



Robert McElroy

June 3, 1940 - May 26, 2020

Tuesday, May 26, 2020, the Lord sent his angels to call another soldier home to rest. Robert McElroy passed away peacefully after a heroic battle with Parkinson's Disease a week before his 80th birthday. Born in Port Saint Joe, Florida, on June 3, 1940, he was the son of the late Henry Riley and Eldest Speights. At the age of 17, Robert joined the United States Army and served in the Reserves for seven years. After serving in the Reserves, he went to barber school in Miami, Florida. He returned to active duty in 1967, where he created a distinguished career until his retirement in 1990.

In 1959, Robert met Betty Parker. The two married in 1960 and went on to have three children: Robert LaMonte, Robin Lorraine, and Jessica Niccole.

Robert accepted the Lord as Savior in 1977 while on assignment in Germany. Like his dedication to his Army career, Robert served the Lord faithfully for the remainder of his life. He loved to read the Word of God, teach Bible study, and tell others about the Gospel. He touched the lives of many through his living testimony of God's grace. Robert loved his family, his country, and his church Christ Center in West Columbia, South Carolina.

After retiring from the military, Robert went on to a career with with the SC Department of Corrections, where he headed Emergency Management for the prison system. Throughout his life, Robert lived with the notion, "I can do that

with a little practice."

In addition to his parents, Robert was preceded in death by his brother Lemon McElroy, Jr.

He leaves to cherish precious memories his beloved wife of sixty years Betty; his three children: Robert (Anne) McElroy of Vermont, Robin (Joe) Dixon of Holly Springs, North Carolina, and Jessica (Ervin) of Columbia; seven grandchildren: Tristian, Trystal, Taylor, Maiah, Jordyne, Ashley and Aaren; an aunt Ida Mae Sylvester; an uncle Lamar Speights; and a host of cousins.

Cemetery Details

Fort Jackson National Cemetery

Previous Events

Family Visitation

JUN 1. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 786-6300
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Public Viewing

JUN 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Christ Center
4615 Platt Springs Road
West Columbia, SC 29170

Celebration of Life

JUN 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Christ Center
4615 Platt Springs Road
West Columbia, SC 29170

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert McElroy*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *My brother, friend and nephew was a very good family man. He was faithful, honest and spiritual man of God. He's gone but he will never be forgotten. We will meet again in paradise. Aunt Ida Mae Sylvester*

Ida Mae Sylvester - June 03, 2020 at 01:03 PM



He loved you so much Auntie! I know he can't wait to see you again!

Jessica - June 14, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ *To Mrs. McElroy, Jessica, Robin, their brother and the entire family. You all are in my thoughts and prayers! I Love you all! Mr. McElroy was such a sweet and kind person! He always made my children and I feel welcome each time we were in his presence! A true light in this world! May God continue to Bless and comfort you all during this time, enjoying the memories and having peace in the fact that He is absent from this world but definitley present with his Father God*

♥ *Ke-Onna Davis & Family*

Ke-Onna Davis - June 03, 2020 at 08:27 AM



Thank you my friend! ♥ And when he made you family you were family!

Jessica - June 14, 2020 at 03:29 PM

GB

“ *Gale Bostick lit a candle in memory of Robert McElroy*



gale bostick - June 02, 2020 at 09:02 AM

JM

“ *To Betty and the family, May God Bless and Provide Comfort during these hurtful times . I feel your pain: Robert was one of the Best Drill Sergeants that served with me in A Battery, 1st Cannon Training Battalion, Fort Sill , Oklahoma, 1976-78. I cannot express how professional he was, the laughter we shared, and how inspirational he was to me as his Battery Commander. I took pride in working with him then and we both met and settled in Columbia. I followed his military career closely! A great man, true leader that assisted me in accomplishing my military objectives ! I can still hear his voice and humor ringing in my ear . God's Speed and I am sure we will meet again on the other side . James Monroe, LTC(Ret), FA, US Army. Columbia,SC*

jim monroe - June 01, 2020 at 08:45 PM

RD

Thank you so much. My dad was so proud to serve in the U.S. Army. Not too long ago I asked my dad about his military service. He said "I love this country and I would do it all over again".

Robin McElroy Dixon - June 08, 2020 at 10:38 AM

SS

“ *Robert was a man of honor who loved his family. Take you rest love you my cousin.*

Sharon Speights - June 01, 2020 at 06:30 PM

RD

Daddy loved you all. Thank you so much.

Robin McElroy Dixon - June 08, 2020 at 10:41 AM

GB

“ *It was a distinct pleasure and honor to have lived next door to Robert and Betty for many years. Robert was a godly man and a very gentle and loving soul. As his illness progressed we were able to see how he endured that process with the same honorable characteristics that he served our country and our neighborhood. Safe journey dear friend and rest in peace.*

*With love and sympathy,
Tim, Gale and Morgan Bostick*



Gale Bostick - June 01, 2020 at 05:25 PM

RD

Dad loved his neighbors. He loved living next door to you. You were and will forever be family.

Robin McElroy Dixon - June 08, 2020 at 10:40 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert McElroy.*



June 01, 2020 at 04:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Robert McElroy.



June 01, 2020 at 10:18 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of Robert McElroy.



May 31, 2020 at 06:58 PM