

Dear Everybody,

August 29, 2011 (dad would have been 98 today..i guess I really am 61!)

Fun to be part of a newsletter for Dad's birthday. I was going to write a poem but never really got that together ("Downes—mmm..clowns" ; "memory lane—mmm...Republican insane" hahaha) ! So, in the spirit of dad, I randomly spilled over with a spontaneous, heartfelt version of "JOHN DOWNES ALPHABETICAL REMINISCENCES". I had fun—(thx for creating the opportunity, Spencer) ; I hope it brings a heartfelt pause ... Love to all, Jo

- A *astigmatism, army, All of Us, arthritis, apple pie, attentive to grandmother/father, appreciative*
- B *breakfast out, bulletins from church, Bonaventure*
- C *Canada, Catholic, communicator, caring, conservative, crosswords, chair, church, creative, Curry cafeteria, cowboy dinners*
- D *day old bread, 'Do as you say...', 'Downes not Downs*
- E *euchre, egg throwing, Easter corsages, encouraging, ease with people—especially kids*
- F *fishing, farts, family, fun, funny, Franciscan, fruit cakes, freezer, fudge, Family Night, family*
- G *Good, grudges, Groats, giving, games, goal-oriented, generous, gold toe socks*
- H *happy, handy, hard-working, Honkess, handkerchief, holding babies, homebrew, harmony*
- I *ideas to share about the world, Irish and Ireland, 'Ibbleskillbabble', importance of education, intercoms*
- J *Johnny, Jen, jelly chocolates, 'Joey Day', jumble words, Jeans Beans, jokes*
- K *kids, kind, kitchen redone, Kmart shoes*
- L *license plate game, lifelong learner, loving, lost at times, lawn mowers, lunch together, love of words*
- M *Mom, music, Mystic Knights of the Sea, Mountain View, meat cutter, marshmallow fights*
- N...*newspaper, Nixon, naps, 'ntertaining people, neighborly, nicknames*
- O...*Opinicon, opinionated, optimistic, outgoing, OLS, on time, Owl Night, oreo cookies*
- P *Proud, popcorn, practical, present, poker club*
- Q *quick decision maker*
- R *resilient generally, reading, Ruby, rubbers, reached out to people*
- S *Sidinum (CA, sp?), screen tests, stabbed in WWII, supportive, so proud of our accomplishments, smart, singing, sensitive, Special Friend, a simplicitiy, stubborn, Salt Springs bus*
- T *Tried hard, Thanksgiving turkey, teacher*
- U *US—always front-center, uncle-ing, ukulele, University Club*
- V *vocabulary lessons, Vernon Downs, vulnerable at times, verbal*
- W *witch, whoopie cushions, Wally Grinder*
- X *Christmas shopping all year long, Christmas lights*
- Y *Yin and Yang influence on me*
- Z *A zest for living*