



## Lemmie McCarthy Downs, Sr.

October 17, 1942 - February 11, 2023

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7-8 NIV

### In God's Hands

To live a life that serves others is a gift. To be humble as you serve is a virtue. How marvelous it is to sacrifice time and energy for others. A Wonderful husband, Great father, brother, nephew, cousin uncle, friend....titles that are earned and not given. Lemmie McCarthy Downs, 80, went to his heavenly home and reward on, Saturday, February 11, 2023 after an extended period of illness at Autumn Care of Portsmouth. Born in Nottoway County, Virginia on October 17, 1942, he was the second son born to the Mary and Alphonsia Downs.

### McCarthy's Early Story

His formal education began at Jennings Ordinary School in Jennings Ordinary, VA and afterwards attending Luther H. Foster High School, Nottoway, VA until he graduated in 1961. This is where he developed the love of reading. He was an avid reader. He kept current with the news. He would read every newspaper he could find, but his favorite read was God's Word, the Bible. He took comfort in knowing that he had a resource at his fingertips. His favorite

book in the Bible was Isaiah.

McCarthy at the age of 10 years old, confessed his faith and baptized at the First Nottoway Baptist Church under the pastorate of Reverend J. Hendrix who guided his growth and development as a Christian in God's Service. Here he was a dedicated Usher and Sunday School attendee. Upon relocating to Chesterfield County, he joined the First Baptist Church Centralia, Chesterfield, VA under the pastorate of Dr. Wilson Shannon.

### A Life of Work and Faith

McCarthy's great faith led him to a life of service to family, friends and community. He continued his education upon graduation at Luther Foster High School at Eckels College of Mortuary Science, Philadelphia, PA where he earned the award of the The President's Scholar along with his Mortuary Degree. Upon completion of his course work at Eckels, he completed an internship program at the Oris P. Jones Funeral Home in Lawrenceville, VA. Here he gained his skills and love for his profession as a Funeral Director and Embalmer. His desire was to have his own funeral home and in order to do this he honed his skills in business at Cortez Peters Business School in Washington, DC. During his tenure at Cortez Peters, McCarthy joined the U.S. Army. His stint in the Army included Basic Training and Army Reserve. While in the Army, he opened up Downs Funeral Home in Crewe, VA. As the building was being erected, he worked a short time for the VA Department of Agriculture distributing food to the residents of Nottoway County. He went on to manage a funeral establishment in Victoria, VA, Downs and Drummond Funeral Home. In addition to his regular commitments, he was hired as Manager of Richmond Times Dispatch, distributing newspapers to surrounding areas. He was later called on to meet a transportation need for the residents of surrounding counties. He formed the Downs Medical Transportation Company under the umbrella of Downs Funeral Home that met these needs. He would often say, "May the work I've done speak for me." As if

he didn't have enough on his plate, he saw the need to establish a company that would provide housing for low-income families. He formed the Downs Construction Company that built affordable housing through the FHA, a government agency. He was instrumental in aiding in securing loans for those that needed his help. In his early years, he joined Benjamin Lodge and other Masonic affiliates. He was also a member of the Funeral Directors Association. Before his illness, his desire was to begin a Medical Transportation Company (Downs Enterprise, Ltd) in California.

#### A Period of Love and Commitment

It was during the time of his work with the Department of Agriculture that he met his wife. After a short courtship, he married the former Jacqueline Tucker, at that time, a student at Virginia State College, Petersburg, VA. After six months of dating, they were married December 27, 1969. This union was blessed with three sons, Lemmie, Jr. (Muffin), Juan and Damon. His greatest passion was helping his family and teaching his sons the rewards of helping others and serving the needs of others. He loved his family dearly and spent his life providing for them and showing them love.

#### McCarthy's Legacy

Lovingly called "Mack" by his family and friends, he leaves the following legacy of life to carry on and to cherish his memory and devotion.

His wife of 53 year, Jacqueline Tucker Downs of Hampton, VA

His children (3), Lemmie McCarthy Downs-Lunn, Jr. of Hampton, VA; Juan Jermaine Downs of Petersburg, VA and Damon LeCroix Downs of Richmond, VA.

His daughter-in-law (1) and son-in-law (1), Denise (Damon), Ken (Lemmie)

His brothers (3) sisters-in-law (3), Alphonsia (Beatrice), Samuel (Jacqueline), Isaac (Charlene)

His sister (1), Arlene (deceased)

His grandchildren (7), Taraji, Tiana, Damon, Jr., Damani, Jaleel, Desirea, Markale; His great grandchild (1), Ke'Ani

His goddaughter (1), Kandance

Other relatives (sisters-in-law, Mary Goode, Fannie Jackson, Elsie Gholson, Shirley Hawkes (Carl), Zelda Tucker-Dugger and Lottie Tucker; brothers-in-law, William Tucker, Sr. (Thelma) and James Tucker (Lillian), many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.)

We will always treasure and uphold the collective gifts of Daddy's unquestioning love, support, encouragement and wise counsel of which guided our pathways in life.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB **25**. 12:00 PM (ET)

J. T. Fisher Funeral Services Chapel  
1248 N. George Washington Hwy  
Chesapeake, VA

# Tribute Wall



“ *J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Lemmie McCarthy Downs, Sr.*



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - February 27, 2023 at 07:36 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memorial Service*



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**J. T. Fisher Funeral Services** - March 02, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *I miss you so much daddy!! This is harder than I could have imagined.*

*Muffin*

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**Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr.** - March 02, 2023 at 09:25 AM

LJ

“Daddy is home. Just waiting on the personalized frame for his flag. Thank you to J. T. Fisher Funeral Services for giving my dad a send off fitting a King. 🙏🕊️



Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 26, 2023 at 11:28 AM

SN

“From the Holmes Family of Crewe Va., we extend our deepest condolences and send prayers of comfort to the Family of Mr. Mack Downs. Love always Maizie and Shauna

Shauna Neal - February 25, 2023 at 02:06 PM

LJ

Thank you so much for the words of comfort. It means a lot to me and my family. 💜🙏

Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 25, 2023 at 10:14 PM

LJ

Thank you so much for the kind words and prayers. It means a lot. 💜🙏

Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 25, 2023 at 10:17 PM

SW

“Shaun Wade lit a candle in memory of Lemmie McCarthy Downs, Sr.



Shaun Wade - February 25, 2023 at 01:24 PM

LJ

*Thank you so much for the candle. 🙏*

Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 25, 2023 at 10:15 PM

TM

“ *Sending prayers and condolences to you during this difficult time. He will definitely be missed.* ”



Twalla Moore - February 25, 2023 at 12:35 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lemmie McCarthy Downs, Sr..* ”



February 24, 2023 at 02:41 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lemmie McCarthy Downs, Sr..* ”



February 24, 2023 at 02:17 PM

LJ

“🕊️



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**Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr.** - February 23, 2023 at 11:59 PM

KW

“ *I first encountered "McCarthy" (no one called him by his first name) Downs in the Fall of 1960, when I entered Luther H. Foster High School in Nottoway, VA. We had assembly on Monday mornings, and McCarthy, Ernest Fowlkes, and George Peace, would always make their "entrance," because as seniors they sat down front. And they would be "styling and profiling." And that was a good thing! In later years our family had to call on McCarthy on more than one occasion to render final services to our loved ones. He was always caring and highly professional. My prayers of comfort and condolence go out to his family at this time.*

*Kenneth L. Woodson*

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**Kenneth L. Woodson** - February 20, 2023 at 12:42 PM

LJ

*Thank you so much for the wonderful words of comfort and fond memories of my dad! It's greatly appreciated! 🙏*

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**Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr.** - February 21, 2023 at 09:33 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Juan Downs - February 18, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ I'm Gonna miss you dad

Juan Downs - February 18, 2023 at 08:39 AM



“ Aunt Jackie, Lemmie and family, my love to you all. Uncle Mack holds a special place in my heart. When he began his business pursuit in California, he honored me by including me. He wanted me to share in his vision and prosperity and I will forever love him and honor his memory. I cherish the times growing up spending time with Uncle Mack, Aunt Jackie and their family. Rest in peace Uncle Mack. Aunt Jackie and sons love you all ❤️ Katy

Kathleen Robinson - February 17, 2023 at 08:11 AM



Thank you so much Katy! Daddy spoke so highly of you and yes he included you in his vision. He loved you dearly. We love you! We appreciate the words of comfort and love. 🙏💜

Muffin

Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 17, 2023 at 04:44 PM

WH

“ Jackie, Muffin, My Juan, and Damon,  
first of all thank you for taking extraordinary care of my friend.  
Because of that, he lived longer. I reminisce about the good times  
we've had. I pray for comfort, peace, and love to you. Jackie, extra  
blessings to you and your 3 sons will take good care of you as  
promised.  
Love you all.  
Wanda Hill

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**Wanda S. Hill** - February 17, 2023 at 02:10 AM

LJ

Thank you so much. We appreciate the words of comfort and  
encouragement. 🙏💜

Muffin

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**Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr.** - February 17, 2023 at 04:43 PM

SS

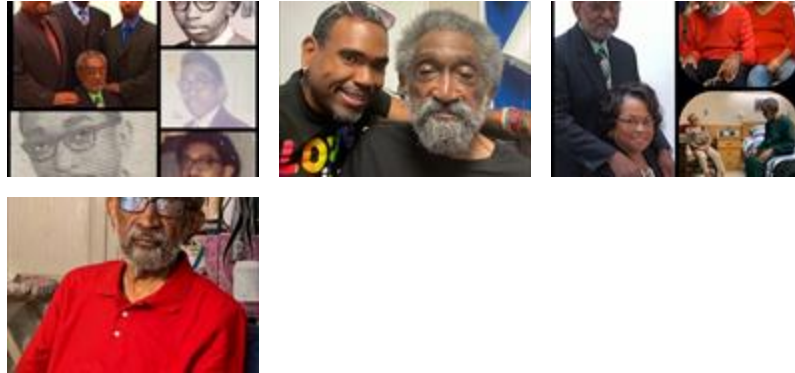
My condolences to the Downs family. I have known them just about all  
my life (Niece of Joan, John and Robert Vaughter). I grew up in  
Richmond, VA and spent summers in Crewe with my grandmother. I  
remember Mack as a very kind man. May he rest in peace.  
Susan K. Scott

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**Susan K. Scott** - February 25, 2023 at 11:11 AM

LJ

“ 4 files added to the album Lemmie Downs, Sr.



Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 16, 2023 at 02:14 PM

WT

*I was so proud to have you as a uncle R.I.P love you uncle mac*

William Tucker - February 17, 2023 at 04:23 PM

KW

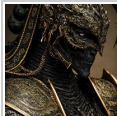
“ *To JT and My Brothers, I am praying for your strength and understanding during this most difficult time. The Wray Family will continue to keep each of you in our thoughts and prayers. Love each of you* 💜

Keondra Perkinson Wray - February 15, 2023 at 10:13 PM

LJ

*Thank you so much Keondra. Your words mean a lot.* 🙏

Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 16, 2023 at 10:51 AM



*Thanks sis*

Juan Downs - February 18, 2023 at 08:37 AM

DJ

“ Dale Jennings lit a candle in memory of Lemmie McCarthy Downs, Sr.



Dale Jennings - February 15, 2023 at 09:03 PM

LJ



Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 16, 2023 at 09:48 AM

WP

“ To Jackie and the family. I am praying for you and your family during this time. May God comfort and bless you.  
Waltena Downs Pride

Waltena Pride - February 15, 2023 at 02:41 PM

LJ



Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 15, 2023 at 08:47 PM

AV

“ Annette Vaughter lit a candle in memory of Lemmie McCarthy Downs, Sr.



Annette Vaughter - February 15, 2023 at 07:15 AM

LJ



Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 15, 2023 at 08:48 PM

LJ

“Daddy, you were an amazing father and the epitome of grace and strength. You raised three sons to become strong men and loved mom fiercely. I’m missing you terribly but know you are in a better place; no more suffering. You’ve now passed your crown on to me and I’ll wear that crown for the family, proudly. I’ll make sure mom is well cared for. Until we meet at my King. I love you infinity.

Your oldest son,  
Lemmie Jr. AKA Muffin



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**Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr.** - February 14, 2023 at 04:23 PM

HM

“To Jackie and Family,  
So sorry to hear of McCarthy’s death. Just remember that God does all things well. May you be blessed by his memories.



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**Howard and Glennis Marshall** - February 14, 2023 at 02:43 PM

LJ

Thank you so much for you kind words. This is McCarthy’s oldest son Muffin. Mom is here with me. We appreciate your words of comfort.

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**Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr.** - February 14, 2023 at 09:16 PM

LT

“ To My sister Jackie and sons. Jackie I love you all from the bottom of my heart. I love Mac like a father also. Remember the times I was sick, Mac was right there. Taking me back and forth to my doctor's appointments and where ever I had to go. Love you both so dearly. Mac was a very kind person. May God give you strength during this time. I am here for you.

Lottie K Tucker - February 14, 2023 at 06:15 AM

LJ

We love you Aunt Kaye! 💜

Lemmie M. Downs-Lunn, Jr. - February 14, 2023 at 09:14 PM

DD

To my DAD, you will be deeply missed ,it was hard to hear that u went on to heaven, GOD took a great man from all of us u are in the right place no more suffering pops ....Now that u physically left us, through so many good memories that I have you will forever live on through me. You are the best an will be deeply missed.....(jr.an mani both said they love you an miss you papa)....untill we met again I love you an rest in peace Daddy....

Damon Downs - February 17, 2023 at 08:43 AM

JS

To Jackie and Family. I am sorry to hear of MaCarthy death. Please know GOD will take care of you and your family.

Jessie & Sandra Fowlkes King LH Foster Class of "66

Jessie S King Sr - February 20, 2023 at 12:05 AM

JM

*To the family,  
I have known the Downs family for many years and spent many days playing outside with Dweasel 😊. I have fond memories of the store and how incredibly nice the entire family was. "Mr. Mac" had a gentle and quiet spirit and I know he was well loved and will be missed.*

*Please know that the Downs family made an indelible mark in the community and in so many lives. Praying for peace and comfort to all.*

*Jan Martin, granddaughter of Nanette Vaughter*

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**Janet Martin** - February 22, 2023 at 10:13 PM

SS

*To the Downs Family  
Like my sister above, I offer condolences to all of you. I have known the Downs family just about all my life. Fond memories of being in and out of Downs store and the clanking of the horseshoes out back. Mack was a very kind man and I often interacted with him hanging with my Uncle Robert Vaughter who was always in Mack's funeral home. Rest in Peace Mack..*

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**Susan K. Scott** - February 25, 2023 at 11:30 AM