



## Gene McElroy

September 27, 1928 - October 6, 2011

Dateline: Alton

Ralph Gene McElroy, 83, died at 6:25 a.m. Thursday, October 6, 2011 at Alton Memorial Hospital. Born September 27, 1928 in Tamaroa, IL, and later moved with his parents at the age of eight months to Alton. Gene attended Alton schools and graduated with honors from Alton High School with the class of 1946. After graduation he enlisted with the U.S. Army Air Corps and served a tour of duty in the 8th Air Force in the era of the B-36 and the Berlin Airlift. Gene returned to Alton and attended and graduated from Shurtleff College majoring in languages and business administration. While there Gene was elected as Student Body President and also was included in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. After graduating he accepted a position with the Alton Box Board and retired in 1986 as Director of Industrial Relations of Jefferson Smurfit Company. He was active in United Way, Red Cross, and Junior Achievement. Gene also served 18 years in the Active Army Reserve component of Army Combat Engineers. Gene's parents, Ralph McElroy and Della (Marshall) Jackson McElroy preceded him in death. His father Ralph Sidney McElroy died in 1945 and his mother Della Elnora McElroy died in 1995. Gene survived the loss of two wives, Evelyn (Antolik) McElroy in 1969 and Ruth (Morris) Farish McElroy in 2007. Gene is survived by a brother, Donald Marshall McElroy of Wood River, IL. Gene was the proud father of three children, Robert Timothy, Susan Kay, and James Paul. His six grandchildren: Betsy Ann McElroy Bartig, Travis Ryan McElroy, Reid Marshall

Linksvayer, Greer Victoria Linksvayer, Erin Nicole McElroy, Nicholas James McElroy. Also surviving are four great grandsons, Micah Benjamin Bartig, Jonah Andrew Bartig, Johnathan Ryan McElroy, and James Ryan McElroy. Ralph Gene is a life member of Calvary Baptist Church and active as a Deacon Emeritus, Trustee, active on the Advisory Finance Committee, and fifty-two year Sunday school teacher, as well as, a long-term member of the Counting Committee. Gene is a Life Member of Franklin Lodge #25 AF & AM. He loved skeet, clay bird shooting, hunting, and reloading ammunition. Gene loved European traveling and travels to Hawaii, as well as, attending musical theater and various concert venues. Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. until time of funeral service at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 8, 2011 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Burial will be at Rose Lawn Memory Gardens in Bethalto with full military honors by the VFW Post 1308. Reverend Dr. Rick Patrick will officiate. Memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, Wounded War Veteran Research, or 5A Animal Aid Association.

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Gene McElroy*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Gene McElroy*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to your families on the loss of "Mac" We got to know your dad when I was the Controller at the Box Board Mill, beginning in 1970. We became good friends at work, and that carried over into our personal lives. We formed a group that went to every dance, party, or local event together. He and Ruth had us to their home for parties, and they came to ours. Our togetherness ended when we were transferred to Jacksonville, Florida in 1986. The last time I saw your dad was at my fathers funeral in Alton in 2007. Mac was always great fun to be with, as he had a great sense of humor, and enjoyed people. Once at Marquette Park, we went to a dance with the group and we all stayed in the rustic cabins near the lodge. When we opened the door to the bath, Mac was standing there shaving! We were unaware until then that the cabins were duplexes, sharing the bath. The other couples envied us, as we had the best time and could be heard laughing the night away with Mac and Ruth. We have many fond memories of Mac, and feel ours lives in Alton were a little bit brighter from knowing him. God's blessings on you all. Steve and Charlotte*

**Steve & Charlotte Gibbins** - December 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Dear Susan, Tim and Jim.

*I am sorry for your loss. I pray that God will bless you all with the sweetest memories of him. I've never forgotten the way he carried himself – spine straight, shoulders back, head held high and a face full of confidence – even if he was only mowing the yard.*

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**Michelle Grant** - October 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ My sincere prayers for you and your family. I served as Supply Sgt. in the Reserves in Wood River. I have thought of Sgt. McElroy many times over the years and admired and respected him. I am truly sorry to hear of his passing. He was a great leader.

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**Sgt. Ed Pelot** - October 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Susan, I was saddened to learn of your father's passing. From reading his obituary, he must have been a truly remarkable man.

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**Joyce Marr** - October 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ susan, tim, jim, my condolences on your dad's passing

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**Ieland grant** - October 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ My deepest sympathy is with all your family. May God shower all of you with his richest blessings.

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**Reka Holder** - October 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Susan, I am sorry for your loss. I knew my cousin Gene through mom talking about him and his brother Don. I know my mother (Midge McElroy) thought very highly of her nephews.

*Your cousin Sue*

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**Sue McKinstry** - October 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ I am so sorry for the loss of your dad. I too know that pain. May you find comfort in Isaiah 25:8 as I have.

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**A. Jackson** - October 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM