



BRUCE A. DOWNEY

May 31, 1967 - April 25, 2017

Bruce Alan Downey

Bruce arrived slightly before his twin sister Regina to Catherine Wiedenbeck on May 31, 1967. He explained he was first because, “Weezer needed some time alone to do her hair and make-up”. His sister Michele and brother Michael later rounded out the family and together the 5 of them navigated incredible challenges, including a great deal of uncertainty and occasional poverty. His mother was clearly his first teacher in how to use humor to work through adversity, this is evident if you have ever had a conversation with her or any of her kids.

His most treasured memories growing up were of his time with his grandparents, cousins and extended family in Alden, New York. His grandfather “Whitey” was the owner of a local pub, and by “pub” I mean he built a large fully functional bar in the basement of his home and would ring a cattle bell to signal the end of the work day for the surrounding neighbors. Their home was filled with people, laughter and good old German cooking. His times there were so happy there that as an adult he tried to recreate as much of as he could through his grandmothers recipes, his porch decor and his time spent in local pubs in the Tip Hill area. For him, being at Coleman's in his corner seat was not just about having a beer, it was about interacting, stories, friendships and commraderie. Bruce created a family wherever he went, people were never just friends, they were his cousins, his brothers- and he

meant it.

His first career choice was architecture. You never knew when or where you would be driving when suddenly he would slam on the breaks and point out a Bob Evans he helped to design or a building he drafted. When the market slowed he made the decision to enter Nursing. He knew family history was not in his favor and “wanted to be close to a doctor at all times incase he fell over”, it seemed the most logical fit. He was incredibly smart with an amazing memory, a born problem solver and excelled in this field. Not because of his technical skill alone, but because of his charm, his ability to communicate with anyone about anything and his understanding that the people he was treating and their families were often scared, and going through an uncertain time. He remembered how that felt, and would turn on the wit and sarcasm to help heal. He was proud of his work, he loved the hospitals and doctor offices he worked with, he made deep connections with so many people.

His kindness and generosity were unparalleled, he would think about the conversations he had with people. If you were to off the cuff mention you liked a certain band- the next time he saw you he would likely have a rare album of theirs in his hand.

Bruce never just liked something, he developed passions for things; Liverpool Football, The Red Sox, The Patriots, travel, photography. He was a man that could save a life, fold a shirt perfectly and tap a maple tree. There was nothing that he couldn't figure out with enough time and profanity.

Bruce departed slightly before 8 AM on April 25th 2017. An incredibly peaceful and beautiful moment, the kind of moment that restores your faith, a moment he deserved.

Everyone that knew him has a story, if in the coming weeks you could please take a moment to write yours down and send it to downeylauraine@yahoo.com I would like to collect them and create books for his children to cherish as they get older. No need to censor yourselves- Bruce never did.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday May 6th, stop in anytime from

11:00 am-3:30 pm at Coleman's Irish Pub, Syracuse.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Baldrick's or Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital in his name. The family wishes to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the staff at SUNY Upstate and the Wilmont Cancer Center and to all those that have lent support during his illness.

Please offer online tributes and photo's at www.bagozzitwins.com.

Previous Events

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

MAY 6. 11:00 AM - 3:30 PM (ET)

COLEMAN'S IRISH PUB
100 S. Lowell Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13204

Tribute Wall



“ *BRUCE A. DOWNEY*

January 21, 2023 at 02:11 PM



“ *I knew the old basterd from St. Mary's Elementary school in Lancaster NY. There is nothing like the kids you grow up with! I hung our with Gene, cause he was a boy and had boy germs and I didn't have my boy germs shot. I connected with Gene again through Facebook and even met for lunch up in Guelph. They say a true friend is one you see after a long time and it seems like nothing changed, so when I connected with him on Facebook again, it was like not a day had gone by; same dry, awful sense of dark humor! I got him; I understand the dark humor and dry laughs! He made it through so much and was such a fighter! He wasn't going down unless he was swinging. He made great memories for all who knew him and my world is a little darker for the loss of Bruce.*

donna waldron - May 01, 2017 at 09:15 AM



“ *We come from a large family but I'm sorry I never got to know my cousin, Bruce. He is gone too soon. I'm praying for peace and comfort for his family including his siblings, my cousins. Special prayers to his mom and dad. I can't imagine how difficult it would be to lose a child. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

*Sue (Cummings) Winkley
Sherwood, Arkansas*

Sue Cummings Winkley - April 28, 2017 at 10:07 AM

JC

“ Rick and I did not know Bruce personally, but we did hear all about him from Michele. It sounded like he was an awesome person with a giving heart. We were so sorry to hear of his passing but know that he is being welcomed into God's Kingdom with open arms. God Bless you Bruce and RIP. Rick and Judy Crowley

judy crowley - April 28, 2017 at 08:19 AM

BW

“ Michele, I am so very sorry to hear of the passing of your brother. From what I read and heard, he was an amazing man. you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Take comfort in knowing he's in Gods loving arms and entertaining the angels.



Betty Wiech - April 28, 2017 at 07:58 AM

JW

Chele, Jean, Gert, Mike and family. Bruce was a quick wit, a hard worker, a good father and a survivor. All he went through the last few years would have overwhelmed many. I think the last time I saw him he was in the hospital but he was still amazingly positive. His love for his children was great and they have many memories. The day after his passing I talked to my mom, who passed 18 years ago, and asked her to greet him at the gates. I'm sure she did. Rest easy Bruce! You will be missed!

JoAnne White - April 28, 2017 at 08:26 AM

CD

what a beautiful obituary, I personally did not know Bruce, but I do know and care for his wife, my heart and prayers go out to Lauraine and Ada.

Carolon Dunlap - May 01, 2017 at 03:28 PM

BM

My condolences to Bruce's family; it is a shame that he couldn't find his way back to his parents and siblings. We only get one father and one mother. I'm sure God will see to it that they all meet with open arms in the future in heaven. God Bless

Beverly Burdick Moran - May 26, 2017 at 07:13 AM