



## Oliver Haskell "Kell" Dowd Sr.

July 10, 1930 - December 17, 2023

Portsmouth- Oliver Haskell Dowd, Sr., "Kell" to family and friends, passed away on December 17, 2023, at Portsmouth Hospital. Born in Portsmouth on July 10, 1930, to Eleanor Haskell Dowd and Oliver Henry Dowd, Kell grew up on Kent Street and attended Portsmouth schools. He excelled at football and track at Portsmouth High School and graduated from PHS in 1950. Kell was a Korean War-era veteran, serving in the U.S. Army. In 1954, he married Helen Thomson, and they were stationed in Germany for the first year or so of marriage. Upon returning stateside, he began his career at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, where he remained until his retirement in 1985. Although Helen and Kell subsequently divorced, they remained friends until her death in 1999.

A devoted family man, Kell was extremely close to his children, Oliver "Buddy" Dowd and Diana Dowd-Werry. He spent many hours as coach or spectator as Buddy progressed from Little League through college athletics, then attended his grandchildren's many games and events in later years. He loved family gatherings, and especially enjoyed getting together for holidays and summer cookouts. The annual July 10th lobster feed to celebrate his birthday became a revered tradition and a seasonal highlight for family and friends.

Kell long enjoyed fishing, starting in his early years as he accompanied his father to local fishing spots, often using their hand-tied flies. He passed along

his love of fishing and being on the water to his son and grandchildren. In his later years, Kell rediscovered his love of live music, and especially disco music. He frequented dance sites throughout Portsmouth and the Seacoast well into his 80's.

Kell was predeceased by his parents, his brother Ronald H. Dowd, and his ex-wife Helen Dowd. He leaves behind his son, Buddy Dowd, and daughter-in-law Elizabeth; his daughter, Diana Dowd-Werry, and son-in-law Andrew Werry; grandchildren Caitlin Dowd, Thomas Dowd, and Douglas Werry; and his great grandson, Elijah Dowd as well as his two nieces Amy Dowd Bartholomew, Catherine M. Dowd and nephew Peter E. Dowd.

Kell Dowd will be remembered as a kind, engaging man with a great sense of humor, and he will be greatly missed by his family. A Celebration of Life is planned for July.

# Tribute Wall

MG

“ My sympathy & condolences to Buddy & Dianna and the rest of the Dowd family on their loss. Buddy & I played football at PHS & UNH together and were roommates at UNH as well. We've been lifelong friends and I was especially saddened with Buddy's loss. I've witnessed first hand the strong relationship between Buddy & his Dad. Wahoo Bro, Wahoo!



Mark Gori - January 18, 2024 at 07:40 PM

RM

“ I grew up in the Atlantic Heights and remember Buddy and his dad Kell out getting ready for the Pass , Punt , Kick , .They would spend hours !!! His dad my dad both worked at the Navy Yard. I spent many hours with the family up on the hill !! May He Rest In Peace.

Randy Scott McNally - January 01, 2024 at 10:27 AM

KI

My Uncle Kell was the (Gut) to me he was always so loving and playful with me as a child I enjoyed spending weeks with him and my Aunt Helen at the end of Woodbury Ave. They became my second mother and father... I'll always remember the (Gut) chasing us kids around with old wrapping paper tube saying I am nomad.. lol just thinking about it put a smile on my face. I remember the little things like out baked lobster bake in the yard at 897 Woodbury and all the sun tanning our whole family out around the pool.. my Uncle would ride his back to me from work and being little I thought it was so neat.. although I didn't see my old Uncle Kell over the past few years I think he knows that I loved him... he will always hold a special place in my heart . Love you Uncle Gut! Until we meet again some day. 🍀 love Little Kathy Ireland

Kathy Ireland - January 02, 2024 at 07:42 PM