

WILLIAM C. DOWNES



William "Bill" C. Downes, 82, of Fort Myers, Florida passed away June 17, 2011. He was born September 7, 1928 in Newport, Rhode Island the son of John and Mary (Murray) Downes.

He proudly served his country in the United States Army in the Military Police where he was promoted to Corporal. He served with the Newport, Rhode Island Police Department for 31 years and retired as a Lieutenant. During his time with the Newport Police Department, he served as Presidential security with the Secret Service for Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Bush. He received commendations from all 3 presidents. He also directed security for King Hussein of Jordan during his stay. He was Director of Security for America's Cup 12 meter Yacht Races in Rhode Island from 1974 to 1983. He received his B.S. in Criminal Justice from Salve Regina College in Newport, Rhode Island and also attended New England Institute of Law, the University of Rhode Island, and Babson College in Wellesley, MA. He was a drafter and originator of the Police Incentive Bill which was introduced in 1963 and has been in effect since then. This bill enabled police officers to enrich their education and work toward the professionalism of police service. Bill belonged to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Newport Police Relief Association, Commissioned Police Officers Association of Rhode Island, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Fraternal Order of Police, Criminalistic Society of Rhode Island, Goat Island Yacht Club, Salve Regina College Alumni Association, Power Squadron, Boating U.S. Association, Knights of Columbus, and Landings Mens Golf Association.

He leaves to cherish his loving memory, his loving wife of 37 years, Maria "Helgi" Downes, 2 children, Elizabeth Grimes and Timothy P. Downes, and 5 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents as well as his brother John J. Downes.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday June 24, 2011 at at Blessed Pope John XXIII Catholic Church.