



A.C. McWilliams

May 24, 1933 - September 5, 2014

Arthur C. "A.C." McWilliams, age 81, of Sunrise Beach, passed away peacefully Friday, September 5, 2014, at his home, surrounded by his wife and son. He was born May 24, 1933, in Chicago, Illinois, a son of the late Arthur C. and Clarice (Rigsbee) McWilliams.

A.C. graduated from Maryville College in Tennessee receiving a Bachelor of Education. He also received a Bachelor of Divinity from Columbia Bible College, and his Master's Degree in Education Administration from Western Carolina University.

On August 20, 1955, in Palatine, Ill he was united in marriage to his surviving wife, Lorraine (Gienko) McWilliams. It was love at first sight for A.C. After Lorry was first introduced in high school, he raised his hand and told the teacher "I'd like to meet her again!". After marriage they became faculty members at Ben Lippen School in Asheville, NC. They later moved to Dallas, Tx where they lived until retiring in Sunrise Beach, where they found "their little slice of paradise". Some of his favorite memories, were sitting with the love of his life, enjoying a delicious steak on "date night", and listening to Lorry tell him stories ("your mom is the best storyteller, kids! I could just listen to her for hours!"). They were happily married for 59 years, together for 65, and they both felt blessed by the time they shared.

A.C. was a quiet, reserved man, proud to have been raised as both the family farm in Indiana, and as a city boy in Chicago, Ill. His quiet manner did not fool his children though, they always knew their dad as a fierce competitor, constantly winning at cards, basketball, ping pong, even croquet games! The kids were often heard jokingly saying "Don't try to win!! Just try to stop DAD!!!". Even though he was fierce on a playing field, he was always there for his kids, with a helping hand (and usually a roll of duct tape), and an open wallet (even though he didn't always have much). He never asked for compensation, but would graciously accept anything covered in butter!

A.C. was incredibly proud and loved his 4 grandchildren. He spent many hours watching sporting events, building games, listening to their stories and just being granddad to them. His love for them was obvious, and will be missed.

A.C. was a committed and faithful Christian, constant in his pursuit to share the story of his savior. Over a 20 year period, A.C. traveled to all 48 contiguous states, walking the streets of each major city, spreading the good word, often times wearing his famous "Good News Man" cap. He could be seen in some of the most dangerous neighborhoods of America, reaching out to troubled youth, by playing (and most times winning) a game of one-on-one basketball. Always promising to continue praying for the people he met, his prayer list was long, and brought him joy, as he continued to pray for each even after retirement from his "walking" days.

In addition to his wife, Lorraine, he is survived by his son, Stephen McWilliams of Dallas, Texas; his daughters, Elizabeth Spraggins of Camdenton, Missouri and Rachel Warner and husband David of Dallas, Texas; four grandchildren, Laura Spraggins, Natalie Spraggins, Kendall Spraggins of Camdenton, Missouri and Logan Rayburn, of Dallas, Texas; brothers, Robert McWilliams of Tallahassee, Florida and Randall McWilliams of Dallas, Texas; sister, Marilyn

Miller of Sunrise Beach, Missouri and many other relatives and friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, David McWilliams.

Per A.C.'s request there are no memorial services planned.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel.

Tribute Wall



“ *Jeanne-Marie Weeber Jones lit a candle in memory of A.C. McWilliams*



Jeanne-Marie Weeber Jones - January 30, 2015 at 08:50 PM



What does one say about Ace. He was a part of my life from birth. David & I were the best of friends. We enjoyed seeing our Dads walk around with clipboards and coaching on the basketball court or on the baseball field. After the McWilliams left Ben Lippen, David and I kept in touch and a time or 2 Ace caught us in some mischief. I remember Dad and Ace's offices had a mirrored medicine cabinet that opened into each other's office, we had tons of fun with that. As I got older, Ace became my rock when I decided to go into sales, of course, he had been in sales as well and encouraged me faithfully. If I had a bad day, I knew he would be there on the email, giving me the words to carry on. The McWilliams and the Weebers are a big family. We have always been and to see and talk to Ace close to his celebration of going to see his Father, that is what he talked about it as. He was so ready to go home, I have never experienced someone who was so ready to meet Jesus. He was a warrior and such a gentleman. He will always be missed by us, but we know he is where he needs and wants to be. We will see him again and won't that be wonderful. I love you and miss you Ace. Hugs & Prayers Jeanne

Jeanne-Marie Weeber Jones - January 30, 2015 at 09:03 PM



“ I had always held Ace in high respect as a man of principle and conviction. I grew very fond of him when Rachel and I married and I spent more time with him. I envied his ability to be satisfied with his life without an ounce of complacency. I enjoyed our yearly Easter morning basketball battles (I currently stand winless. Although this looks like my year). But, I came to love Ace one late night, or early morning, when I came across him cradling my infant son, walking him in circles and telling him about his family. When I see my now 14 year old son (who looks down on me) walk into a room, I still hear AC saying "I'm gonna kiss your face". I am grateful for the time we spent playing games and sharing an empty table when Mom and Rachel stormed off, angry with one of us for taking the other's side. If I can do anything for any of you, just call. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Joe Mac Rayburn - September 20, 2014 at 02:40 PM

PH

“ Beautiful tribute in words about Ace. He truly was a man who lived his beliefs. I know he will be so missed by all of you. And yes, he was a wonderful grandfather to "the girls" and our Logan. Ralph and I love each year "our entire family dinner" (as Logan calls it) celebrating Logan's birthday and so enjoyed seeing Ace and Lorry there. Missed visiting with them once they couldn't travel to Dallas anymore. His caring for others and love for his family will live on through each of you. Sending warm thoughts and love... Patty and Ralph

Patty and Ralph Horan - September 17, 2014 at 09:34 AM



“ 8 files added to the album *Various Pics of Dad and Family*



Rachel Warner - September 16, 2014 at 08:52 PM

GG

“ *My condolences to the McWilliams family for the loss of Mr. McWilliams.*

Gaye Goodwin - September 16, 2014 at 05:21 PM

JW

“ Dear Lorry, Stephen, Elizabeth, Rachel, Coach Ace's brothers & sister and all the Scraggins and Warners,

May the Saviour whom Coach Ace loved so much, and served so carefully and faithfully, grant to each of you the comfort you need each new moment that you miss His unique ambassador Ace, now that our dear Coach has completed the race that God set out for him on this planet, by whichever of the multitude of mysterious ways God's Spirit brings comfort, as you comfort each other remembering Coach's unique love for God, his love for each of you, the love that you share and that is shared by so many hundreds of people that Coach's zealous joy touched, like myself.

I don't have a digital foto to attach to this Tribute Wall. But what I do have are a bunch of indelible memories of a smile even bigger than the one you can now see above the 'white heart Share a Memory' up to the left. The best times for me were when the faculty kids at Ben Lippen took over the gym during school vacations to play hoops with burgled, LEATHER(!) varsity balls and Coach stopped in to show us how it was done. I can still see the black high-top Chuck Taylors streaking by my nose as the ACE took the fast-break pass in mid-air and deftly tickled the net. That was when that great grin was greatest and the twinkle brightest and the 'YEAH!' and hand-slap loudest. Because, it must be said, Coach Ace loved a fast-break bucket, especially if a head-fake or stutter-step or shoulder-drop left one of us slower ones behind.

I love you, Coach Ace. I shall hope to honor your memory by serving our Saviour in the race and the struggles He has laid out for me. Rest in the peace of God's love and thrive in the glory of the Son, until our Hope brings us to meet again there.

*John Weeber
Ben Lippen faculty brat
Class of 1972*

John Weeber - September 15, 2014 at 05:09 PM



Thank you so much for posting this. It was incredibly sweet - it made me cry. And smile. Rachel

Rachel Warner - September 16, 2014 at 08:55 PM

BP

“ *My condolences to the McWilliams family. I remember playing Mr. McWilliams in a game of one on one at his house years ago. He was a very nice man and could sure play ball.*

Brian Paul - September 15, 2014 at 04:11 PM

RW

“ *Richard White lit a candle in memory of A.C. McWilliams*



Richard White - September 15, 2014 at 01:48 PM

KA

“ *My Sincere Condolences to the McWilliams family. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.*

*Respectively submitted,
Kimberly Anderson-Felga*

Kimberly Anderson-Felga - September 15, 2014 at 12:21 PM

SC

“ Our dear Lorry,
We want to extend our most sincere sympathy toward you and your family. You are in our prayers.
Bob O'Neal told us of Ace's passing.
We recall the wonderful times we had with you, when you were in our mini church at Fellowship! Those were good times!
My God bless you and strengthen you in the days ahead!
Love in our precious Jesus,
Sharon and Mike Cornwall

Sharon and Mike Cornwall - September 14, 2014 at 03:48 PM