

## Butler-Badman Funeral Home, Inc.

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### Michael F. Downes

(October 19, 1932 - June 7, 2016)

On the evening of June 7, 2016 surrounded by family, Michael Fitzgibbon Downes, retired Chief of the Syracuse Fire Department, died peacefully, falling into the arms of God. His life was filled with music, love, and laughter. His life centered around those things he cherished most, God, family (including dogs), his country, and the Syracuse Fire Department. Mike was born on October 19, 1932 in Syracuse, son of the late Ted and Darleen Downes.



He graduated from St. Anthony of Padua High School and then enlisted in the Navy. Following his return in 1957, he joined the Syracuse Fire Department and rose through the ranks, culminating his career as Chief of the Department. He was pre-deceased by his son, John Francis, his brother Ted Jr., and sister Patty. He is survived by his wife of 62 years Joan M. Downes, 8 children: Kathy (Jeff) Crouse, Mike (Krystin) Downes, Karen Downes (wife of John), Tim (Patty) Downes, Tom (Maureen) Downes, Mary Downes Welker, Maggie (Bill) Washburn, Patty (Peter) McCluskey, Dan (Anne) Downes, 19 grandchildren, and one great-grandson (Quinnie). There is no need to craft a lengthy list of accomplishments. Those who knew him would understand. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 am Saturday in St. James Church, 4845 S. Salina St., Syracuse with burial to follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Dewitt. Friends may call Friday from 3 to 7 pm at St. James Church. In lieu of flowers please donate to Hospice of CNY, Francis House, or a simple act of kindness.