



Byron "Barry" Enoch Downs II

July 20, 1945 - August 23, 2022

Byron (Barry) Enoch Downs II, age 77 and long-time resident of Hopkins, MN, passed away Tuesday, August 23, 2022. He is preceded in death by his loving parents Byron E. Downs, Marian Lydia (Bommer) Downs, and sister Sharon Ruth (Downs) (George) Dornbach.

Barry was born in New Rochelle, New York on July 20, 1945. He grew up in New Rochelle, but moved to Richfield, Minnesota, and in 1963 he graduated from Richfield Senior High School. Barry spent one year at college where he competed as an athlete on the swim team.

In 1965 Barry enlisted in the U.S. Navy where after basic training, he enrolled into Sonar school, and returned home briefly to marry his high school sweetheart, Amy Jo Brawley. During Barry's time in the Navy, he would go on to achieve several awards and accomplishments. He was enlisted for eight years and was discharged in 1973 at the rank of Sonar Technician First Class (E-6).

Barry and Amy were married for 22 years and had three children together, Buddy, Kellie, and Heather. Barry worked at Honeywell Inc., as an Electrical Engineer and would go on to have a successful 16-year career with them. Through his work at Honeywell, he became a U.S. Patent holder in 1980.

Just as the principles of scouting were an important set of values in the home Barry (aka "Mr. D") grew up in, he would also begin a tradition and love for all things scouting and adventure for his own family. Barry was involved with the Boy Scouts of America for over 25 years. He was an adult leader for 14 years and a Scout Master for 10 years. He was a brotherhood member of the Order of Arrow and earned the District Award of Merit and Scouter's Key. He is also a recipient of the Silver Beaver award. Barry led Troop 375 to 10 honor/quality unit awards, several national camping awards, five Many Point Super Troop awards, two Historic Trail awards and many Mustang District Camporee awards. During his time as Scout Master, Barry graduated 18 Eagle Scouts.

Another important activity in Barry's life was his love for all things racing and RC cars. He joined a local RC car club with his son Buddy and shortly thereafter, he would form Downs Racing Team. Though the team members in the first few years were Amy and the kids, it would eventually include Jennifer and Heather, along with some very dear and lifelong friends. Downs Racing Team eventually ended as Barry had more love to give, and new adventures to begin.

In 1985 Barry met the love of his life, Jennifer. They met at a weekly dance for active single adults. They began dating a short time later and were married on February 14, 1988.

Barry and Jennifer continued dancing throughout their 34-year marriage. They were active square dancers, round dancers, and enjoyed "Angeling" (assisting new dancers in square and round dancing). They were active in several clubs which included being King and Queen of Spares and Pairs (twice) and Westonka (twice). He was also awarded #1 most-active square dancer by Square Dance Minnesota for three years in a row. He served three years on the Square Dance Minnesota Board as Education Director, Vice Chairman, and Chairman. He also did publicity for Spares and Pairs and created dance flyers for three other clubs. At the time of his death, he was 1st Vice President

of Westonka Whirlers.

He is survived by his beautiful wife Jennifer Pearl (Gravelle/Sheldon) Downs; his devoted children Byron (Buddy) Enoch III (Lori Jean) Downs, Kellie Ann (Downs) Barstad (Mikel Ingram), Heather Shannan (Downs) Fox; Darryl Sheldon, Laura (Sheldon) (James) Russell, and the pride and joy of his life, his grandchildren: Amanda Jo (Bryan) Ramsey, Nicholas Robert Byron Downs (Amber), Charles Andrew Cox, Rebecca Lynn (Downs) (Alex) Botz, Brittany Sharon (Downs) (Spencer) Vandegriff, Alexander Lee Downs; Steven Matthew Barstad, Sara Marie Barstad, Nicole Arlene (Barstad) Gemini, Sean Michael (Downs) Barstad, Catelin Christy Barstad; Brandon James Downs; Devon Sheldon, Rowan Sheldon, Kalia Russell, and several great grandchildren; and his extended family Deloris (Pickens) Lazaretti, Melvin and Evonne Kirchenwiiz, Robert Spanier, Jody (Blaze) Burnett, Tim Smith, and of course we could not forget his most recent fur baby, Squiggy and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Square Dance Minnesota. Please contact them at squaredancemn@aol.com

Memorial Service to be held Tuesday, August 30 at 3pm with visitation one hour prior at:

Washburn-McReavy.com

Strobeck-Johnson 952-938-9020

1400 Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 30. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Hopkins Chapel
1400 Mainstreet
Hopkins, MN 55343

Chapel Service

AUG 30. 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM (CT)

Hopkins Chapel
1400 Mainstreet
Hopkins, MN 55343

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Byron "Barry" Enoch Downs II.*



August 29, 2022 at 03:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Byron "Barry" Enoch Downs II.*



August 28, 2022 at 06:25 PM



“ *Barry was an incredible square dancer, always a smile and great partner! I will miss you my friend!*

Judy Johnson AKA Jud the Dude

judy johnson - August 28, 2022 at 05:35 PM

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“ I remember the very first time I took Barry deer hunting outside of Pine River, MN. I believe it was his very first time deer hunting. For me it seemed like forever for him to get all his gear together and on his back for the walk in to his stand. However, that was the Boy Scout in him, always prepared. He developed into an incredible hunter and outdoorsman in a very short time, only taking kill shots and never giving up on tracking a wounded animal. He honored his harvest, the woods and all of nature. He was one person I never had to be concerned about getting lost or taking care of himself when he was out in the woods. He was also an incredible gentleman and cared so much for Jennifer. I remember that he made sure that Jenny's deer stand steps could not be more than 12" apart and when I was putting them on the trees he actually measured them. Thank You Barry for so many wonderful memories. Love you buddy.

Walter Hartell - August 28, 2022 at 12:43 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Byron "Barry" Enoch Downs II.



August 27, 2022 at 06:35 PM