

Leo Downey



Newport - Leo F. Downey of Grafton Street passed peacefully on February 24, 2014 surrounded by family members. Leo was born in Newport on November 22, 1933 the son of Michael F. and Helen (Sullivan) Downey. Leo grew up on Simmons Street, attended St. Augustin's School, De La Salle Academy and Bryant College. Over the years Leo worked at many places around Newport including: Bailey's Beach, Sully's, the Irish American Club, the former Shamrock Cliff, the Naval Officers Club, the Moorings and for 29 years at Raytheon Company in

Portsmouth, R.I. In October 1962, Leo made the best decision of his life when he married Dianne Homer his wife of 51 years. Leo was a lector at Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church and later a parishioner of St. Augustin's Church. He was a life member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 1 where he served as the Steward for many years. Leo loved his Irish roots and was honored as the Grand Marshall of the Newport Saint Patrick's Day Parade in 2007. Leo loved Newport, the Old Fifth Ward and his time with family. He taught his children through his faith, honesty and kindness to others. He was full of knowledge about Newport History, which he was more than glad to share and his wit was without equal. Leo had an iron clad memory and his prowess at the New York Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle was legendary. Leo was pre-deceased by his loving wife Dianne Downey and he leaves his beloved daughter MaryBeth Vierra and her husband David of Newport, their children Ashley Peck and her husband Troy, David Allen Vierra and Hannah Vierra of Newport, his son Michael F. Downey of Newport, his daughter Nicolle Icart and her son Lydon Icart of Portsmouth and his son James Downey and his wife Margaret and their three children Ena, Lilah and Norah of Braintree, MA. Leo is survived by his adored sisters Marion Galvin and Grace Curran and was predeceased by his sister Pauline Fahey. Leo leaves behind many nieces and nephews and was comforted in his final days by the presence of his god- daughter Karen Scucchi. Visiting were held on Friday February 28, 2014 at O'Neill- Hayes Funeral Home, 465 Spring Street in Newport with Mass of Christian Burial at St. Augustin's Church, Carroll Avenue, Newport, Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 9 a.m., burial was private. Donations may be made to the St. Augustin's Building Fund, 2 Eastnor Road, Newport, RI 02840

