

## HOWARD J. "HOWDY" MCGREGOR



Howdy McGregor was aptly named. Everywhere he went, there was a "howdy" from an old friend, or someone about to become a friend. With a brilliant sense of humor and an ability to talk to anyone, you were always guaranteed a great and joyful time in his presence. He loved to be out and about in the world, as ready to cheer on a team as he was to grab the Karaoke mic, and you better believe he made sure everyone

around him had a beverage in their hand.

Those who knew Howdy well knew a lot of "Howardisms." He shared his philosophy of life with these sayings, often as punchlines, but with a way of adding meaning to life's shared moments.

"Heredity is a wonderful thing," was one of his favorites. Often said when he was surrounded by the huge lot of his adoring family. Howard had six children with his first wife, Janet (Traynor) McGregor (deceased December 1992): Dan (Michelle) McGregor, Mike (Darlene) McGregor, Kathy (Ken) Wagner, Sharon (Bill Bianco) McGregor, Kelly (Jt) Chiodi, and Tracy (Chris) Dewit.

With his wife, Barbara (Eiler-McFadden) McGregor, he added another three step-daughters, Colleen (Mike) Boyd, Kelly McFadden, and Beth McFadden. They will all miss him immeasurably.

Twenty-four. Yes, 24 grandkids who all cherish their Pap Pap. He had enough love for every single one of them, individually and as a whole. And after that, 17 great-grandkids with one more on the way as of this writing. All lucky to call Howdy their Pap Pap. All in love with his fun and witty personality. All heartbroken by the loss of their sweet Grandfather.

After his retirement from Schwebel's Baking in 2000, he often joked that he didn't know how he ever had time to work. He was busy with performances, games, concerts, musicals, graduations, parties, ceremonies or any other event a grand could dream up. He was always there proud as could be and ready with a hug or fist bump to show his love. "Been a fan since I was this tall, " and/or an ironic "I almost liked it!" (That meant he loved it.)

Michael Ondialla said, "Inheritance is not just money. Sometimes your father's good reputation is enough, and wherever you go, you are told that your father (or PapPap) was one of the best people." We've all inherited a fortune in this sense as we know we will hear often how much he was loved and is missed. Howdy's greatest success was that his kids and family all wanted to be around him, and his legacy is his never-ending show of dedication to his family.

But even the animals flocked to him. Every pet knew him as a treat giver, and a great lap to sit upon. His backyard may as well be an animal sanctuary ... the birds, squirrels, chipmunks, turkey, and deer all knew where to find a good meal. If it was 50° or above, that's where you'd find him, sitting on the back porch with his radio and perhaps an IC Light watching the birds and enjoying their company as they enjoyed the mountains of feed he put out for them. We've lost count of how many stray cats found their way into his home for a comfy bed and a guaranteed meal... and lots of belly rubs.

But, on a Sunday... on Sunday, his house would crowd with whichever of his kids and grandkids could find their way there. It was about the Steelers, but it wasn't really about the Steelers, because we'd come year-round. Howdy was ready for whoever walked in with an offer of a beer and "Snick Snacks" and most certainly a good laugh.

We lost our beloved husband, father, and PapPap, Howard J. McGregor on January 11, 2025. He was born in McKees Rocks on February 2, 1938, and was happiest about the fact that he never had to go farther than Kennedy Township to find a home he loved and to feel like it was "just another day in paradise." He was a faithful member of St. Malachy's Catholic Church for many years and pointed his children to the importance of having God in their lives. His memory will most certainly be a blessing, and bring a smile-worthy memory to all who knew him.

Relatives and friends received Thursday, January 16, 2025, from 1-3 and 6-8 PM at **MCDERMOTT FUNERAL HOME**, 334 Forest Grove Road, Coraopolis (Kennedy Township), PA 15108. Funeral prayer Friday, January 17, 2025, at 9 AM at the funeral home followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10 AM in Archangel Gabriel Parish, St. Malachy Church, 343 Forest Grove Road, Kennedy Township. Interment in St. Mark's Cemetery.

[www.mcdermottfuneralhome.com](http://www.mcdermottfuneralhome.com)

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