



Mr. Wayne Thomas Downs

November 11, 1946 - October 11, 2019

In Loving Memory Of;

Wayne Thomas Downs was born on November 11, 1946 to Bernard and Myrtle Downs in Detroit, Michigan. He was the first of three children born to Bernard and Myrtle. Wayne received his early education at a number of Detroit Public Schools. He began his elementary education at Wingert Elementary School and graduated the eighth grade from Sampson Elementary School. He went on to attend Chadsey High School and received his high school diploma from Mumford High School.

Wayne displayed his artistic talents at an early age and went on to pursue a career in commercial art after attending Ferris State University. He obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Wayne State University and the Center for Creative Studies (Advertising Design). He worked for Michigan Bell, Campbell-Ewald Advertising and CTS Advertising Agency as a commercial artist. In retirement, Wayne worked for the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department and also enjoyed being an Uber driver. He also helped out at Detroit Waldorf School while his daughter was a student and worked tirelessly on the plot he and Jing maintained in the Good Neighbors garden, a garden in Oak Park for residents of Ferndale, Oak Park and Pleasant Ridge.

In 1973, Wayne began the practice of T'ai Chi Ch'uan, which would guide and support him for the rest of his life. He was the first student of the class founded at the Birmingham Unitarian Church. Eventually, as a senior of the class, he advanced to become one of the instructors. During his years of

practicing the Yang style of the teachings of Professor Cheng Man-Ch'ing, he traveled to Southeast Asia to further his knowledge. It was during his study of T'ai Chi Ch'uan that he met the love of his life, Catherine Rehe, more fondly known as Jing. With Jing, Wayne became the dedicated father to their daughter, Keisha Rose.

Wayne was a kind soul who made a warm connection with almost everyone he met. He had a quick sense of humor and was known by his pals in his younger years as "Stock Bird." He could dance a circle around most folks and enjoyed sharing those skills at every opportunity.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Wayne Thomas Downs*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Donell & Breta Jones purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Wayne Thomas Downs.*



Donell & Breta Jones - October 19, 2019 at 05:22 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathies are extending to the family. We regret that we are unable to attend, but know that our thoughts are with you doing this sad, but joyful day.*
Donell and Breta Jones.



henry d. jones - October 19, 2019 at 05:06 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Wayne Thomas Downs.*



October 17, 2019 at 06:20 PM

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“ *Thinking of you all in heartfelt prayers.
May God give you strength to keep going no matter what happens,
always, full of the joy of the lord. With caring thoughts.*

Evans family - October 17, 2019 at 05:16 AM