



Edward James McGowan Sr.

January 15, 1932 - July 14, 2025

Edward J. McGowan Sr., beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, veteran, teacher, and faithful servant of God, passed peacefully into eternal rest on July 14, 2025, surrounded by the love and prayers of his family.

Born to the late Angelo B. McGowan and Margaret J. (Erkens) McGowan in Butler, PA, on January 15, 1932, Edward lived a life marked by devotion to his family, his faith, his country, and his vocation. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Patricia (Murphy) McGowan, whom he married on November 28, 1963; his dear fiancée Verna Craig; his sister, Margaret Hartle; his brothers, Aloysius, Richard, and John; and his daughter-in-law, Cindy McGowan.

Edward proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War era, attending basic training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, later stationed at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Paris, France. He was always so proud of the years he served in the army and loved reminiscing about his time in Paris. His military service shaped a lifetime of humility, discipline, and quiet strength.

After returning home, Edward devoted 35 years to education in the Moniteau School District, where generations of students knew him fondly as Mr. McGowan. Most of his career was spent teaching fourth grade, where his calm presence, strong values, and deep care for students made a lasting impression. He retired in 1996, leaving behind a legacy of compassion and dedication.

A devout Catholic, Edward was a faithful member of Saint Louis Catholic Church in West Sunbury, part of Saint Faustina Parish. His life was deeply rooted in prayer, devotion to the Rosary, and reverence for the Sacred Heart of Jesus. His quiet faith guided his every step and was evident in the way he lived and loved.

Edward is survived by his six children: Edward J. McGowan Jr. (Trina), Eric J. McGowan (Cindy), Mary F. Northcott (Mark), Erol J. McGowan (Shai), Eugene J. McGowan (Aimee), and Mary "Betsy" Coyle (Daniel). He was a proud grandfather to ten grandchildren: Breana Fowler (Nate), Ryan Northcott, Zachary McGowan, Ashlyn Northcott, Bryn Havel (Erica), Daniel "Trey" Coyle, Garrett Havel, Sean Northcott, Lauren Coyle, and Alexa "Lexie" Coyle. He was also blessed with a great-granddaughter, Maya Fowler.

As beautifully expressed in the poem *The Dash* by Linda Ellis, what matters most in life is not the dates that bookend it, but how we live the time in between. Edward lived his "dash" with grace, generosity, and steadfast faith. He was a quiet pillar of strength to those who knew and loved him.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Saint Louis Catholic Church in West Sunbury on July 21, 2025, at 11:30 AM. Interment with military honors will follow at Epiphany Cemetery. Friends and family are invited to gather in prayer and remembrance, rejoicing in the promise of the Resurrection at H. Jack Buzard Funeral Home, Eau Claire, on Saturday, July 19, and Sunday, July 20, from 2 - 4 PM and 6 - 8 PM each day.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 19. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

H. Jack Buzard Funeral Homes, Inc. Eau Claire
201 S. Washington St
PO Box 182
Eau Claire, PA 16030
(724) 791-2484

Visitation

JUL 19. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

H. Jack Buzard Funeral Homes, Inc. Eau Claire
201 S. Washington St
PO Box 182
Eau Claire, PA 16030
(724) 791-2484

Visitation

JUL 20. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

H. Jack Buzard Funeral Homes, Inc. Eau Claire
201 S. Washington St
PO Box 182
Eau Claire, PA 16030
(724) 791-2484

Visitation

JUL **20**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

H. Jack Buzard Funeral Homes, Inc. Eau Claire
201 S. Washington St
PO Box 182
Eau Claire, PA 16030
(724) 791-2484

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL **21**. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Louis Catholic Church
West Sunbury, PA

Tribute Wall

MM

“ My condolences to the McGowan family. I really enjoyed having Mr. McGowan as a 4th grade teacher at Washington Elementary School. He was very kind and inspirational. He also dated my grandmother and several years ago we all enjoyed travelling on a cruise to the Bahamas! Prayers to his friends and family.

Mike M - August 12, 2025 at 12:40 PM

SM

“ My deepest to the McGowan family. I had the pleasure to meet Ed when I worked in the office at Washington Elementary. (He was also my son's 4th grade teacher.) He was always kind and had such interesting stories. My condolences to the family.
Sally McGallis

Sally M - August 12, 2025 at 12:34 PM

LY

“ Our heartfelt sympathies to Ed, Eric, Mary, Eugene, Earl, and Betsy at the passing of your father. He was a terrific 4th grade teacher and gave many of us fond memories of Concord Elem School and school in general. His talking of driving around Concord Twp prior to the school year to see where each of his students lived made him a fabulous teacher. May his legacy of touching lives and mentoring students throughout his life give you comfort. Our deepest sympathies.
Lynne Niggel-Conroe

Lynne - July 20, 2025 at 12:47 PM

BH

“ *Becky Hensel purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Edward James McGowan Sr..*



Becky Hensel - July 18, 2025 at 07:10 PM

FH

“ *Fred, Becky, Alexia and Frederick Hensel purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Edward James McGowan Sr..*



Fred, Becky, Alexia and Frederick Hensel - July 18, 2025 at 06:52 PM

FH

“ *Fred, Becky, Alexia and Frederick Hensel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward James McGowan Sr..*

Fred, Becky, Alexia and Frederick Hensel - July 18, 2025 at 06:52 PM

VF

“ *Verna's family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Edward James McGowan Sr..*



Verna's family - July 18, 2025 at 02:16 PM

VF

“ Verna’s family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward James McGowan Sr..

Verna’s family - July 18, 2025 at 02:16 PM

JF

“ Jack’s family purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Edward James McGowan Sr..



Jack’s family - July 18, 2025 at 10:41 AM

LB

“ Mr. McGowan was a great guy. I took care of Mr. McGowan for a while and you could really tell how good of a person he was by the way he raised his children. I enjoyed taking care of him for the time that I did. His family is the most loving, sweet family. My condolences to his family and friends.



Leah Barclay - July 17, 2025 at 08:44 PM

HA

“ I was in Mr. McGowan's last class before he retired from teaching. I still remember him as such a kind man. My condolences to his family and friends.

Hope Ashbaugh - July 17, 2025 at 08:23 PM

LF

“ Love, The Dan Murphy family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Edward James McGowan Sr..



Love, The Dan Murphy family - July 17, 2025 at 08:00 PM

TF

“ The DeAugustino Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Edward James McGowan Sr..



The DeAugustino Family - July 17, 2025 at 05:16 PM

TF

“ The DeAugustino Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edward James McGowan Sr..

The DeAugustino Family - July 17, 2025 at 05:16 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Edward James McGowan Sr..



July 17, 2025 at 04:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edward James McGowan Sr..

July 17, 2025 at 04:38 PM



“ To the family of Edward McGowan. Very sorry for your loss. Ed was a really good man and will be missed. Our prayers are with you all. Barb, Don, Mark, Bev and Bob Cook

Crafts You'll Love - July 17, 2025 at 02:56 PM



“ Mr. McGowan I will truly miss you. When you was at Verna's and I was outside you would come down to say hello. I missed that and was always watching for you even after Verna passed. You was a wonderful man.
Bev McBride

Crafts You'll Love - July 17, 2025 at 02:52 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Edward James McGowan Sr..



July 17, 2025 at 12:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edward James McGowan Sr..

July 17, 2025 at 12:20 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward James McGowan Sr..



July 17, 2025 at 05:45 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edward James McGowan Sr..

July 17, 2025 at 05:45 AM



“ Robyn and Steve Zampella purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Edward James McGowan Sr..



Robyn and Steve Zampella - July 16, 2025 at 07:39 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the friends and family of Ed, such a wonderful man. Heath and I had the privilege of having him and Verna visit us in Hawaii in 2011. I will always treasure the memories we made. I loved watching him with Verna. They could talk for hours & held hands wherever they went. He was always such a gentleman with her. It was a beautiful love to witness. Praising God for the gift of Ed❤️

Chris Brain - July 16, 2025 at 06:50 PM