

Charles Robert Downs, 76, of Paola, Kansas, formerly of Leoti, Kansas, passed away on September 30, 2025, at the Menorah Medical Center in Overland Park, Kansas.

Born on February 22, 1949, in Garden City, Kansas, he was one of two sons to Horace and Ruby (McCowan) Downs. Charles dedicated his life to both farming and serving his community, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and care for others.

Charlie graduated from Wichita County High School with the class of 1967 and continued his studies at Hutchinson Junior College, where he met his beloved future wife, Mary "Janelle" Dolan. He later earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Kansas State University, reflecting his pursuit of knowledge and understanding of the world around him.

Charles and Janelle were married on Saturday, January 24, 1970, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina, Kansas. From this union they had three children; Jason, Rebecca, and Brenna. The couple made their home in Leoti for many years. In 2020, Janelle and Charlie moved to Paola, to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Charlie was a proud farmer, known for his cultivation of dry land crops, including wheat and milo, throughout Wichita County and the surrounding areas. His commitment to farming was underscored by his love for the land, and he took great pride in nurturing it. In addition to his farming endeavors, he was an active volunteer firefighter and EMT in Leoti for Wichita County for many years, showcasing his unwavering dedication to helping those in need.

Charlie's passion for the outdoors was evident in the moments he spent at the family cabin in Colorado, where he created lasting memories with his family, enjoying hikes and the beauty of nature together. With his many friends, he shared his joy in various hobbies, including shooting pool, throwing darts, participating in a golf league, hunting, kayaking, and riding his bicycle. He also cherished time spent on the boat with his family at Hillsdale Lake, embracing the fun and laughter that these adventures brought.

He had a deep appreciation for classic cars, owning at least seven during his lifetime, with a special fondness for his 1964 red Pontiac LeMans, which he proudly claimed as his favorite.

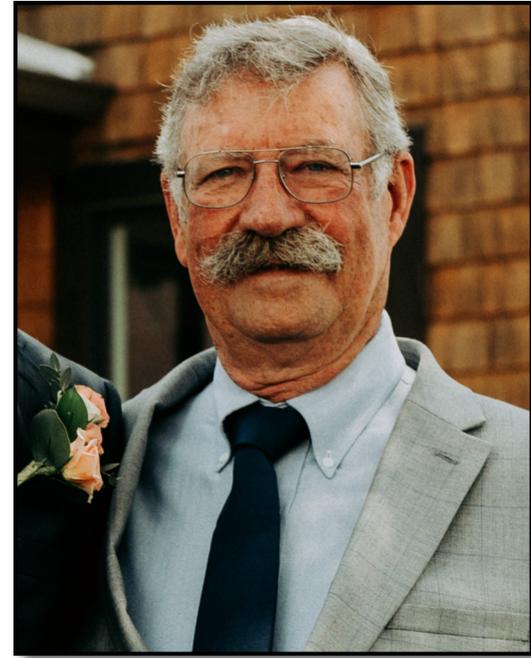
Charles is survived by his son, Jason (Whitney) Downs; his daughters, Rebecca (Brett) Little and Brenna (Randolph) Castor; his brother, Ronald Downs; and his two granddaughters, Emelyn and Bridget Little.

He was predeceased by his parents, Horace and Ruby Downs; his wife, Mary "Janelle" Downs; and his sister-in-law, Jewel Downs.

His indomitable spirit, love for life, and unwavering support for his family and community will be profoundly missed. Charlie leaves behind a legacy of kindness and service, touching the lives of many who were fortunate enough to know him.

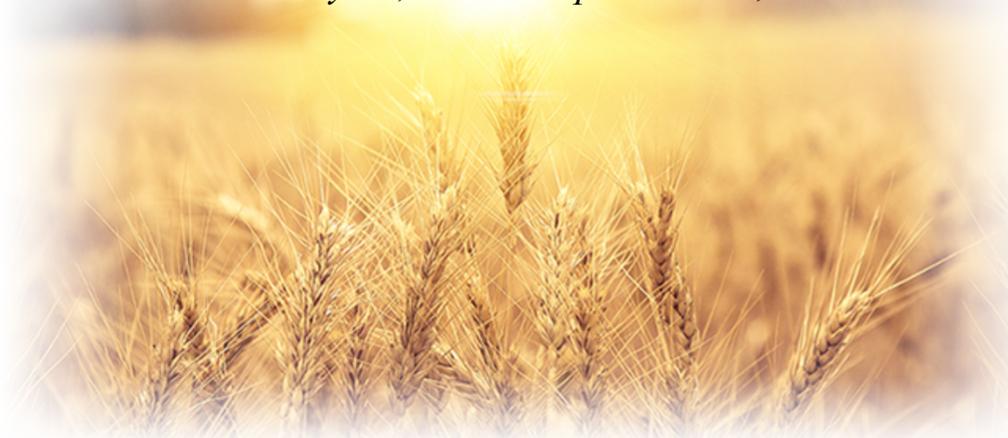
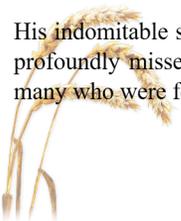


In Loving Memory Of



Charles Robert Downs

February 22, 1949 ~ September 30, 2025



Do not stand at my grave and weep.

I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a *thousand winds*
that blow.

I am the diamond glint on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you wake in morning *hush.*

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circling flight.

I am the *soft starlight* at night.

Do not stand at my grave and weep.

I am not there, I do not sleep.

Author Unknown

In Memory Of

Charles Robert Downs

Date of Birth

February 22, 1949

Entered Into Rest

September 30, 2025

Funeral Mass

10:30 AM, Saturday, October 11, 2025

St. Anthony of Padua's Catholic Church

Leoti, Kansas

Officiating

Fr. Bernard Felix

Final Resting Place

Leoti Cemetery

Leoti, Kansas

Memorial Contributions

Leoti Volunteer Fire Department and EMS


Dengel & Son
Mortuary - Crematory