



## Dr. Michael Patrick Dunkle

October 15, 1932 - December 18, 2017

Dr. MICHAEL PATRICK DUNKLE, 85, formerly of Hillcrest Drive, Towanda, PA., died peacefully Monday evening Dec. 18, 2017 at the Bradford County Manor in Troy, Pa. Born October 15, 1932, in Dover, NJ., he was the eldest son of the late Cyrus Grant, Jr., and Mary McDonald Dunkle. Michael grew up in Morris Plains, New Jersey, where he attended Saint Mary's Catholic School, Saint Virgil's Elementary School and Bayley-Ellard High School. As a youth, he enjoyed playing basketball on school teams and achieved the Boy Scout award of Eagle Scout. Michael graduated from Bayley-Ellard High School in 1950. He attended Fordham University in New York City, earning a B.S. in Chemistry. He volunteered for the draft and served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957 with the Chemical Corps in Japan. After an Honorable Discharge, he briefly attended Seton Hall University to complete additional study. He continued at Purdue University in Lafayette, IN., where he graduated in 1962, receiving a Doctorate Degree in Physical Chemistry. On Jan. 29, 1961, he married the former Margarete Maria Schaerfchen, a German immigrant. Michael began employment with E.I. DuPont in 1963, first working in Parlin, NJ., where he earned three patents in the area of photochemistry. He was transferred to Towanda in 1967, where he built the Family home on Hillcrest Drive. He was a devoted member of S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Towanda, where he participated in the church choir and the RCIA program, was a lector and active in the Right to Life movement. In the 70s, he served as president of the St. Agnes school board, coached the

Tigers Little League baseball team, and served as Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop #6. Michael enjoyed vegetable gardening, camping, contract bridge and especially playing the piano. He had a large repertoire of popular piano songs which included The Sabre Dance and Bumble Boogie. His pleasant demeanor and sense of humor often brought a smile to his family and friends.

In September 1977, Michael, as a passenger, was seriously injured in an automobile accident. This left him in a coma for several weeks, hospitalized him for three months, and permanently disabled him. He retired in 1978, shortly after returning to his position of Safety Superintendent with E.I. DuPont.

Dr. Dunkle was a member of many professional societies, including a 50-year membership in the American Chemical Society. He was also a past member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA).

Surviving are his wife Margaret, his brother, John Dunkle, his sons, Stephen Michael Dunkle and David Cyrus Dunkle, his daughter Joan Margaret Zakel, five grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Mary Dinardo.

Friends may call on Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home, 217 York Ave., Towanda, Pa. Recitation of the rosary will be held at 5 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017 at 11 a.m. at S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Third Street, Towanda, Pa. Interment will follow in S.S. Peter & Paul Cemetery, N. Towanda Twp., Pa., with Towanda American Legion Post No. 42 according full military honors. A luncheon will follow in the S.S. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Grotto. Friends may direct memorial contributions to St. Agnes School, 106 Third St., Towanda, Pa. in Michael Dunkle's memory. Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting [www.bowenfuneralhomes.com](http://www.bowenfuneralhomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## S.S. Peter & Paul Cemetery

30 James Street  
Towanda, PA 18848

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **22**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home  
217 York Ave.  
Towanda, PA 18848  
(570) 265-2272  
[info@bowenfuneralhomes.com](mailto:info@bowenfuneralhomes.com)

## Rosary Service

DEC **22**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home  
217 York Ave.  
Towanda, PA 18848  
(570) 265-2272  
[info@bowenfuneralhomes.com](mailto:info@bowenfuneralhomes.com)

## Service

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DEC **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

S.S. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church  
106 Third Street  
Towanda, PA 18848

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Michael Patrick Dunkle*

October 22, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ *Dr. Michael Patrick Dunkle*

October 08, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ *Dr. Michael Patrick Dunkle*

October 06, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ *Dr. Michael Patrick Dunkle*

October 06, 2023 at 03:29 AM



“ *Dr. Michael Patrick Dunkle*

October 05, 2023 at 02:02 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



**David Dunkle** - January 22, 2018 at 03:16 PM

JN

“ Dear Dunkle family,  
Uncle Michael was one of the kindest, most gentle people that I have ever met in my life. He had such a wonderful personality, and he was always a pleasure to be around. Some of my favorite memories of him include:  
When he came to visit, we would sit around the piano and listen to him so play with that big smile on his face. His fingers always glided so effortlessly across the keys and he looked like he was one with the piano.  
Every hug that Uncle Mike gave me was one with a lot of feeling. I always felt like he gave hugs the way they were meant to be given. My last memory of Uncle Michael was one that demonstrated what a great heart he had and is one I will never forget. We went to play golf at Little Creek Navy base one summer. I hit shot near a tree and on the next shot proceeded to wrap my 3 iron around the tree. The clubs belonged to my Dad and I felt terrible. The next morning Uncle Michael called me down stairs and handed me a 3 iron to replace the one I had just broken. I almost cried.  
I only wish I had the chance to see him one more time before he passed, but my brother Pete reminded us that Mom was up there waiting to welcome him into the Kingdom of Heaven and that they are probably having a Christmas party right now!  
Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time, and I am sorry I was not able to attend the funeral.

Love,

Jimmy Di Nardo

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Jimmy Di Nardo - December 23, 2017 at 10:11 AM

JN

“ Hello Dunkles,  
Uncle Michael was one of the kindest, most gentle human beings that I have ever met in my life. I don't think I ever saw him angry during the entire time that I knew him!! He had such a great soul and appreciation for family and life. I am so sorry that I was not able to see him before his death. I always felt great after having been in his presence.

Several memories that I have of Uncle Michael was when his family would come and visit and he would sit at the piano and so easily play songs with a huge smile on his face.

When he hugged you, he hugged you with such great feeling. I always felt like he hugged the way a hug was meant to be given. My greatest memory of Uncle Michael I think defines his great heart. We went out to Little Creek golf course one summer to play golf. I hit a ball near a tree and when I took the next shot I wrapped my Mom's 3 iron around a tree and broke it. The next day Uncle Michael called me down from upstairs and handed me a brand new 3 iron to replace the one that I broke. No questions asked, just knew how upset I was and bought a new club.

I will miss his gentle demeanor and great hugs, but like my brother Pete said, I am sure Mom and he are having a party up there in heaven right about now, and we are happy that Mom was there to welcome him into the Kingdom of Heaven!!

I am sorry that I was not able to get up to the funeral but please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all during this sad time. We loved Uncle Michael and we love you all.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Di Nardo

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Jimmy Di Nardo - December 23, 2017 at 09:13 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Michael Patrick Dunkle.*



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December 22, 2017 at 09:46 AM



“ *Please accept our deepest sympathy. VFW Post 1536, Sayre*

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**VFW Post 1536** - December 22, 2017 at 09:26 AM



“ *Dear Margaret and Family,*

*I am so sorry to hear of Mike's passing but I know he is in a better place. He was a great chap and I'll always remember seeing him outside puttering around with the flowers and such. My heart goes out to you in this difficult time. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all. Unfortunately, I won't be able to make any of the services as I am under the weather. After things get settled down, I will be in touch with you. I think of you often.*

*Love,  
Joyce Hinkson*

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**Joyce Hinkson** - December 21, 2017 at 08:37 PM

MA

“ *Margaret and Family, My deepest sympathy in your loss of Michael. Michael was one of the nicest people I ever met and I will always have a place in my heart for him. He was a great inspiration to all of us.  
Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers to get thru this difficult time.*

*Mary Adams*

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**Mary Adams** - December 21, 2017 at 12:21 PM

PD

“ *As a child, I can't tell you how much I looked forward to visits with Uncle Michael. I had never known an adult that I enjoyed being around more. He was mesmerizing, always keeping us laughing, always in a good mood. He was a narcotic to me. He taught me you could be an adult with a PhD and still not have to completely grow up. He was the most wonderful man and will be sorely missed.*

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**Paul DiNardo** - December 21, 2017 at 09:14 AM