



## Mary Luisa "Lou" Downey

April 29, 1934 - January 29, 2021

North Hampton – Mary Luisa “Lou” Downey, 86, of North Hampton, passed peacefully at home on Friday, January 29th, 2021, surrounded by her loving family.

Lou was born in Marblehead, MA on April 29, 1934, the only child of the late Robert and Fanny (Chaulk) Burns. She was raised in Marblehead, MA and graduated from Marblehead High School with the Class of 1952 where she was a class leader, three-sport captain, and known for her love of adventure and sense of humor.

Lou married her loving husband, John Henry “Hank” Downey, in 1956 and they settled in Marblehead, MA. A career change led them to relocate their growing family to North Hampton, NH where they raised their nine children.

In the early years, Lou was an active communicant at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Hampton where she served on the Board of Directors of the Parish Council and Sacred Heart School Parent’s Organization. She later became a communicant at St. Theresa Parish in Rye Beach and a member of the Parish Council and Women’s Club. Forever civic-minded and principled, Lou firmly believed in always doing her best for others and generously gave her time. With fortitude, she wisely used her strong voice to selflessly advocate for the greater good, no matter how large or small the

effort.

Her devotion to her large family, friends, and community was unwavering and inspirational to her husband, children, and grandchildren. It was often said that if you were lucky enough to really know Lou, it was impossible not to love her. Always quick with a song and the first one to hit the dance floor, her fun-loving, competitive spirit and zest for life was contagious. A mother of nine, she proudly identified herself as a “Human Development Specialist”. Lou loved spending time with her family, enjoying outdoor adventures; skiing, hiking, and camping, long walks with friends, and watching her children and grandchildren’s games, plays and recitals. Her love for sports always kept her in the game. A coach to many and a fan of all, the time spent courtside or on the field is truly immeasurable. Lou was a devoted fan of the Boston Red Sox, Bruins, Celtics, and New England Patriots. During retirement, Lou and Hank were "happy campers", extensively traveling through the US and Canada in their motorhome, where Lou was thrilled to enthusiastically begin every trip with a rousing rendition of “On The Road Again”.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John H. Downey. Surviving family members include her nine children: Deborah (Downey) Sillay and her husband John of North Hampton, Stephen Downey and his partner Ka’au Abraham of Maui, Hawaii, Richard Downey and his wife Lisa of Andover, MA, William Downey of Portsmouth, John Downey, Jr. and his wife Mona of Kennebunk, ME, Brenda (Downey) Worrell and her husband Kenneth of North Hampton, Paul Downey and his wife Karen of Newburyport, MA, Susan (Downey) Gray and her husband John of Rye, and Diane (Downey) Andrews and her husband Mark of North Hampton, She also leaves 14 beautiful grandchildren: Sarah, Lauren, Michael, Sam, Maddie, Killian, Jack, Nolan, Brooke, Caitlin, Ryan, Reese, Gavin and Teagan, and three great grandchildren: Maggie, Libby and Landon.

Due to health risks associated with the pandemic, a private mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM on Friday, Feb 5th at St. Theresa Church. Friends and loved ones are respectfully invited to attend virtually and safely through the St. Theresa website by clicking here (<https://www.sainttheresachurchrye.org/live-streaming>). The family looks forward to hosting an in person "Celebration of Life" with all loved ones to properly celebrate Lou's incredible spirit and love for life when it is safer to do so. While the date is still to be determined, we can assure all that it will be full of music, love & laughter - in true Lou fashion!

In lieu of traditional remembrances, please consider a donation to The Friends of North Hampton Bandstand (PO Box 3, North Hampton, NH 03862), which brought Lou and her family much joy through song and laughter through the years.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Luisa "Lou" Downey*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *We are so saddened to hear of the passing of a great North Hampton matriarch. We all grew up together and enjoyed her support at our many athletic events. She was one true New England fan, an athlete herself and will forever be in our hearts cheering us all on!*

*Sincerely,*

*The White Family*

*(Lori, Terry, Chuck and mom Mary)*

**The White Family** - February 09, 2021 at 11:27 AM



“ *To the entire Downey family, I was so very sorry to hear of your mom's passing. My mind fills with cherished childhood memories where your mom created such a haven of fun within a most special neighborhood. I still smile having had that chat with her in the backyard this past summer on a spontaneous, nostalgic drive through...her boisterous, infectious laugh as we giggled reminiscing about we kids putting on plays, building go-carts, etc...too many to mention. She truly was such a special lady. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

*Much love ~*

*Kelly Dennis*

**Kelly L Dennis** - February 08, 2021 at 10:30 AM

HM

“ Dear Downey Family,

*So very sorry to hear of your loss and mine. Mary Lou (that's how I knew her) was the second first cousin I lost in as many days -- one on Mother's side (Evelyn Tilley, 10 years younger) and one on Father's side (Chaulk) 2 months younger.*

*We enjoyed seeing Mary L. and Hank when they visited some years back. Wish they could have got back. if any of you wish to visit Newfoundland & Labrador after this pandemic is over, just get in touch. See where your grandma/gt. grandma/ my Aunt Fan grew up.*

*Sincerely,*

*Your cousin,*

*Hilda*

*Hilda Chaulk Murray*

*19 First Street, Mount Pearl, NL, Canada*

*A1N 1X7*

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**Hilda Murray** - February 07, 2021 at 01:12 PM

JE

“ *Hi am sad and happy to read your great tribute to your grandmother, Mary "Lou" !*

*Thoughts are with you and the fsmily. Jean Akers*

*Franconia NH*

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**Jean** - February 05, 2021 at 09:49 PM

SW

“ *What a beautiful ceremony and celebration of your beautiful Mom/Grammy. I felt her spirit and love. We look forward to being together to celebrate in true Lou style. Love to you all. Sue Wolfie, Cat and Matt*

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**Susan Wolf** - February 05, 2021 at 12:07 PM

DD

“ It is difficult to express what a wonderful person Lou was and how she will be missed. Our family, Joanne, Tina, Kim, Simone and I became friends with Lou and Hank late in life through genealogy by my sister and daughter. Nevertheless, after 10 minutes it was like we had been friends and close family for a lifetime. Impressive was the joy, love and friendship that she and Hank extended to us immediately. We are so thankful that we were able to have a family get together before her passing where she got to meet even more of the extended Downey family. Her memory will live on in our hearts and minds..

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**Dick & Joanne Downey** - February 04, 2021 at 09:38 PM

BP

“ Dear Downey Family,  
We grew up together. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I will always remember both of your parents as giving, wonderful people. My most sincere condolences.

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**Barbara Preston** - February 02, 2021 at 07:10 PM

KB

“ The Downey family was a part of the large Winnacunnet High School family that Phil and I (Karen Bracco) met when we moved here in 1977. Thanks Lou, Hank, and all the kids for the friendship!

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**Karen Bracco** - February 02, 2021 at 09:45 AM

WM

“ To all the Downeys,

*I was so sad to hear about the passing of your mom. It was so great to see her a couple of years ago at your Dad's wake. Even in those circumstance she created a warmth that will forever touch me.*

*I will always remember with fondness and laughter at the many times our families spent time together, and I will forever hold them in my heart.*

*Please accept my deepest sympathies, bill meaney*

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**William Meaney** - February 01, 2021 at 05:40 PM



“ Deb, Steve, Rick, Bill, John, Brenda, Paul, Sue & Diane; My deepest condolences. I'm so sorry to know that your mom passed. She was such a special lady and always made me feel like I was part of your family. She and your dad were terrific and they are part of my fondest North Hampton memories...Sweet Lou rest in peace!

*Love you guys!  
Tony Franzoso*

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**Tony Franzoso** - January 31, 2021 at 04:53 PM

DN

*Deb, so sorry to hear about your Mom's passing. My Mom loved her so much. I sure she is at peace now. Take care and God Bless!*

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**Debbie Manix Nelson** - January 31, 2021 at 05:42 PM

SS

*Paul and the entire Downey family, our condolences on the passing of your Mom. She was a great person and nothing shy of a saint! You are all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

*The Smitty's*

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**Smitty (Stephen Smith)** - January 31, 2021 at 10:42 PM

BM

*All the Downey Family,*

*My sincere sympathy to all of you on the passing of your Mom and Grammie. I am one of the many who will miss her very much. Lou had that wonderful Irish charm, loved to laugh and have a good time...it was always fun to be around Lou and Hank. Most of all, she loved her family so much and would never pass up the chance to attend a game or activity for her grandkids. It was her favorite thing! I know the Downey family has many wonderful memories of her to help comfort them at this very sad time. Rest In Peace, Lou, and God Bless. Love to All, Barbara Matusiewicz*

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**Barbara Matusiewicz** - February 02, 2021 at 10:41 AM

EB

*John and the entire Downey family sorry for your loss. Lou was always very nice to me growing up in the neighborhood. Playing baseball for your father made me feel part of the family. She always had nice things to say about me. God bless you guys. Ed Bourque*

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**Edward Thomas Bourque** - February 02, 2021 at 07:18 PM