



Don Ray McMahan

January 18, 1932 - May 28, 2019

Don Ray McMahan, 87, of Magnolia, Arkansas, passed away Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

He was born January 18, 1932, in Columbia County to his parents, Rondo and Olive Catching McMahan. His childhood was simple and fun-loving. He loved fishing and swimming with friends in Horsehead Creek when he wasn't doing chores, going to school or working on the family farm. He attended Walkerville and Emerson schools and was an excellent basketball player. Upon graduation from high school in 1950, he was awarded a basketball scholarship to Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1954 and later completed a master's degree in school administration. Following graduation in 1954, he served two years in the U.S. Army. After completing his military service, he returned home to Arkansas where he began a career in education becoming a men's and women's basketball coach and teacher at Dierks and then later at Emerson schools. In 1967, he joined the faculty at Magnolia High School and subsequently became a part of the administrative staff, retiring as District Superintendent in 1996.

McMahan had numerous personal and professional accomplishments. He was an active lifelong member of Hephzibah Baptist Church and served as Sunday School teacher, church clerk and deacon. He was a member of Rotary Club and a Paul Harris fellow. He was a member of numerous professional education organizations and served as president of the local unit of retired teachers. He was named Columbia County Citizen of the Year in 1994. He gave his time and talents to many worthy causes, organizations and individuals. Aside from his work in education, he enjoyed spending time with his family and working on his cattle and timber farm into his 80s.

Most of all he was a simple and genuine man who was kind, friendly, generous and always had a heart for helping others. He had an extremely strong work ethic which he acquired as a child working on the family farm. He was always willing to learn and share life lessons and experiences. He always respected the opinions of others and sought to resolve conflicts and differences in a peaceable manner. He touched the lives of students,

co-workers, and friends as well as family and made wonderful memories. As Alzheimer's disease took its toll, he was robbed of those memories and no longer knew his family and friends, but family and friends will never forget his wisdom, example and influence and will treasure memories of him.

McMahan was predeceased by his parents and a sister, Lahoma Matthews. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Mary; two sons Max (Michelle) of Shreveport, LA, and Monty of Arlington, TX; daughter Staci Zeagler (Jeff) of Shreveport, LA; and five grandchildren: Coulter, Mary Elizabeth, and Morgan McMahan, and Olivia and Reed Zeagler. He is also survived by sister Ila Faye Aldridge of Pahrump, NV, and his sister-in-law Margie Kostopulos of Hot Springs, AR, and nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Jim Garrett, Jerry Jones, Roger Loper, Bruce Maloch, Rodney Maloch, Greg Matthews, Rick Matthews and Ken Schmidt. Honorary pallbearers will be Dalton Dendy and Larry Hudson.

A visitation with family and friends will be held on Thursday, May 30, from 5-7 pm at Lewis Funeral Home. A funeral service officiated by Charles Law and Joe Carlton will be held at Lewis Funeral Home, Inc. on Friday, May 31 at 2 pm. Burial will follow at Hephzibah Cemetery in Columbia County between Emerson and Walkerville.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation to the staffs of Wentworth Place and Lifetouch Hospice for their care. Deepest gratitude is given to caregivers Patsy Baker, Tina Hicks and Charlotte Reliford for their compassion and competence.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org or a church or charity of the donor's choice.

Cemetery

Events

Hephzibah Cemetery

Highway 98

Emerson, AR,

MAY

30

Visitation

05:00PM - 07:00PM

Lewis Funeral Home Inc. - Magnolia

420 North Jackson P.O Box 38, Magnolia, AR, US, 71753

MAY

31

Funeral Service

02:00PM

Lewis Funeral Home Inc. - Magnolia

420 North Jackson P.O Box 38, Magnolia, AR, US, 71753

Comments



“ Mrs. McMahan and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I thought a lot of Coach. Sending prayers and comfort.

Martha Jones - June 06, 2019 at 04:35 AM



“ I was so sad when I heard of Mr. Macs passing. He was always a sweet man to be around. I can see his sweet smile as he would greet you in the hall. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family Mrs. Mary.

Amy Sisson - May 31, 2019 at 10:50 PM



“ Mary and Family,
We are so sorry for your loss. Don was one of the finest men we've ever known and we cherish the time we spent being neighbors on Hazel Circle. As he exhales in earth, Don inhaled in Heaven. We are keeping you in our prayers.

David & Carol Ann Duke



David Duke - May 31, 2019 at 06:38 PM



“ 5-31-19: Dear Mary and Family: I just read Don's obituary in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. It's been years since I've seen either of you but fond memories are always in my mind. Don was a good friend and so were you. You both were a credit to the field of education. Please accept my love and regrets. I've been praying for you and the family. May God bless you! Take care! Carl J. Barger

Carl J. Barger - May 31, 2019 at 02:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Don Ray McMahan.



May 31, 2019 at 12:19 AM



“ We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of this gentle giant in our community. He was a kind person when we started teaching in the Magnolia School District, and he remained the same down through the years. Our love and prayers for strength are extended to all.

Larry & Wanda Roach - May 30, 2019 at 06:32 PM



“ Mary S. Pickings lit a candle in memory of Don Ray McMahan



Mary S. Pickings - May 30, 2019 at 03:44 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Don Ray McMahan.



May 29, 2019 at 11:44 PM



“ Sorry for your loss. He was a good coach, sponsor, and teacher. We will all miss him. He helped so many people including me. I was told if i wanted to play basketball in college there was a good team that flew there players to all there games. Name of the team Hutcherson Flying Queens, but no one knew the name of the college. I asked Don, since he had played for Midwestern,they had played the boys team from that college, Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, TX. Don and his sister took my mother and me (500 miles) to basketball tryouts where I was selected for a four year athletic scholarship. To me that was going above and beyond the duties of coach and teacher! I will forever be grateful to him. On a little fun side, Class of 1958, remember a class trip to Galveston, TX when the jelly fish got in coach McMahens swim trunks. The sand on Galveston beach got rearranged from his dancing around. We were all entertained except the victim!!!

Nelda A Smith - May 29, 2019 at 09:47 PM



“ Mary, Max, Monty and Staci, we were saddened to hear of Bro. Don passing. We wish we were close enough to come to the services but we wanted to let you know that our love and prayers are with you all. There are too many memories for us to list but we know he was a pastor's friend. So wise and calm when issues arose and patient when I made mistakes when I pastored at Hephzibah. A great deacon at Hephzibah as was all the deacons that served when I served Hephzibah. Life is certainly short but eternity will bring us all together again. Love to all of you. Bro. Dennis, Linda and family.

Dennis Richey - May 29, 2019 at 03:40 PM



“ Ester Jackson Easter lit a candle in memory of Don Ray McMahan



Ester Jackson Easter - May 29, 2019 at 02:44 PM



“ Mr. McMahan was a great educator. I will never forget his smile.

Ester Jackson Easter - May 29, 2019 at 02:46 PM



“ I will forever be blessed by his gentle spirit and kindness. I am so sorry for your loss, and his passing is a loss to everyone.

Charlotte Lancaster - May 30, 2019 at 08:46 PM



“ Mr. McMahan was one of those unique school administrators who would let you know that he truly cared about you. I remember walking onto campus one day early my sophomore year when this man I didn't know began speaking to me. He obviously knew who I was and who my parents were. His kindness kind of blew me away, and I had to ask him who he was! It impressed me so much that the superintendent of the schools took that effort just to say hello and wish me well. He was a man who earned your respect because of his love, respect, and dignity. The world was a better place because of him; MHS was a better place because of him; and if heaven could be a better place with him there, it will be.

Paul Bullock - May 29, 2019 at 10:46 AM



“ To the family: Deepest Sympathy in your loss. My late husband (Dale Dean) was his pastor and always regarded Don McMahan in high esteem. So sorry, Mary, may our Lord supply every need in this time of grieving. What a great reunion with loved ones greeting him in heaven .

Margie Dean - May 29, 2019 at 10:28 AM



“ Love and prayers to the family.

Bobbie Jo Kelly Price - May 29, 2019 at 09:54 AM



“ My Coach! My Mentor! My Inspiration! Coach Don McMahan was all that and more to so many of his players and students through out the years! It all started with me when I was in the 3rd grade and he was a great H.S. basketball player at Emerson. I would go to all home games and sit on the stage at the end of the old gym and watch him play. Such an early "My Inspiration"! He returned my junior year as our Coach and became "My Mentor" on and off the court! "My Coach", Coach McMahan, one of the greatest of all times who always taught his players the right things to do on and off the court! We loved and respected "Our Coach McMahan" and he did the same for us all. He will be missed!! Prayers for Miss Mary and family! He was the "best"!!

Clennon Dailey - Class of 1959 at E.H.S.

Clennon Dailey - May 28, 2019 at 11:21 PM



“ Prayers for the family, fond memories of Emerson and Coach Don Ray and Mary, remember the kids when young.

Kathy - May 29, 2019 at 08:18 AM



“ Mr. McMahan will always hold a special place in my heart. We started at East Side the same year and watching him transition from high school to elementary students was interesting and amusing. His quiet, respectful, kind way of interacting with us teachers was wonderful. He touched so many lives and will be remembered with admiration.

Amy Dee (Dennis) Hawley - May 28, 2019 at 09:26 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Mr. McMahan was well liked and respected by everyone. I (Patsy Hill) really enjoyed working under him. He was always kind, understanding, and knowledgeable about anything when I went into his office for advice. He will certainly be remembered and missed by all that worked with him.

Patsy Hill - May 28, 2019 at 08:36 PM



“ Coach was the last surviving teacher I had in public school. It was he who set the example to which I measured a good man. One only need emulate his teaching and good works to be a better person.

I know that he reached the highest pinnacle in his education career. His high titles of principal and superintendent and first in his field are admirable and lofty, but there is no greater title than the one by which I knew him best -- COACH!

I will never forget him and the fine display of character that came to him so naturally.
Ken Dailey, Emerson High School, class of 1965

Ken & Susan Dailey - May 28, 2019 at 08:19 PM



“ Coach, you were a wonderful coach and person that I have looked up to and tried to style my coaching career after. I enjoyed our time at the Arkansas High All Star game because you were one of the coaches and I could relax knowing I was not among strangers. Wish that we could have brought home a state championship for you in 63. You fought a good battle with a wicked disease so Rest In Peace. Louis Butler



Louis Butler - May 28, 2019 at 06:04 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Don Ray McMahan.



May 28, 2019 at 05:34 PM



“ Love, Eddie Morgan Sr and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Don Ray McMahan.



Love, Eddie Morgan Sr and Family - May 28, 2019 at 05:26 PM