



## James G. Downes Jr.

November 19, 1941 - June 23, 2019

WEST GROTON: James G. Downes, Jr., 77, of West Groton died Sunday, June 23, 2019 at Emerson Hospital Concord.

His wife of 57 years, Shirley M. (Lareau) Downes died in December of last year.

Mr. Downes was born in Ayer, November 19, 1941 a son of James G. and Jeannette N. (LaPrade) Downes Sr. and resided much of his life in West Groton. He was a graduate of St. Bernard's Central Catholic High School, Fitchburg and in 1971 graduated from Massachusetts State Police Academy for municipal police officers, Framingham Massachusetts.

For 25 years he served his community as a police officer in Groton, where he attained the rank of Sergeant. In addition to his position on the police department he was appointed as Middlesex County Deputy Sheriff for a nearly decade.

While working as a police officer in the Town of Groton he graduated from numerous advanced police investigative courses and in the 1970's served as a crime scene technician for major crimes in Groton and several surrounding towns. Additionally, he became licensed as a Massachusetts Emergency Medical Technician during the EMT program's early implementation in Massachusetts.

He served as President of Groton Police Association in the 1970's and helped sponsor youth and community based programs including youth baseball team.

In the mid 1990's, Mr. Downes was appointed as Special Police Officer in the Town of Dunstable, a position he held for numerous years.

After retiring in 1994, he invented a lightweight, novel corrugated pallet which greatly reduced shipping costs for manufacturing while reducing businesses carbon footprint within the environment. In more recent years he enjoyed time with his granddaughter and family trips to White Mountains.

He leaves two sons, James G. Downes III and his companion Lucia Ford and Brian Downes both of West Groton; his brother, Gary R. Devlin of Ashburnham, his brother in law, Peter Lareau of Ashby and his granddaughter, Samantha Downes of Groton.

He was the brother of the late Janice E. Downes who died in 2005, Jane J. Tessier who died in 1975 and Janet F. Moyon who died in 1988.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11 AM Thursday, June 27, 2019 at St. John's Church, 1 School Street, Townsend. Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery.

Calling hours are 4-7 Wednesday, June 26th at Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street, (Rte 119) Townsend Center. For additional information or to leave an on line condolence, please see their website at [www.andersonfuneral.com](http://www.andersonfuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Hillside Cemetery

Highland Street  
Townsend, MA

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

**JUN 26.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Townsend  
250 Main Street ~ Route 119  
Townsend, MA 01469  
(978) 597-2692

## Funeral Mass

**JUN 27.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Townsend  
250 Main Street ~ Route 119  
Townsend, MA 01469  
(978) 597-2692

# Tribute Wall

Jl

“ *The Downes family sincerely thanks everyone for your kind words and thoughtful memories*

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**James Downes III** - June 27, 2019 at 08:49 PM

LF

“ *I was always impressed by his pearl handled revolver! We used to see him often of bike rides through Dunstable. My heartfelt condolences to his son James. May he Rest In Peace.*

*Lisa Ferolito*

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**Lisa Ferolito** - June 26, 2019 at 08:00 PM

JR

“ Jim was a special officer when I left the Groton PD to go to Ayer :PD in 1970. He was soon appointed a full time officer. Jim fought very hard to improve working conditions for officers and was involved in the signing of the first union contract. When I returned to the Groton PD in 1976 Jim and I worked together in many capacities.

*Jim was a man of the people! He spent much of his time communicating with the residents for which he was respected and loved. He was known as a very FAIR officer. Sadly health issues led to Jim's early retirement.*

*We remained friends and loved to swap war stories.*

*To Jim, Brian and his very special Samantha my deepest condolences are with you.*

*Jay Rider*

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**Jay Rider** - June 26, 2019 at 03:47 PM

RA

“ Wonderful guy!, RIP Jim. So sorry for your loss.  
Condolences from the Alberghini's

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**Rhonda Alberghini** - June 26, 2019 at 01:46 PM

KC

“ Jim,Brian and Samantha my sincerest condolences to you, in the loss of your Dad and Grandfather.My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time..I was so sorry to hear.. Karen Cormier

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**Karen Cormier** - June 25, 2019 at 11:05 PM

JS

“ Dear Jim- when I joined the force in the early 70's you were a mentor and one of my first friends. I saw in you a person of integrity and caring and always wanted to emulate that for myself. Our entire careers together at GPD were both challenging and rewarding. But I always considered working with you a privilege and will forever hold a special place in my heart. Jack Saball

Jack Saball - June 25, 2019 at 04:29 PM

DW

“ Jim was a prince of a man.....honor and respect.....R.I.P....Jim

Donald Wallace - June 24, 2019 at 05:46 PM

KM

“ I became acquainted with Jim when he worked for Dell Dale Farm delivering milk. I always conversation with him because he was always in a good mood and had a ready smile. That was about 55 years ago, some people are very likeable and you don't forget them. Very sorry for you loss.

kelvin MacInnis - June 24, 2019 at 05:34 PM



“ Rose Georges lit a candle in memory of James G. Downes Jr.



Rose Georges - June 24, 2019 at 04:38 PM



“ *To the Downes family I am so so sorry to hear the passing of your loved one*

*Prayers are with all of you may he rest in peace*

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**Rose Georges** - June 24, 2019 at 04:38 PM



“ *My dad and Jimmy worked closely together during the 70's, when my dad was a cop in Pepperell and Jimmy was in Groton. My dad didn't talk much about the job, but when he did, Jimmy was always in the story. My dad said Jimmy was a great guy and a great cop. I fondly remember going to Jimmy's lake house when I was little. Jimmy I'm glad I knew you, you'll be sorely missed but at least you and my dad can reminisce about the good old days! - Jerome Moore Jr.*

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**Jerome Moore Jr** - June 24, 2019 at 04:08 PM

RC

“ Chief Downes,

*After the tears have dried and the goodbyes have been said, all we have to hold onto are the happy memories that we've shared with our loved ones who have passed, this is what keeps them alive in our hearts and in our minds, and they will continue to live on, through us.*

*It is apparent through your Dads lifetime of service that he set a great example and legacy for his family and others to follow.*

*I extend my deepest sympathies to you and your family.*

*Robert Champagne  
Chief of Police ( Ret.)  
Peabody MA*



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**Robert Champagne** - June 24, 2019 at 12:16 PM

BA

“ Another good one gone from the best days of Police work.

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**Bill Adamson** - June 24, 2019 at 11:14 AM

TR

“ *Tiny's Restaurant purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of James G. Downes Jr..*



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**Tiny's Restaurant** - June 23, 2019 at 07:48 PM

TR

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you through this difficult time.

*R.I.P. Jim*

*Your friends from Tiny's Restaurant*

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**Tiny's Restaurant** - June 23, 2019 at 07:43 PM