

Don McAfee

October 4, 1931 - March 22, 2017

Don McAfee of Sammamish, WA, peacefully passed away on March 22nd, 2017, in Rancho Mirage, CA, from multiple illnesses, most impactful were end stage dementia and Parkinson's disease. He took his last breath holding hands with Marcia, his wife of 21 years.

He was born October 4, 1931, in Hobart, IN, and lived there until going to Ball State University in Muncie, IN, where he starred in football and worked his way through school, earning his teaching certificate. He married Marianne McMillan and they were blessed with three children, Kim, Kevin and Cole. His first teaching job was in a one-room schoolhouse in Sierra City, CA, and throughout his early career taught elementary, junior high and high school students in several western states and an Indian reservation.

After earning a Master's and a Doctorate degree in Health Education, he taught as an associate professor at Central WA State College for 3 years. He moved on to become Director of Nutrition Education for the National Dairy Council in Chicago for 10 years and traveled the country, speaking on university campuses and conferences in 46 states on the importance of health and nutrition education. He testified before the Senate committee and was an influence in making a law mandating health and nutrition education in public schools. He returned to academia and taught at the U of NM in Albuquerque as an associate professor for 3 years.

Don was an "out of the box" thinker, teacher and constant researcher. Add in some Irish stubbornness and that leads to a rumor he may have been terminated from more than 50% of the jobs he held as he advanced through his career!

He moved back to Washington in 1985 to be closer to his family and held various jobs until he retired in 2000. He and Marcia married in 1996. In notes he left behind, he wrote that Marcia was his greatest joy in life.

Don was a humble but proud blue-eyed, dimpled Irishman, an avid hunter and accomplished fly fisherman. He fished every river and lake he ever wanted and enjoyed hunting big game and birds. A dog lover, he usually had his dog at his feet. A voracious reader, he had 2-3 books going at one time. At age 84, he spent the winter as a reading tutor for under-served Hispanic children, creating his own lesson plans. He had a big heart and wanted to help those less fortunate than he was. He hated injustice of any kind, anywhere in the world.

Over the years, he enjoyed snow skiing, tennis, writing, photography, sipping Irish whiskey, attending live theater and listening to classical music. Beautiful music often brought him to tears. He loved pattering in his shop with tools and frequently created special gifts for family and friends using his woodworking skills. He completed everything on his Bucket List, especially a trip to Ireland for fly fishing and touring.

A man of few words, when he spoke, people listened. He was famous for his wit, sense of humor and one-liners. When asked why he didn't talk much, he replied, "If I'm the one talking, then I'm not learning anything." He was a lifelong learner; history, science and religion were his favorite topics to study.

Don's immediate family are his brother Jim McAfee, wife Marcia McAfee, daughter Kim Boyden (Tom), son Kevin McAfee (Stephanie), son Cole McAfee (Julie), stepson Tyler Dion (Karen) and stepson Jeremy Dion. He will be missed dearly by those who called him "Grandpa Mac" or "Papa Don" - grandchildren Kyle, Carly, Jaianne, Garret, Mallory, Kayla, Joshua, Owen and Avery. He was a proud great-grandpa of Rooney and Cadence.

An Irish Wake will be held in his honor at Sahalee Country Club <http://www.sahalee.com/> in Sammamish, WA, Sunday May 21st at 1 PM. Friends are invited to help celebrate his well-lived life. Memorials can be sent to Hope Lutheran Church, Palm Desert, CA, <http://hopelutheran.church/give/>

Rotary Foundation of Sammamish <http://www.sammamishrotary.org/> or a charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Irish Wake

MAY **21**. 1:00 PM (PT)

Sahalee Country Club
21200 NE Sahalee Country Club Drive
Sammamish, WA 98074

Tribute Wall



“ *Reflecting on Memories created a Tribute Video in memory of Don McAfee*



Reflecting on Memories - April 26, 2017 at 12:31 PM

SM

We feel very sad at his death.we cherish his memories in our ❤️.It is a fact that we will;no more see him through eyes 👁️👁️ in this material world;but,it is true that we will see him in his good Deeds he left behind. I want to express my deepest condolences to the family 😞😭

Sonia Martinez - May 02, 2017 at 03:36 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Don McAfee.*



May 16, 2017 at 10:51 AM

CK

“ *Don always had a smile, and a willingness to help. I'll miss him.*

CJ Kahler - May 09, 2017 at 09:37 AM

BL

“ If you never knew Don until late in his life you might never have known some of the things he had accomplished in his life. Among other things that he did was to train people to become teachers. One could engage him in long conversations about how complex a job that is to do and he had some fascinating insights into what it takes. I always looked forward to being able to have future conversations about it so that he could set me straight. Now he will have to do it from afar.

Bernie Lucking - May 04, 2017 at 04:32 PM

SN

“ I am so glad that i have the privilege to meet and work with Mr. Don, i will always remembered my firts day working with You because he decided to have a long walk even do he couldn't walk far from the house.....

R.I.P. Mr Don.....

SUSANA NAVARRO.....

Susana Navarro - May 02, 2017 at 09:57 PM

MA

“ I first met Don at Marcia’s Dad’s funeral when he walked up to me in the foyer of their church, introduced himself and started a good conversation. Afterwards at home, we continued sharing and visiting.

A few years ago Marcia and Don ventured back to eastern North Dakota and that’s when I got to know him better. We had dinner on the back deck with Linda (my daughter) and Rick Westby. I was so happy that the four of them made friends so quickly! I, being the last surviving Austreng, asked the girls to please stay in touch. They’ve done that and thoroughly enjoy each others’ company, I think. Don and Rick found many topics to discuss as well – when they could get a word in edgewise!

While I’m not lucky enough to be Irish, I am also a Libra and I appreciated Don’s vast knowledge in so many areas; we shared the desire to keep learning. We also knew “we can’t learn while we’re talking.” We learn to “talk less, say more.”

We all have good memories of Don and so he really hasn’t left us; memories last forever. Rest in Peace, Don.

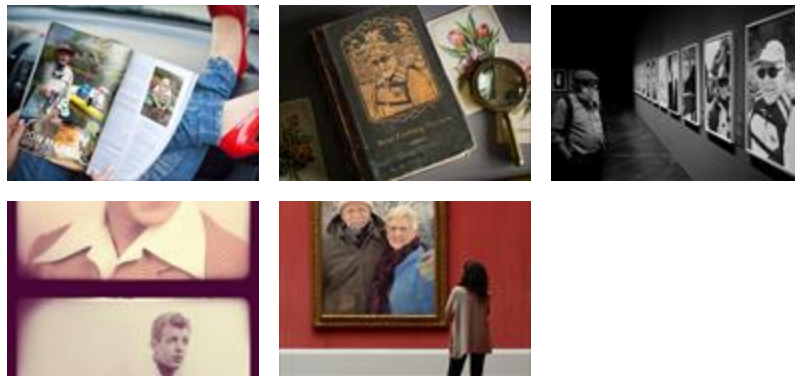
Godspeed and Love to his family.

Marge Newark, Marcia’s aunt

marcia.mcafee - April 27, 2017 at 06:45 PM



“ 15 files added to the album Memories Album



Reflecting on Memories - April 26, 2017 at 12:54 PM



“ 58 files added to the album Memories Album



Reflecting on Memories - April 25, 2017 at 01:22 AM