



Kevin Thomas Dowd

May 29, 1952 - December 11, 2020

Kevin Thomas Dowd, a beloved brother of Shelley Zabroske of Wellsville, Pennsylvania and Maura Dowd of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and who most recently resided at the long-term facility Providence Place, died on Friday, Dec. 11. He was 68.

Kevin was a Troy, New York native and a longtime educator at the Wynantskill Union Free School District in New York.

Gratefully, members of his family were at Kevin's bedside when he passed away under the palliative and hospice care of York Hospital nurses and doctors. The cause was complications from the coronavirus.

Born on May 29, 1952 in Troy, Kevin was the son of the late William Joseph Dowd, Jr. of Lansingburgh, New York and the late Anne Marie (née Topian) Dowd of Watervliet, New York. The couple had six children - three boys and three girls - and Kevin was the third oldest.

He grew up in Troy, and as an adult, resided in Waterford, New York for nearly 40 years.

Kevin's legacy lives on in the thousands of young people whom he educated in a teaching career that spanned over three decades.

Kevin graduated from Troy's Catholic Central High School in 1970. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from State University of New York Brockport and a master's degree from Russell Sage College in special education.

Kevin's first teaching job was at St. Joseph's, a parochial school in Green Island, New York. For 35 years, he taught social studies and history to junior high students enrolled in Gardner-Dickinson School in Wynantskill, New York. He served as the middle school's eighth-grade advisor, the vice president of the teachers' union and a soccer coach.

During the academic year, Kevin was the unofficial school photographer. He spent hours creating an annual slideshow of photographs depicting graduating eighth-graders through their middle school years. During graduation ceremonies, the slideshows proved popular and received praise from parents and students.

Kevin traveled extensively: England, Wales, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, Austria among other European countries. Every February, when Gardener-Dickinson shuttered for winter breaks, he cross-country skied in Europe.

Kevin enjoyed attending Mass with the Dignity Gay Community during his summers when visiting family in Washington, D.C.

In Kevin's life, family was front and center. He showered love and affection on his nieces and nephews – in whose lives he had a constant, influential presence.

One of Kevin's many sayings was "actions speak louder than words." And that's exactly how he lived his life, carrying out good deeds and actions: he drove friends to doctors' appointments, escorted patients to and from a nearby Veterans Affairs Hospital, rolled his sleeves up during the annual Gardner-Dickinson Food Drives and put in countless hours at Albany's Honest Weight Co-op.

Kevin was extremely generous and fiercely loyal. He was always there for others; his impact on their lives is immeasurable, and his absence will be deeply felt.

He is survived by: siblings Kathie Fedyk; Shelley Zabroske and her husband, Paul; Hugh Mercurio Dowd and his husband, Jim, and Maura Dowd.

Nieces and nephews: Nick Fedyk and his wife, Jocelyn; Erika Fedyk and her husband, Tommy Hicks; Matthew Fedyk; Mary Kate Cullinane and her husband, Brian; Theresa Burkey; Andrew Zabroske and his wife, Sondra; Will Dowd; Timothy Zabroske, and Luke Zabroske.

Grand nieces and nephews: Peter Fedyk; Darby Fedyk; Shyanne Dowd; Kyra Burkey; Graeme Hicks, and Lila Cullinane.

Along with his parents, Kevin is preceded in death by his brother, Bill Dowd, and brother-in-law, Peter Fedyk.

A Catholic Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Kevin's life will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 410 E Simpson St, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055, on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 11 a.m. The Mass can be viewed on the parish's Facebook page, too:

<https://www.facebook.com/stjosephmechanicsburg>

When it's safe to gather in public after the COVID-19 pandemic, the family will hold a Funeral Mass celebrating Kevin's life in Troy. At that time, his cremains will be interred in Troy's St. Mary's Cemetery with his parents and his brother.

Friends of Kevin who would like to be notified when the Troy services and burial occur should send contact information to paul.zabroske@gmail.com.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Kevin's memory can be made to The Coffin-Lowry Syndrome Foundation, Attn: Marry Hoffman, 675 Kalmia Pl NW, Issaquah, Washington 98027.

Arrangements by the Etzweiler Funeral Homes and Cremation Service, 1111 E. Market St., York, PA 17403.

Cemetery

Events

St. Mary's Cemetery

79 Brunswick Road

Troy, NY, 12180

JAN

23

Mass of Christian Burial

11:00AM

St. Joseph Catholic Church

410 East Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA, US, 17055