



## Ralph Franklin McClain

January 29, 1923 - September 11, 2015

Ralph Franklin McClain, 92, took his final breath on September 11, 2015, and went to be with the Lord. What a glorious day for him!

Ralph was born on January 29, 1923, in Mayfield, Ky., to Roberta and Noble McClain. Ralph married Mary Lou Davis on February 7, 1943; and they had been happily married for 72 years. She survives.

Ralph graduated from Mayfield High School where starting in the 8th grade, he played on the varsity football team. Ralph, a Marine, stationed in the Philippines, proudly served his country during World War II. Years later, he took the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. He said it was one of the best days of his life. He then graduated from Murray State University where he was a varsity fullback/punter all four years. On January 1, 1949, Ralph played in the Tangerine Bowl (now the Citrus Bowl) for the Murray State Racers against Sul Ross State. The game ended in a tie, 21-21. On the Sul Ross State's team was "Hoss" Dan Blocker from Bonanza.

Ralph taught at Roosevelt Jr. High, West Jr. High, and then Alton High School. Ralph was a teacher and an assistant basketball coach during the spring of 1955 when the Alton Redbirds went to the state tournament. He was also the head football coach during two of the seasons Alton beat East St. Louis back-to-back. Ralph became an assistant principal at Alton High School. Upon his retirement in 1988, he said what he would miss most were “the kids.” He loved working with students and players.

Ralph was a devoted Christian, a faithful husband, a great dad, a loving grand “PaPa,” and an adoring great-grand “PaPa.” Ralph was a humble man who never thought he was better than anyone else. He was a man of few words who mainly led by example. His family never even heard him say one bad thing about anybody. And though his family would try to get him to (only to make them feel better about themselves) he never ever did. Many of his former students and players have told the family how Ralph influenced their lives. His family is humbly grateful he has touched so many.

Besides his wife Mary Lou, Ralph leaves his children: Pam (Jim) Youngblood, Tanya (Greg) Collins, Bart (Louetta) McClain, and daughter-in-law Sally McClain. He is survived by nine grandchildren: Mary Ann (Mike) Vahl, Chris (Kelly) Youngblood, Sarah (Rich) Sitz, Hunter McClain, McClain Thompson, Samuel (Liza) Thompson, Hadley Thompson, Morgan (Cameron) Chappell, and Anna McClain. Ralph also leaves 10 great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild to be born in October. They are Marnie, Carson, and Lucy Vahl; Will and Joey Youngblood; Andrew, Emma, and Nora Sitz; and Jackson and Ellason Chappell. He is also survived by his brother Carson McClain.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents Roberta and Noble McClain and two sons, Ralph Franklin McClain II and Jed Franklin McClain. He was also preceded in death by one brother Joe McClain and a grandson Andrew Thompson.

Per Ralph's wishes, the funeral will be private. Reverend André Dobson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, where Ralph was a member and for many years a deacon, will officiate.

Memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, Gideons International, or Land of Lincoln Honor Flight.

The McClain family wishes to thank Calvary Baptist Church, Dr. Barry Mossman, the staff at Eunice Smith Nursing Home, and Hospice.

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Ralph Franklin McClain*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Ralph Franklin McClain*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *I am very sorry four lose, all of you are in my prayers. He was an a beautiful person of God. I was one of his students and players. The team loved him as a coach and person. God bless all of the family, he is with his head coach now.*

**Harold Wittman** - September 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ralph had a big impact on my life, and it was because of something he one time said to me while I was back here on leave that I made the Marine Corps a career. Until we met again at final formation, may you have calm seas and following trade winds, Semper Fi*

**William Perkins** - September 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Ralph (Coach, Mr. McClain) was one of the best educators A.H.S. ever had the privilege of having as a staff member. A tribute to him was given several years ago by the mother of a troubled youth most likely headed for the gang style of life & probably prison. "I dont know the mans name, but he sure turned my sons life around". That man was Ralph McClain. I was fortunate to have him as a teacher, mentor, fellow church member, & most of all, friend. So many of us who knew Ralph & Mary Lou, his wife & the rest of his family from our church shared time with a very special "one of a kind" person. Plagued by various maladies in his latter years, we are comforted by the fact that he is with the Lord, who he had loved, & dedicated his life to. Much has been omitted, & left unsaid about you Ralph there are no words to express our sadness. May god comfort your loved ones, & thank him for allowing you to be part of our lives.*

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**Richard Morgan** - September 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Mary Lou and family, we are so sorry to read about Ralphs passing. I know he is with Jesus and his sons!*

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**Don and Mary Burger** - September 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *I have wonderful memories of Ralph McClain Both on and off the field. I was in the class of 63 and I have never forgotten his influences. God bless you coach.*

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**Marshalloyer** - September 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ *Condolences and prayers to the family of Ralph McClain.*

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**Walter and Margery Sitz** - September 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ *Mr. McClain was my PE teacher at Alton High in the 60s. In the 70s I was assigned to ASH as the Police liaison officer.*

*I became friends with Ralph and cherish fond memories. Allen*

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**Allen Tuetken** - September 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *What a super guy. I remember him well from Alton High and Calvary Baptist Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time. Ralph McClain was one of a kind.*

*Jerry & Catherine Fagan  
Franklin, OH*

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**Jerry Fagan** - September 12, 2015 at 12:00 AM