



## Coolidge Jackson "Jack" Downer

June 27, 1944 - April 18, 2020

Coolidge "Jack" Jackson Downer, 75, of Lookout Valley, Tn, departed this life surrounded by a loving family Saturday, April 18, 2020 and united with his son, Jason Walker Downer, mother, Madeline Stephens, and father, Reuben C. Downer in Heaven.

Jack graduated from Kirkland High School in 1961. He was a Lieutenant for the Chattanooga Fire Department and retired from Fire Station #20 in 1995. He was known throughout his life as a very talented home and custom cabinet builder. He loved hunting, fishing and riding motorcycles. He loved cars and restored many beautiful ones through the years. He was a hard worker, a true friend and was highly respected by all who knew him. He was a kind and gentle man whose biggest joy was spending time with his family.

Jack shared a deep love with his wife and best friend of 43 years, Joyce Parrish Downer, and was an inspiring example to his children, Jeff (Christine) Downer, Bill Thompson, Tish Holland (Gary) Downs, Lisa Downer (Michael) Murphy and a loving brother to Judi Downer Hoell who will all miss him dearly along with 5 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A special thanks to his niece, Tammy English for the loving care she gave her Poppy and her immeasurable support for his wife and children and to John Holland for his continued love and support during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Kindred Hospice, 430 Stuart Rd. NE Suite 2, Cleveland, TN 37312.

Condolences can be shared at [ryanfuneralhome.net](http://ryanfuneralhome.net)

The family will honor Jack in a Celebration of Life to be announced at a later date.

Arrangements are by Ryan Funeral Home & Crematory, Trenton, GA.

# Comments

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“ Whenever I talked with Jack, he was cordial and gracious, a real gentleman. The loving devotion he bestowed upon Joyce and the joy and laughter he shared with friends and family will be memories I will cherish.

**Stephany** - April 29, 2020 at 09:09 AM

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“ Safe Travels, Uncle Jack. I will always remember your hearty laugh. Until we meet again.

Stacy (Hoell) Kersten

**Stacy Kersten** - April 28, 2020 at 09:26 AM

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“ I have a lot of good memories with Jack. Car shows, fishing trips, cabinet shop talks and some nice porch time. He was always easy to talk to and about as genuine a person as ever walked the earth. I should have visited with him more. Jack will be missed but remembered with fond memories and smiles about good times.  
Casey

**Casey Hoell** - April 26, 2020 at 04:01 PM

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“ Joyce,  
We just found out about Jack's passing this morning. So sorry for your loss. Jim is glad he got to talk to him at cancer center after working with him so many years. We were looking for you all the last time the hospital let us bring food. Jim always thought a lot of him.  
Jim and Herlinda Sauls

**Jim Sauls** - April 24, 2020 at 01:08 PM

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“ Jack and Vera Sue, his favorite cousin ;) are re-united! Jack and Joyce were so good to my aunt Vera Sue Reagan after Uncle Ed passed away. They were always there for her and that meant the world to her. It was during this time I got to know them on a personal level, and Jack was a great man. His love and devotion to his family is deep. He will no doubt be missed by everyone who knew him. The world shines a little less brighter without him.

Ed Padget - April 24, 2020 at 12:51 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album Jackie Downer Tractor Restore



Ed Padget - April 24, 2020 at 12:46 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ed Padget - April 24, 2020 at 12:42 PM

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“ Tish Holland Downs was added to the Family Tree.

Lisa Murphy - April 24, 2020 at 01:06 AM

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“ William Goyd Thompson was added to the Family Tree.

Lisa Murphy - April 24, 2020 at 01:05 AM

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“ Jason Walker Downer was added to the Family Tree.

Lisa Murphy - April 24, 2020 at 12:59 AM

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“ Lisa Downer Murphy was added to the Family Tree.

Lisa Murphy - April 24, 2020 at 12:55 AM

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“ Jeffery Jackson Downer was added to the Family Tree.

Lisa Murphy - April 24, 2020 at 12:54 AM

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“ Joyce Parrish Downer was added to the Family Tree.

Lisa Murphy - April 24, 2020 at 12:44 AM

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“ Judith Ann downer Hoell was added to the Family Tree.

Lisa Murphy - April 24, 2020 at 12:37 AM

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“ Marion Madeline Downer was added to the Family Tree.

Lisa Murphy - April 24, 2020 at 12:35 AM

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“ Reuben Coolidge Downer was added to the Family Tree.

Lisa Murphy - April 23, 2020 at 11:33 PM

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“ 47 files added to the album Memories Album



**Lisa Downer Murphy** - April 23, 2020 at 09:17 PM

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“ Lisa Downer Murphy is following this tribute.

**Lisa Murphy** - April 23, 2020 at 09:08 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Family Pictures



**Lisa Downer Murphy** - April 23, 2020 at 09:06 PM

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“ Jack was a new and special friend to me! A very delightful fellow to be around ... I will miss him!! Darrell Kirkendall

**darrell kirkendall** - April 22, 2020 at 11:16 AM

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“ To my one and only brother .....  
My heart is too full to talk about you right now; I'm sure you understand.  
There are so many memories, and they're all precious .....

I'll love you always, Jack. No one ever had a more wonderful brother.

I'll see you on the other side.  
Your little sister,  
Judi

**Judith Hoell** - April 22, 2020 at 10:42 AM

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“ Jack and Joyce were our neighbors for many years, and I also remember his parents. Both Jack and his dad built cabinets for me and my parents. So sorry for the family's loss!

**Betsy Fryar** - April 21, 2020 at 05:25 PM

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“ Jack and Joyce have been our neighbors for around 40 years. Besides Jack being a great neighbor, he was a great friend.  
Jack and Bruce shared similar interests such as cars, fishing and boats. Bruce and I shared trips over the years with Jack and Joyce along with gatherings at their home. Bruce enjoyed going on fishing trips with Jack and family to Kissimee. We enjoyed having conversations and coffee on their back porch while listening to Jack tell interesting stories from long ago.  
We always enjoyed Jack's company. We will truly miss him. Our love and heart goes out to Joyce.  
May God bring great comfort to all of the family.  
With love Bruce and Helga Day.

**Bruce and Helga Day** - April 21, 2020 at 03:44 PM

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“ What a special man. Enjoyed knowing him. He had such a great laugh. Wish I could have made him another banana pudding. Bless his heart, he loved it. Our love to Joyce and the rest of his family.

**Deborah Scheil** - April 20, 2020 at 10:56 PM

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“ Jack and I (Judy White Fry) were friends, schoolmates and teenagers together. He was a popular member of our class. We went our separate ways when he chose to go to Kirkman Vocational High School and I went to Central High School in Chattanooga.

My friendship with Jack was renewed. and I was introduced to his sweet, pretty Kentucky wife, Joyce, when we started building a house in Lookout Valley in 2007. My husband, Bob, knew of Jack's skills as a cabinet maker from word of mouth in the valley and hired him to build all of the cabinets, bookcases, and fireplace mantels. After moving in, we shared many dinners together as we gathered around the beautiful island, pull out pantry and other things that Jack and a friend of his had so meticulously built, assembled and installed. Jack, always the gentleman, was quick to volunteer for kitchen duty, pouring the iced tea or carrying out the trash.

Along the way, he, Joyce, some of their friends and family members and Bob and his friends began sharing a twice-annual fishing trip to Kissimmee. Florida. Jack, Joyce and Bob started making plans early and enjoyed every trip they made.

Jack and Joyce also loved sitting on our back porch on a nice day, sipping coffee and other beverages with Bob and me, and telling stories about refurbishing cars, motorcycle adventures, fishing and other zany adventures.

To this day and for as long as we are blessed to live in this house, we will have a daily reminder and permanent memorial to Jack's woodworking skills, his and Joyce's friendship, and the beautiful life he shared with his family and friends. We will always remember him with love and will forever remember his happy disposition, bright smile, and his kind and gentle spirit. Love you, Jack!

**Judy and Bob Fry** - April 20, 2020 at 12:08 PM

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“ Margaret M Ledford lit a candle in memory of Coolidge Jackson "Jack" Downer



**Margaret M Ledford** - April 20, 2020 at 11:01 AM

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“ I am Jimmy Carl Ball. Jack and me worked at Dixie Yarns together. Visited each other with our families on the weekends. I cut Jack's hair (not a barber but cut my children and Jack wanted me to cut his.) He wanted me to give Jason his first hair cut. I left Dixie Yarns and went to Muller Company for a while with Jack's father. I then went on the Chattanooga Police Department. Jack left and went to the Chattanooga Fire Department. Jack was a fine man and will be missed.

**Jimmy Carl Ball** - April 20, 2020 at 10:11 AM



“ Did you have a German shepherd police dog in a dog pen in the back yard?

**Lisa Downer Murphy** - April 20, 2020 at 11:26 PM



“ I did have a K-9 Police Dog (Black German Shepherd) named "Sabre". Jack and me were so close. I preach at Ider United Methodist Church in Ider Alabama now. Visit sometime if you can. My number is 423-321-4166.

**Jimmy Carl Ball** - April 21, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“ I thought that was you. I remember coming to your house when I was a small child. I think I worked with your son at Red Food Store on Broad Street when I was a teenager too. We would love to come visit your church sometime. Thanks for sharing your memories of Dad. He was very special and will be missed greatly.

**Lisa Downer Murphy** - April 21, 2020 at 02:29 PM

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“ Liz Allen lit a candle in memory of Coolidge Jackson "Jack" Downer



**Liz Allen** - April 20, 2020 at 07:17 AM

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“ Liz Allen sent a virtual gift in memory of Coolidge Jackson "Jack" Downer



**Liz Allen** - April 19, 2020 at 08:22 PM



“ Very appropriate!

**Chris** - April 21, 2020 at 01:04 PM

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“ Jack was my Grandmother's neighbor for many years. We got to know Jack and Joyce and enjoyed visiting with them.. Jack will be missed and we pray that the family finds peace and comfort during this time...

**Pam Long Nemec**

**Pam Nemec** - April 19, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ Thanks Pam!

**Chris** - April 21, 2020 at 01:04 PM

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“ He was the best Dad a girl could ever ask for. I was SO lucky the he was mine.

**Lisa murphy** - April 19, 2020 at 03:18 PM



“ We were both blessed to have great parents who loved us dearly. We were blessed to be born into a great family with lots of great cousins. Jack was definitely at top of my "cousins" list and someone I was inspired to grow up to be like.. A true man's man in every sense of the word and a smile and laugh like no other.. His personality was infectious.

**Chris** - April 21, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ Yes, when he laughed, you couldn't help but laugh with him.

**Lisa Downer Murphy** - April 21, 2020 at 02:31 PM

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Jack,

I will cherish all the great times we spent riding motorcycles, fishing and just spending time together as family... You were a wonderful cousin and I will miss you dearly...

Till we meet again on that beautiful shore...

Chris Gordon.



**Chris Gordon** - April 19, 2020 at 02:31 PM

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Valorie Dennis lit a candle in memory of Coolidge Jackson "Jack" Downer



**Valorie Dennis** - April 19, 2020 at 02:24 PM