing

Easton; Frank Downing, 92, passed away at Talbot Hospice House in Easton, on October 15, 2019. Frank grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. and attended Brooklyn Technical H.S. He graduated from Lafayette College, PA. where he was recognized as an outstanding student athlete and was inducted into their athletic Hall of Fame. For much of his career, he coached high school football and taught English in Pennsylvania and Florida. He later received his Doctorate in Education and became the Academic Athletic Advisor at the University of Kentucky and Penn State University. He was the co-founder of the National Association for Academic Advisors of Athletics, an organization dedicated to assisting student athletes to earn college degrees. He was a mentor and inspiration to many young people throughout his life and was fondly known as "Coach" and "Doctor D".

Frank wore many hats. In addition to his athletic pursuits, he had a great love of learning and was a natural teacher. Upon moving to St. Michaels, he participated in several discussion groups and started a French language club. He also volunteered his time to tutor children and adults to enhance their reading and writing skills. He spent years studying the life of Frederick Douglass and spearheaded early efforts to recognize and honor him locally.

Frank was preceded in death by his brother; Vincent. He will be deeply missed by his wife Marilyn, the love of his life for 75 years; his three children; Denise, Kevin and Valerie, his two grandsons; Jason and Derek Carr, his nephew; David Downing and niece Danielle Bradsher, and their families, and his brother in law; Al O'Neil and his wife Sharon. His memory is our treasure.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at the St. Michaels Mission Church, St. Michaels, MD. On Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 10:30AM. A reception will follow at the

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. .

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Talbot Hospice Foundation 586 Cynwood Drive Easton, Md. 21601 or to the Talbot County Free Library 100 W. Dover St. Easton Md. 21601.

Services entrusted to the Framptom Funeral Home, Ostrowski Chapel, of St. Michaels

Share memories with the family at www.framptom.com

Cemetery

Mid Shore Cremation Center

2272 Hudson Road

Cambridge, MD, 21613

Comments



“ Coach Downing shaped my life from my first day's of meeting him. I am a 1969 graduate from Coral Park. I've talked much about him and my football days with my Son, who wound up playing for an NCAA small but prestigious college. Ironically Preston passed away last week (at age 30, leaving behind his wife, 3 yr. old daughter and a Son due in December... Maybe he'll meet your Dad, and be mutually rewarded? All my condolences to Coach D's family & friends. He left a great legacy!
Rudi #18

Rudi Pameijer - October 24, 2019 at 06:37 PM



“ Coach Frank Downing burst into my life in August, 1963 when, as an immature 15-year old, I showed up for the first of many football practices and games at the newly-completed Miami Coral Park High School. I had no clue what would happen next and I surely didn't know how profoundly Coach would impact my life and the lives of my new teammates. "Coach," that's what we called him then...and to this day, was energetic, enthusiastic, always positive, and forgiving. We didn't know it; but, he was molding teenagers into young men. He taught us that we could and would succeed, if we maintained the "right attitude" and learned the value of teamwork. I can still hear the call as we ran: "Coach Frank Downing wrote a sign on the wall -- teamwork, teamwork starts this Fall." Remember, he encouraged us to "play with pain!" All who had the privilege and honor to be around Coach for any length of time must realize how truly blessed they are for that opportunity. He lived a full, energetic, and principled life...exemplifying the attributes of integrity, honesty, and service above self. Now, those of us who were in his circle for a brief time in our lives, must cherish those moments and celebrate how lucky we are to have known him. My sincere and heartfelt condolences go out to Coach Frank's family, friends, teammates, and acquaintances. I hope to see you again on the other side Coach.

Stan Romes - October 23, 2019 at 02:21 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the Downing family
Coach Downing took a 9th and 10th grade football team all the way to Gold Coast conference championships. All my thoughts and prayers are with you all

John Jensen - October 21, 2019 at 08:46 PM



“ Dear Denise & Family:
My sincere condolences for your loss. Coach was a fabulous human being with immeasurable heart and soul. He is so fondly remembered by all who knew him and we are blessed that he touched our lives in so many ways. Shelley Isaacs

shelley isaacs - October 21, 2019 at 05:54 PM



“ I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the entire Downing family. Coach Downing was a man of true convictions. Whether it be on the playing field, classroom, or talking to him in his office. He knew how to motivate and challenge all of us. I remember two- a- day summer practices. We were out on the field as the sun was rising. Looking back, it gave us the camaraderie as teammates and friends. We needed each other to get through the grind. But somehow we made it and Coach was there through it all. I guess it was one of life's lessons that gave us the strength to persevere. It also made for some good stories to tell over the years. Coach Downing was a true leader and will be greatly missed. He truly gave us the "RAMS" culture.

Ray Feraco class of 68.

Ray Feraco - October 21, 2019 at 05:09 PM



“ A great man that impacted a lot of young men and women. He took a bunch of teenagers and through his love started them on the road of manhood the right way. God bless him and his family. He was one of the most influential men in my life. I can say I was fortunate to have played for him for 4 years, but most of all...I KNEW HIM. GOD'S SPEED COACH!!!
Right Attitude Means Success
Rick Childree



Rick Childree - October 21, 2019 at 03:39 PM



“ Coach Downing touched my life when I played football for him in high school. We were a small bunch of kids and he instilled in us the belief that “life’s battles don’t always go to the bigger or faster man. They always go to the one who thinks he can”. He would yell “Who can” and we would yell back “we can”. And we did win a lot under his coaching. I’ve thought of that lesson many times over the years. I was lucky to reconnect with him a few years ago and was not surprised at all to see he had lost none of his ebullience. Rest In Peace Coach. You’ve touched many lives. We’ll never forget you. Bill Chalker.

Bill Chalker - October 20, 2019 at 12:10 PM



“ Denise and family, love, prayers and hugs as you grieve Coach's death. He touched many lives during his time at Coral Park and I am sure in all his future endeavors. Your Rams who he coached and taught will always remember Right Attitude Means Success. Rest in peace Coach .. your teams will be with you again one day.

Janice Crabtree Gato class of 69 - October 20, 2019 at 08:38 AM



“ If there is any person other than my mother or father who had a major impact on my life and career it was Coach Downing. Each morning as I awake I choose the attitude that I will use to lead me through the day and it will always be the Right Attitude that Means my Success. Thank You!!



Lawrence Orihuela Class of 1966 - October 19, 2019 at 11:17 PM



“ Coach Downing was an amazing man who lead a amazing full life. A great teacher and coach he had an influence in the lives of many people. He made an impact in this world and hel eft a wonderful legacy which all of us will never forget. Thank you coach for what you did for us Rams. Right Attitude Means Success. Rest in Peace, a job well done!

Steve Bomse - October 20, 2019 at 12:51 AM



“ Coach Downing dedicated his life to education and the future of his students. I'm glad he was able to live a long and full life. His legacy will live on as well.

Salli Schwartz - October 19, 2019 at 11:08 PM



“ Heart felt condolences Coach was a large influence in my life along with my father he was someone I looked up to His coaching and teaching has touched so many God Bless him and go Rams

robert irvin - October 19, 2019 at 09:29 PM



“ Denise, heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. Your father life can not be remembered as just a coach as he was a mentor and an inspiration to so many. He rests in peace today and yet I can still hear him on the field in his accent saying "Hurry hurry hurry"

howard borsa - October 19, 2019 at 02:25 PM