



Earl McFarland

April 16, 1914 - October 17, 2015

Merritt Island

Earl Alexander McFarland, born April 6, 1914 in Neffs, Ohio, "shuffled off his mortal coil," as he would've put it, in Shakespearian fashion, on October 17, 2015, encircled by his children, Ron (Moscow, Idaho), Tom (Merritt Island), Susan Bridwell (Fernandina Beach), and Dan (Plant City). Next to Mom, Maxine Stullenburger McFarland (1923-2011), Dad enjoyed all his family including a dozen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He loved being a centenarian.

Dad and Mom grew up in the small coal-mining town of Neffs, met in the church, and were happily married nearly 70 years. They moved to Florida in 1950 and to Cocoa in 1952, relocating to Inverness in 1994.

A lifelong student of history and literature, Dad loved to boast that while he completed only two years at Ohio University, owing to the Depression, his four children earned graduate degrees and became educators.

After the Army drafted him early in 1942, Dad went through Officer Candidate School and served first in Washington, DC, and then, after transferring to the Army Air Corps, at Love Field (Texas) and in the Overseas Technical Unit (Hollywood, California). He was a captain at war's end.

In Hollywood they discovered crazy rum, or "The McFarland Family Card Game." Dad initiated all his children, their spouses, and grandchildren into the game as a sort of familial rite of confirmation. When we delayed taking our tum, Dad would say, with his familiar humor, "Play, fiddle." When anyone said, "If I'd only bought that ace. . . ," Dad would respond, "Oh, if dog, rabbit." We were never quite sure what that meant.

We think Dad would've been a wonderful teacher, but he chose the life of a salesman. He liked people and he enjoyed selling, whether appliances for Brevard Gas in Eau Gallie or fences and lawn equipment for Sears in Cocoa.

At age 70 he and Mom bought a one-room, redbrick schoolhouse in rural Belmont County, Ohio, built in 1884 and used to store hay since the 1930s. They installed massive floor joists, built a sleeping loft, and added a bathroom and kitchen. They did it mostly themselves plastering, plumbing, electrical work. This beloved retirement project and summer home enabled them to renew connections with family and old friends in the Buckeye State.

Mom and Dad shared a great capacity for fun, for the sheer pleasure of life. If there's a heaven, that's where they are, dancing to the Big Band music of Fred Waring and Glenn Miller.

Funeral services will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Merritt Island at 10:00AM on October 26th.

In lieu of flowers, Dad requested any donations be sent to the Honor Flight organization, the Alzheimer's Foundation, or a charity of choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Earl McFarland*

January 30, 2023 at 03:36 AM



“ *Sending our thought and prayers from the Health Center of Merritt Island*

Unknown - December 03, 2015 at 12:02 PM



“ *Thank you for your service to our country! You will not be forgotten. May your family find comfort in God's love and peace.*

Betty Paschall - December 03, 2015 at 12:02 PM



“ *Earl was such a good friend to Jim, and to me also. When I think of him, always a smile is there too. Jim went ahead and was there to welcome Earl to Heaven. I know that. He shared so much with us. Mozelle McKenzie*

Mozelle McKenzie - December 03, 2015 at 12:02 PM

CG

“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time*

May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,

May your memories of Earl Alexander McFarland, give you peace, comfort and strength

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your work on earth is complete. I thank you for your service and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of.....

US Army Air Corps Veteran, CAPT. Earl Alexander McFarland, A True American Hero God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl J Skinner, Patriot Guard - December 03, 2015 at 12:01 PM

CM

“ *Sorry that Joyce and I will not be able to attend the service for Earl, but we will be thinking about your family.*

Love,

Clement and Joyce McFarland

Clement and Joyce McFarland - December 03, 2015 at 12:01 PM

MI

“ So sorry to hear of the death of your loved one Mr. Earl. May the God of all comfort (Psalm 83:18) give you peace and strength as you go through this difficult time.

Michelle - December 03, 2015 at 12:00 PM

UN

“ He is a blessing and an inspiration to every life he touched.

Unknown - December 03, 2015 at 12:00 PM

NO

“ Holding you near with wishes for tranquility of heart. How blessed your Dad was to have you as son, two major losses in one year, God holds you close too...Noreen

Noreen - December 03, 2015 at 11:59 AM