



Sanford "Roy" Dowden

July 11, 1937 - August 2, 2024

A Celebration of Life for Sanford "Roy" Dowden, 87, of Tyler will be held on Friday, August 9, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home with "Brother" Robbie Caldwell officiating under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. A reception will follow the service at the Conser family home, 17940, Timothy Court, Tyler, TX 75703.

Mr. Dowden passed away Friday, August 2, 2024, in Tyler. He was born July 11, 1937, in Natchitoches, LA to Edward Grant Dowden and Hazel Harkins Dowden.

Roy spent his youth in Odessa, Texas. He excelled at sports and earned a scholarship to play football at Baylor University where he received his bachelor's degree in Kinesiology. After graduating from Baylor, he went to work for Otis Engineering Corporation. At the end of his career, he held the position of Vice President of Domestic Operations.

Roy was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years Frances Rose Dowden, his parents Grant and Hazel Dowden; his brothers Charlie, Steve, and James and his sisters Margaret and Elizabeth, and his son-in-law Shane Kirby Heap. He is survived by his loving family including his children: Justin Austin Dowden and his wife Mary Lea Dowden and their children Logan Banks Dowden, Julia Rea Mims, Jessica Rose Kemp, and Cameron Pete Dowden; his daughter

Kelly Leigh Christensen and her children Lance Taylor Heap, Haley Leigh Heap, and Brett Marie Christensen; his daughter Sherry Dowden Conser and her husband Craig Peters Conser and their children Peyton Elijah Conser, Karsen Elizabeth Conser, and Jackson Elias Conser; his many great-grandchildren: Mila Rose Dowden, Wes Anthony Dowden, Briggs Austin Dowden, Jacob Paul Mims, Jenna Ruth Mims, Samuel Lewis Kemp, Sophia Vivian Kemp, Sunnie Rose Heap, and Charlotte Everly Conser.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Justin Austin Dowden, Logan Banks Dowden, Cameron Pete Dowden, Lance Taylor Heap, Craig Peters Conser, Peyton Elijah Conser, and Jackson Elias Conser.

We would like to thank the loving staff of Choice Hospice, and the staff of the Hamptons Memory Care for caring for our father.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Reception following service

AUG 9 (CT)

Conser Family Home
17940 Timothy Court
Tyler, TX 75703

Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Sanford "Roy" Dowden



Stewart Family Funeral Home - August 08, 2024 at 03:04 PM

KD

“ Roy was a wonderful Man, husband, father, grandfather & great grandfather! I enjoyed his friendship & love for many years! I have many great memories of him! Rest in peace my dear brother in law! You will be missed!

KarenJ Dickson - August 08, 2024 at 03:55 PM



“ 90 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - August 08, 2024 at 11:00 AM

MM

“ *Millers, Millikens, Balches & McKees purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Sanford "Roy" Dowden.*



Millers, Millikens, Balches & McKees - August 08, 2024 at 10:54 AM

JV

“ *I am so sorry for your loss and send you all thoughts of comfort and peace. Uncle Sonny was always so nice and funny. He and my mom - Martha Sue Dowden Burdick - were close growing up. Hope y'all enjoy these pics of them together. The one in the middle is the last time they saw each other - in 2021.* ❤️👍



Jennifer Varela - August 07, 2024 at 09:08 PM

CB

Martha Sue Dowden Burdick Roy Dowden's ONLY surviving sibling. The color photo above is the last time they saw each other at Frances' funeral. :(

Cecil Burdick - August 09, 2024 at 05:27 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cecil Burdick - August 07, 2024 at 07:42 PM

CB

This photo was one of my favorites, which I labeled "Uncle Sonny Marlboro Man".

After interviewing several ladies, it appears they LOVED this photo as well for somewhat private reasons. SORRY LADIES Uncle Sonny was faithful to one girl his entire life!!!! You are too late. :) ;)

Cecil Burdick - August 07, 2024 at 07:48 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cecil Burdick - August 07, 2024 at 07:37 PM

CB

This picture of my Mom (Sue Dowden Burdick) and Uncle Sonny was one of her absolute favorites!!

Cecil Burdick - August 07, 2024 at 07:40 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Sanford "Roy" Dowden.*



August 07, 2024 at 06:35 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Sanford "Roy" Dowden.*



August 05, 2024 at 01:03 PM



“ *Varela Family-Joe, Jenny, David, Daniel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sanford "Roy" Dowden.*

Varela Family-Joe, Jenny, David, Daniel - August 05, 2024 at 01:03 PM