



Jerry McClain

February 23, 1932 - December 13, 2016

Jerry Alfred McClain, age 84, of Springfield, passed away Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at his home. Funeral services will be held Friday, December 16, 2016 at 11am in the chapel of the Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield with Brother Jim Woodard and Dr. Robert Tyson officiating. Burial will follow in the Hopewell Cemetery with Jack McClain, Corey Pauze', James Haley, Edward Hunter, Lee Pendleton and John Hurt serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers are The Adult Men's Sunday School Class of Hopewell Baptist Church. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Thursday, December 15, 2016 from 2-8pm and again on Friday from 9am until the hour of service at 11am.

Mr. McClain was born February 23, 1932 in Ft. Smith, AR to the late Hubert E. and Ila Hall McClain. When he was 14 years old he and his mother were baptized into Christ by his mother's brother, Ertle Hall, who was minister of the First Christian Church in Stilwell, OK. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1951 until 1955 where he was stationed in Sasabo, Japan during the Korean Conflict and worked in Naval Intelligence. He received degrees from Ventura College, San Jose State University and the University of Southern California.

Mr. McClain was a man who knew how to love well. He was a friend to all and greeted everyone with a warm handshake or hug along with his big, beautiful "Jerry McClain" smile. Everyone loved his smile! He served his Lord by

serving others, helping folks in their time of need, or witnessing to people in hopes of winning them to Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior. Jerry loved his family and friends. He was active in many Disaster Relief efforts – including serving in New York following 9/11. His lifelong dream was to live in a log home in the country and it was there that he and his wife enjoyed their “family” of dogs, cats, deer, turkey and any living creature that needed a home.

Mr. McClain did volunteer work with the Robertson County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity where he served as President for many years. He served as the Baptist Men’s Director for the Robertson County Baptist Association for 16 years, he was a volunteer with the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Program and the Robertson County Baptist Association Disaster Relief Program. He was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church for the past 22 years where he taught the Adult Men’s Sunday School Class for more than 18 of those years.

Prior to beginning his career with the state of TN Jerry served as a Child Welfare Counselor in Ventura County, CA, he was a Probation Officer in Los Angeles, CA, a Parole Officer in Santa Monica, CA and Regional Director for AARP and the National Retired Teachers Association in Atlanta, GA. He also served as Director of Senior Citizens Services in Memphis, TN. Mr. McClain’s work with the State of TN included; from 1963-1967, he was appointed to serve as the first Executive Director of the Commission on Aging by Governor Frank Clement; from 1968-1969, he served as Field Representative for the Governor’s Committee on Employment for the Handicapped; from 1970-1979 he served with the Department of Corrections as District Director of Probation and Parole and Educational Consultant/Director of Volunteer Services; from 1980-1990, he served with the Board of Parole as regional Director of Parole, State Director of Parole and Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Board of Parole.

After retirement from the State of TN Jerry worked in a part-time capacity at the Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield where he enjoyed greeting and comforting people in their time of need.

In addition to his parents Mr. McClain is preceded in death by his brother, Jack McClain. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Janet Hunter McClain; daughter, Robin (James) Haley; son, Jack Richard McClain; granddaughter, Kayla Pauze' and grandson, Corey Pauze'; and great-granddaughter, Ila Grace. Mr. McClain is also survived by the mother of his children, Betty McClain of Cottontown and his large extended family.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to Gideon's International or to the Robertson County Baptist Association Disaster Relief Fund. Any donations may be sent in c/o Austin & Bell.

Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of these arrangements.

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME-
509 WALNUT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, TN (615) 384-1000

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Cemetery

Springfield, TN

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 15. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield
509 Walnut St.
Springfield, TN 37172
(615) 384-1000
<https://austinandbell.com>

Visitation

DEC 16. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield
509 Walnut St.
Springfield, TN 37172
(615) 384-1000
<https://austinandbell.com>

Funeral Service

DEC 16 (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield
509 Walnut St.
Springfield, TN 37172
(615) 384-1000
<https://austinandbell.com>

Tribute Wall

RO

“ *This poem is a tribute to Janet McClain, my father's wife, his caretaker until the end, and my new found friend.... My father, Jerry McClain gave her to me, as a gift from God above, who would know a step-mother is someone you can really love. I shall call her friend, although my veins are not of her blood, she surpassed all the rest. She was soft and kind, and loving to my father until his journey here came to an end. There have been quite a few heartaches for both my friend and me, we were put together for a reason even when we couldn't see. We have both lost someone dear to us, and with God's sweet guiding kiss, He put together a family, so we could love the one that together we will miss. But God had a plan for me and you, and made you my father's wife. I think about my father's love that I will surely miss, and I feel the tears you feel when it was your brow I kissed. I cannot say enough for all the times you cared, thank you for the tender moments that together we know we can share. My father he will always be. I love you Mrs. Janet, Robin Haley*

Robin - December 19, 2016 at 09:00 AM

EW

“ Janet,

We are thankful to have been able to share and witness a part of Jerry's journey on this earth. What a wonderfully genuine and generous man, and friend, he was. God blessed the both of you with a mate who was equally yoked. We will miss his great hugs and his beautiful smiling eyes. He always made every person that he encountered feel important and loved. What a beautiful gift he left with all of us. Please know that we will keep you and the entire family in our prayers in the coming months. We mourn with you for his earthly absence, but rejoice at his homecoming. We know that God is pleased with his good and faithful servant.

*Love and Prayers,
Jim (Jimmy) & Eileen*

Eileen Williams - December 18, 2016 at 06:32 PM

RO

“ *May you rest in peace Dad. I'm so thankful that you got to meet your first great granddaughter, Ila Grace Gish, Nana's namesake. Your granddaughter Kayla and Tim promise to raise her with a firm foundation of those good Christian morals and values just the way you raised Jack and I. We love and miss you Daddy. God Bless You. Love, your one and only daughter, Robin*



Robin - December 16, 2016 at 05:52 AM

HV

“ While we were in Oxnard, Ca high school and at Ventura JC, Ventura Ca, and At VJC we always study together and all that time Jerry was an outstanding study mate and he never had any negative comment on any one. we talked about our plan for the future. He was true and a great friend and always had a big smile and was very pleasant.

GOD BLESS
HOMER VALLE

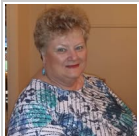
Homer Valle - December 15, 2016 at 10:48 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Jerry McClain.



December 15, 2016 at 07:38 PM



“ I will always remember the conversations I had with Bro. Jerry .an Bro. Joe Hinkle @I Charleys on Friday's after they had been out soul winning. They would always come in and were rejoicing on how many souls were saved that day. They Believed in sharing The Love of Jesus with everyone they came in contact with. He Will surely be missed. Rosemary Graves

Rosemary Graves - December 15, 2016 at 06:23 PM

RO

“ *Me and my number 1 Dad*



Robin - December 15, 2016 at 01:06 PM

RO

“ *So many precious memories I have as a child. I have been so very blessed to have the best Father a daughter could ever ask for. He has instilled Christian morals and values in both myself and my brother Jack as we grew up in this journey we call life. His deep Christian values, witnessing, and testimony I will forever continue on in the loving memory of my oh so precious Father. I love you Daddy. Your daughter, Robin*



Robin - December 15, 2016 at 12:54 PM

LH

“ *Linda Huff lit a candle in memory of Jerry McClain*



Linda Huff - December 15, 2016 at 12:53 PM

BB

“ Jerry was a Godly man that lived his life in service to others. He will be missed by all who knew him.



Bob Bell - December 15, 2016 at 12:32 PM

JL

“ Richard and I were so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. Jerry hired me to work at the parole central office in 1984 and I always appreciated what a kind Christian man he was with everyone he met. We also saw him when he worked at the funeral home and he was a comfort to everyone. Our prayers are with Janet and all their family. Jane Land

Jane Land - December 15, 2016 at 11:50 AM

Kayla
Pauze

“ A few memories I'd like to share❤️
First picture is Ila first Easter! (Ila is 3 months) Daddy (Tim Gish) is holder her.
Second is my 24th birthday dinner with Cory Pauze, Ila and myself.
Robin Haley was taking the picture. Lastly is Grandad holding sweet Ila.



Kayla Pauze - December 15, 2016 at 10:44 AM

JR

“ *Judy Pigg Roberts lit a candle in memory of Jerry McClain*



Judy Pigg Roberts - December 15, 2016 at 10:17 AM

JR

Janet So sorry for your loss. I know what his life was like from what you have said about him. Remember my mama loved you and so do I. You are a great example for me. So glad you got to have a great life with him.

Judy Pigg Roberts - December 15, 2016 at 10:19 AM

BZ

“ *BJ & Ed Zeagler lit a candle in memory of Jerry McClain*



BJ & Ed Zeagler - December 15, 2016 at 09:06 AM

BZ

Janet, Truly sorry for your loss. The pictures are so happy they make one smile during this time of such heartbreak. God bless you.

BJ Zeagler - December 15, 2016 at 09:20 AM

SM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Love
Shari Messer*

Shari L Messer - December 15, 2016 at 08:19 AM

TM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!* ”

Trish Moon - December 15, 2016 at 08:19 AM

ST

“ *Sarah Turner lit a candle in memory of Jerry McClain* ”



Sarah Turner - December 15, 2016 at 08:17 AM

JM

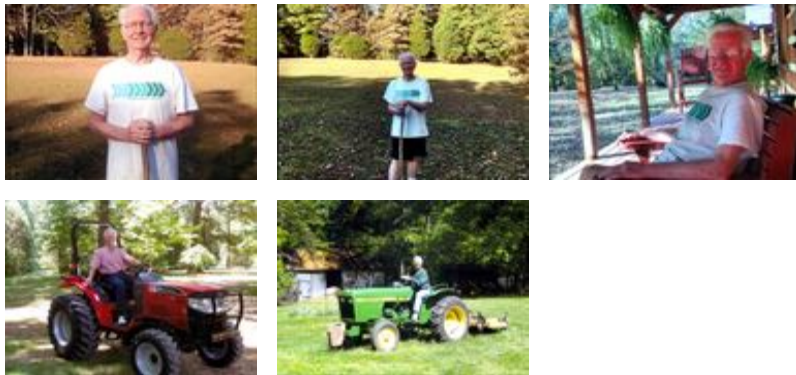
“ *Janice Mace lit a candle in memory of Jerry McClain* ”



janice mace - December 15, 2016 at 06:56 AM



“ *130 files added to the album LifeTributes* ”



Austin & Bell Funeral Home - December 14, 2016 at 11:35 PM

RO

What a handsome man my Dad was. Oh Dad, love you so!

Robin - December 14, 2016 at 11:48 PM

LA

Janet, So very sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts. Love to you and your family.

Leah Ailey - December 15, 2016 at 01:01 PM

RO

“ *Robin sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry McClain*



Robin - December 14, 2016 at 11:13 PM

JA

“ *James sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry McClain*



James - December 14, 2016 at 11:11 PM

JA

“ *James lit a candle in memory of Jerry McClain*



James - December 14, 2016 at 11:07 PM

RH

“ *Robin Haley lit a candle in memory of Jerry McClain*



Robin Haley - December 14, 2016 at 11:03 PM

RO

“ *Robin lit a candle in memory of Jerry McClain*



Robin - December 14, 2016 at 10:59 PM