



Roland J. Down

May 11, 1928 - January 17, 2015

Roland J. Down, age 86, of Pineville, NC passed away on January 17, 2015. After a long illness, Roland passed away at his home, The Laurels, with family and friends at his bedside into the loving arms of his Heavenly Father, The Lord Jesus Christ. The family wishes to thank the wonderful Hospice caregivers for their service.

Roland was born in Schenectady, NY on May 11, 1928, the oldest son born to Edwin James Down and Marion Stevens Down. He served in the United States Marine Corps, at the end of World War II and was honorably discharged.

In 1952 he founded Roland J. Down, Inc. in Scotia, NY, a heating and cooling company which he ran for 43 years before retiring in 1992. Upon retirement, he resided in Hilton Head, SC and later moved to Sarasota, FL., then to Charlotte, NC.

Roland was married to Lois Heidelmark Down for 38 years. They divorced and in 1993 he married Barbara Matchett. Roland attended Calvary Church in Charlotte.

Survivors include his daughters Cindy Down-Taylor (Greg) of Mint Hill, NC; Pamela Down of Glenville, NY; Penny DeLoreto (Tom) of Wrightsville Beach,

NC; Candy Ahlquist (Dale) of W. Charlton, NY; sons Ken Down (Antonia) of Canton, GA and Randy Down (Rebekah) of Indian Trail, NC; Roland has 13 grandchildren (Sarah, Craig, Christian, Britt, Quinn, Nick, Julian, Jordan, Andrew, Joel, Josiah, Jaden, and Faith) and a brother, Clifford Down of Clifton Park, NY. Roland is preceded by his wife, Barbara Down, the mother of his children, Lois Down, his parents, Edwin and Marion Down, his brother, John Down, his sister, Norma Down, and his new-born daughter, Faith Down.

Both the visitation and memorial service will be held in the small chapel of Calvary Church at 5801 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226 on Saturday, January 24, 2015. The visitation is from 1:00-2:30 pm and the memorial service begins at 3:00 pm. The interment will be handled by Lowe-Neddo Funeral Home with the burial at Magnolia Memorial Gardens of Calvary Church, immediately following the memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Roland's memory to The Roland James Down Memorial Fund, c/o Cranford, Buckley, Schultze, Tomchin, Allen & Buie, PA., 7257 Pineville-Matthews Rd, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Cemetery Details

Magnolia Memorial Gardens

5801 Pineville–Matthews Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
http://www.calvarychurch.com/site/18_150_112.cfm

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 24. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Calvary Church
5801 Pineville-Matthews Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
info@calvarychurch.com
<http://www.calvarychurch.com>

Celebration of Life Service

JAN 24. 3:00 PM (ET)

Calvary Church
5801 Pineville-Matthews Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
info@calvarychurch.com
<http://www.calvarychurch.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Roland J. Down*

October 05, 2023 at 07:26 AM



“ *Roland J. Down*

October 24, 2022 at 08:52 PM



“ *I am sending condolences on behalf of my parents Bob & June Jock. They do not have a computer but sincerely wanted to express their sympathy to Roland's whole family. My father worked for many years for Roland & has many fond memories . Roland was a very good employer & sent my parents on many wonderful vacations that they never would have gone on if not for him. One of their fondest memories was when they were sent on a trip to Hawaii. I remember going to many summer picnics with the whole staff of Roland J. Downs & it was a big happy family. May you all take comfort in knowing how many lives your dad has improved & molded & may he rest in peace.*

Bob & June Jock & Family

Michele Cetnar - January 25, 2015 at 06:21 PM

DW

“ *Gayle and I wish the family of Roland peace and tranquility in your time of sorrow. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.*
I first met Roland back in January, 1973. I had just gotten out of the military and wanted to go to work for him, going from running steam turbine engine rooms in the Navy to HVAC.
He called me one day and accused me of taking valuable time away from his key employees. You see, I was going down to his place, sometimes twice a week to see if they were hiring.
He placed me on a 2 week trial and gave me to Frank Evans (found out later that if you lasted 2 weeks with Frank, you were a keeper). I felt like I was in "Hell Week" again!
To this day, Roland never took me off that 2 week trial.
I met Gayle, my lovely bride of 38 years there. She was a book keeper. When she went for her interview, the only question Roland asked her was "Can you type"?
Roland helped mold me into the person, at this point in time, I am today. He is the person everyone who sealed a deal with him, with a simple handshake, wants to be.
To all of Roland's children, grand children, etc., you should be honored to be part of your father's and grandfathers legacy!
No one will ever know how many lives he touched by simply being Roland J. Down.

Dave and Gayle Williams

Dave and Gayle Williams - January 23, 2015 at 06:12 PM

TA

“ *My sincere sympathy to Mr. Down's family. Mr. Down was one the most genuinely nice people I ever met. My memories of dancing at Ponderosa Hall are filled with good friends and much fun and it was always an honor to find Mr. Down as my partner. Good Speed.*

Tia (Bemis) Abramson

Tia Abramson - January 22, 2015 at 09:27 PM

MH

“ *Extending deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. Roland Down. May your many precious memories bring you solace as you rely continually on Almighty GOD for strength as you move through this time of sadness.*

Minnie Hemphill - January 22, 2015 at 05:30 PM

AH

“ *To all of Roland's family, my condolences go out to you. I have nothing but fond memories of your father. He gave a kid with no experience a chance which turned into a rewarding career. He will be remembered as a fair and honest employer that always rewarded hard work. We all worked hard, but then again we had fun doing it. Best wishes to all of you. Alan Hamlin*

Alan Hamlin - January 22, 2015 at 07:39 AM

CH

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Roland's family.
I am the person I am today largely because of the opportunity
Roland gave me 22 years ago.
I am blessed to have been an employee of Roland j Down till this
day.
Roland was one of the kindest people I have been blessed to know.
Every day I walk into 13 airport rd. I will look up at the sign overhead
and feel the appreciation of the man that has touched my life and
MANY others.
From my family to the Down family
GOD BLESS
Cyle, Billie-Jo and Briahna

cyle haggerty - January 22, 2015 at 07:21 AM

LP

Condolences to Roland's family during this time of sadness. I definitely know how you are feeling as I too have had a recent loss....my father-in-law passed away the day before Roland did. I am writing this as the daughter of a good friend of Roland's from many, many years ago. If it wasn't for Roland and his first wife Lois, I probably would not be here. You see, many years ago Roland was friends with my dad, Arnold Grinnell, and Lois was friends with my mom, Mary Servis at that time. Apparently Roland and Lois set my parents up on a blind date and eventually my parents married. Roland was a good friend to my father. My dad even went to work for Roland at one point. I fondly recall in my early childhood that my family would visit the Down's during Christmas at their Scotia home. I remember playing with all of the kids during those visits. I'm sure my dad would have many stories to share of his friendship with Roland. The last time we saw Roland I believe it was at his 80th birthday party. My mom was ill, so I escorted my dad to the party. We are very sorry for your loss and hope that the memory of him will live on in your hearts. God Bless.
Lynne (Grinnell) Patton - Troy, NY

Lynne (Grinnell) Patton - January 25, 2015 at 07:48 PM

HR

My sincerest condolences to all of the Down family. Like others that crossed Roland's path, he truly enriched my life in many ways. I speak fondly of him often and will always do so. He was a very special person who made a very large impact on everyone he worked and associated himself with I feel very fortunate to have gotten the chance to meet and work with him even if it was for a short period of time.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you as your journey through life continues.

*God Bless
Halsey J Rule*

Halsey J Rule - February 03, 2015 at 01:23 PM