



Mr. John Walter McClain

March 4, 1927 - March 24, 2014

John Walter McClain, 87, of Princeville, IL passed away peacefully at 8 PM on Monday, March 24, 2014 at Heddington Oaks Nursing Home.

John was born on March 4, 1927 in Thomasville, GA to Daniel and Jesse (Caison) McClain. He married Loretta Louise Collins September of 1948 and to that union four children were born, Byron, Lamar, Yolanda and Jocelyn.

John was a Navy Veteran serving during World War II.

John was an Architect by profession. He laid the groundwork for the urban renewal for which the District of Columbia is currently experiencing.

Specifically he was responsible for the location of subway stops which ultimately led to a dramatic increase in urban revitalization.

John was an avid golfer. He sustained an injury while working at 19th Street Baptist Church in Washington, DC. This injury left him unable to swing a golf club with his right hand. He taught himself to golf left handed and excelled.

John always had a book in his hand. Other hobbies included Archery, Bridge, Bowling and Piloting a Plane.

Beyond his family, his true passion was the 19th Street Baptist Church where he served as a Trustee for 48 years. He used his architectural skills to renovate the church. His stunning design of three crosses placed behind the pulpit was one of his most cherished contributions to the church.

John leaves to cherish his precious memories his devoted and loving wife, Loretta McClain; his son, Lamar (& Kimberly) McClain of New Carrollton, MD; his daughters, Yolanda (& Glennwood) Branche of Washington, DC and

Jocelyn (& Dexter) McClain Hazlewood, MD of Princeville, IL; six grandchildren, Erin, Natalie, Lauren, Kyle, Cameo and Hudson; two sisters, Audrey Brown and Ophelia Shelton. He is preceded in death by his parents; one son, Byron LaNear McClain and one sister Urnestine.

A funeral service will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at Simons Mortuary with a visitation beginning at 10 AM. Rev. Eddie Jackson will officiate. John will be laid to rest at Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield, IL on Tuesday, April 1, 2014. In lieu of flowers, a donation in memory of John McClain may be given to the American Heart Association, 4234 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria, IL, 61614-7435 or at www.cancer.org/donate. Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be at simonsmortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Camp Butler National Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Simons Mortuary Chapel
912 W. John H. Gwynn, Jr. Ave.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-2638
info@simonsmortuary.com
<https://simonsmortuary.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 29. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Simons Mortuary Chapel
912 W. John H. Gwynn, Jr. Ave.
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-2638
info@simonsmortuary.com
<https://simonsmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. John Walter McClain*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. John Walter McClain*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Uncle Johnny, no matter when I saw you, you were always the same loving and caring uncle. You were also a wonderful and loving big brother to Mom and Aunt Audrey. You had that smile that would brighten up the room. I will always remember that. Thank you for caring about all of us. Even though we did not see you often, the love was always there and felt. We are all going to miss you so much. Rest now Uncle Johnny in God's loving arms. Praise God, no more suffering. You will always be with us. Love you always..... Your niece Deidra.*



Deidra S. Broughton - March 31, 2014 at 05:09 PM



“ *Jocelyn and family...so sorry for your loss...May peace surround you.*

Rose Talbott

Rose Talbott - March 31, 2014 at 04:59 PM



“ Our son, Jeremy, shared a special flight to Peoria with Lamar. God brought them together to comfort and encourage each other. Our deepest sympathy for your family.

Nita Edwards - March 28, 2014 at 01:09 PM



“ Uncle Johnnie, we didn't get to see you very often, but each occasion was memorable. Thank you for being a wonderful "big brother" to my mom & Aunt Fe. I'll miss your smile. God is keeping you in his care now. love you much
Carmen Williams and family
Philadelphia, Pa



carmen williams - March 26, 2014 at 04:40 PM



Uncle Johnnie, I failed to mention to mention your other sister Aunt Ernestine, I know you are having a good time up in "HEAVEN" with her, your beloved step father Kenneth Calhoun and your mother grand-mom Jessie. We miss you all.
Hugs & kisses
Carmen

carmen williams - March 28, 2014 at 08:57 AM