



# Michael Stewart "Big Mike" Downs

JUL 15, 1947 - APR 22, 2024



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# Michael Stewart "Big Mike" Downs

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**M**ichael Stewart Downs, affectionately known as “Big Mike,” passed away on Monday, April 22, 2024, at the age of 76. He was a beloved resident of Cape Coral, FL, having moved there in 2004 from his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin.

Born on July 15, 1947, in Madison, WI, to the late Vernon and Lorraine (nee Hillebrandt) Downs, Big Mike lived a life filled with love, passion, and unwavering commitment to his family. He and his wife, Nancy, shared a remarkable love story that spanned an incredible 55 years.

Big Mike was a true family man. His loved ones always came first, and he dedicated himself to their well-being. His heart was as vast as the open road, and he had an unyielding desire to help those in need. A talented carpenter, he poured his passion into woodworking, creating beautiful pieces that reflected his skill and creativity.

But it wasn't just wood that captured his heart; motorcycles held a special place for Big Mike. He embarked on numerous trips out west, reveling in the freedom of the open highway. Sturgis, with its thunderous engines and camaraderie, became a cherished tradition for him.

Big Mike's legacy lives on through the memories he leaves behind—the laughter, the love, and the indelible mark he made on the hearts of all who knew him. As the sun sets on his earthly journey, we celebrate a life well-lived and bid farewell to a man whose heart was as big as his nickname. Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Vernon and Lorraine Downs; as well as his brother, Stephen Downs and brother-in-law, David Nicholas.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Nancy Downs of Cape Coral, FL; two adored children, Robin “Beaner” Tilelli (Matthew) of Cape Coral, FL and Jeff Downs (Tonya) of Cape Coral, FL; three siblings, Tom Downs and his wife, Laurie of McFarland, WI, Sharon Nicholas of Spring Green, WI and Mary Charles of Milwaukee, WI; sister-in-law, Cheryl Downs of Milwaukee, WI; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.



## Obituary

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Rest in peace, Big Mike. Your spirit rides on, forever free.

Services for Big Mike will be held privately.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, 1589 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, FL.



## Tribute Wall

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SN

**Sharon Nicholas** posted:

Mike was born 2 days before my first birthday. As we got older I would get a call from him on my birthday with the greeting "Well you're the old lady again". We are all going to miss him so much. Sharon Downs Nicholas.

May 1 at 2:27 PM

MG

**Marcia Griskavich** posted:

Our deepest sympathy to Mike's wife and children on their loss. Marcia & Scott Griskavich

April 25 at 11:56 AM

VS

**Vicki Jean Simpson** posted:

My sympathies to Nancy, Robin and Jeff on the loss of their husband and father.

April 25 at 3:37 AM

WI

**William** posted:

Rest in Peace fellow H.O.G. member. You were always very kind to others and will be missed!

April 24 at 8:33 PM

SH

**Shirley Hilgers** posted:

Dave and I have great memories of Mike, especially our cousin camping gathering at our Aunt and Uncle, Dick and Ann Sanderson Neilsville home. Mike was very special and his love for his family will go on and on.

April 24 at 3:00 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Downs family.



April 24 at 2:59 PM



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**Dennis B.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Michael.



April 24 at 2:02 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Michael by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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