



## Lowell Lester Downum

December 20, 1924 - March 28, 2017

Lowell Lester Downum, age 92, passed away at his home in Council Hill, OK on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 with his family by his side. He was born on December 20, 1924 in Stidham, OK to Christopher Columbus and Virgie Mae (Turner) Downum.

Lowell was raised in a household with ten siblings; seven brothers and three sisters. He spent his adolescence like many during the Great Depression; living light and working hard. Lowell put the livelihood of his family first and forgo his education to tend the family farm. Oklahoma was much different in Lowell's childhood than the Oklahoma we know today. Droughts and wind erosion lead to the Dust Bowl amidst the biggest economic collapse in history. This adversity lead to Lowell's strong spirit and inspired him to enter the United States Navy. During his military career, he became a Frogman and was stationed at Pearl Harbor during the bombing of 1941 and fought in the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. Lowell was a decorated veteran and had a great sense of pride about his service to our country. He had a love for hot rods and dreamed of having one as a child, so Lowell made it a priority to purchase his first hot rod as soon as he exited the service. Lowell then moved to California in 1951 and began his career with the Army Corp of Engineers as a Bulldozer operator. He then moved back to his home state and worked on many important projects with the Army Corp of Engineers such as the Eufaula Dam, and Lake Eufaula itself. He also helped move the iconic Katy Depot Train

Station in Checotah Oklahoma. Lowell owned the third largest pig farm in Oklahoma and was featured in Farmers and Stockman Magazine. He started a bulldozer service and ran it until his retirement. In 1977, he married the love of his life, Wanda Garrett in Reno, NV. This marriage would last the rest of Lowell's life and fill it full of many wonderful laughs and memories, Lowell Lester Downum our Patriarch created his legacy and he lives this legacy through his family. We will forever love him.

Lowell is survived by his loving wife, Wanda; children, Larry (Cindy) Garrett, Wendy (Russell) Cannon, Tina Bradford, Lowella Oldham and Sarah Wrobbel; 14 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; five great great-grandchildren and three brothers, Albert, Charles and Vester; many nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; son, Johnnie Downum; three sisters and four brothers.

A Memorial Service will be held in Lowell's honor at Country Side Baptist Church, Council Hill, on April 3rd at 10am with Rev. Roger Miller officiating. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to The Honor Flight Network, 175 S. Tuttle Rd. Springfield, OH 45505.

The family of Lowell Lester Downum has entrusted his cremation and services to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home & Cremation Service 1224 Poplar/PO Box 1973 Fort Gibson, OK 918-478-2555.

Online condolences may be left at [clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com](http://clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Countryside Baptist Church  
PO Box 144  
Council Hill, OK 74428

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lowell Lester Downum*

January 29, 2023 at 12:59 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Clifford Garrett** - June 24, 2022 at 09:58 AM



“ *The Bernadine (Bristow) Downum Family XO purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Lowell Lester Downum.*



**The Bernadine (Bristow) Downum Family XO** - April 02, 2017  
at 04:28 PM

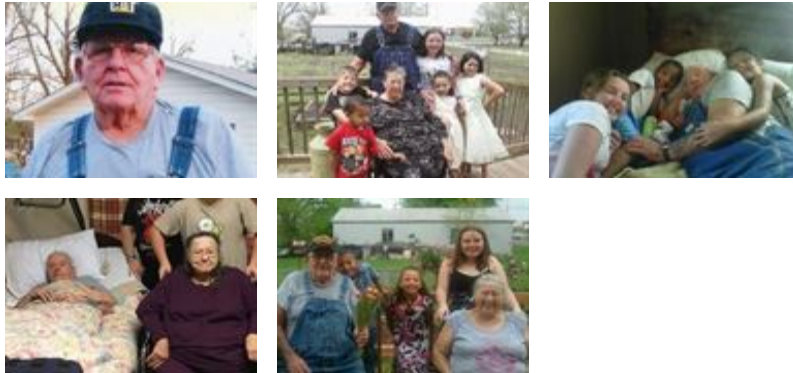
LD

“ My father Thurman Downum of Pacific Grove California remembers his cousin Lowell fondly. The story goes that Lowell, Wanda and Lowella drove back from California in 1951 and came to Essie's Downum's house in Fame. Willie Downum had sent them back to pick up Essie (his wife) and the kids and bring them out to California. Essie, Sonny (Thurman), Patsy, Freyda, Robert and Francis all loaded into Lowell's Hudson Hornet and off they went for California. Yes, nine people in all! My Dad said they had a few incredulous comments from folks at gas stations as to how so many people were in one car. What a wonderful thing to do for family! We send our condolences and love to all the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love Thurman and Linda Downum.

Linda Downum - April 02, 2017 at 03:24 PM



“ 119 files added to the album Life Tributes



Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home - April 01, 2017 at 04:26 PM

WR

“ *William Rollins purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Lowell Lester Downum.*



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**William Rollins** - March 31, 2017 at 02:31 PM

SS

“ *I've had a lot of great times as a kid at Lowell and Wanda's house, he was always joking around, Great memories! Sending Prayers and Hugs. RIP Jackson xoxo*

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**Sheila Shaver** - March 29, 2017 at 04:26 PM

KC

“ *Wendy and family*

*So sorry to hear about your dad. He was a nice man who loved his family very much. He will be greatly missed. Praying for you during this difficult time.*

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**Kathy Crosby** - March 29, 2017 at 01:59 PM

JA

*Uncle Lowell, you were truly one of a kind, and no one will ever come close.... Your Humor and talent to tell Jokes and stories..(some of them TALL ones) never failed to keep our attention., but just in case, you would ask at various points (are you listening ) just to make sure..We loved when you came to visit..We knew you would keep us laughing the whole time .You were a true treasure to us...There is still questions about who was really your Favorite.. ( probably because you told us all we were your favorite and not to tell the others) we knew you loved us all.... AND who really caused those bar fights...My dad Alvin Bristow says it was you that started it..he was left to handle it and you say it was the other way around..HUM..I think you both took turns starting it.. We lost a warrior...A Uncle, an amazing soul here in this world...u will be forever missed. We will never forget you..we carry you in our hearts Forever and You truly were our FAVORITE . #6 sending love and prayers to his Wife Wanda and his children..we love you*

JoAnn Bristow Areias - March 29, 2017 at 03:36 PM

ME

*Uncle Lowell was my "Great Uncle "in more than one way! He was one of kind. I was always his "favorite Niece" ,one of many . I Loved his stories, Always knew I was loved . He always amazed me how strong he was how much energy he had. How hard he worked driving his "Dozer". He would get in the car going to see his Extended family where ever they maybe. He wanted Just be with them or share a special time! I remember him making many trips to see his "Sis"Minnie ,her kids and Grandkids (of which I am one.)in California. I was fortunate to finally come see him and Aunt Wanda for the first time with my "City boy' Husband . We were traveling , (expecting our first baby) to our first duty station in the Navy .Uncle Lowell taught David how to milk a cow! He again came ,with Aunt Wanda and Rusty for David's Change Command toward the end of his Career. He wore his overalls Always, But he had a knew pair for the change of Command . He walk right over to the Admiral and introduced himself. I loved it! I loved that he never changed. I will miss him so much . My thoughts and Prayers Are with you Aunt Wanda, Wendy, Rusty And Family . I Wish I could be there! , All my love, Marianna (Ozzie) Thome Eastwood (Minnie's Granddaughter, Carolyn Sue's Daughter)*

marianna eastwood - April 02, 2017 at 11:19 AM



*"New" overalls not Knew! Wish I could be there!*

Marianna Eastwood - April 02, 2017 at 02:05 PM