



Oliver McCracken Jr.

July 28, 1928 - November 15, 2017

Oliver McCracken, Jr, 89, of Sarasota, FL passed away Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at Heartland Health Facility in Sarasota, FL.

Oliver was born July 28, 1928 to Oliver and Lola Durnell McCracken in Humansville, MO. Oliver lived his life as a dedicated man.

He dedicated himself to education by earning a doctorate from the University of Missouri and using that to teach and administer schools. He would finalize his career as the Superintendent of the Skokie School District in Skokie, IL, where he was honored by having the middle school bear his name.

He dedicated himself to the service of his country at the height of the Korean War, serving in Army intelligence from 1951 to 1954.

He dedicated himself to his wife Elizabeth, staying faithfully by her side for 65 years of marriage.

Oliver was also a man of many gifts. He used his talents in administration to head his country club as President. He also had the highlight of having 7 holes-in-one. He was known as the ultimate ambassador, using his calming presence and social skills to be the voice of reason in the room.

Oliver loving friend, husband, and father who leaves behind a legacy of care, generosity, and patience.

Oliver is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, as well as his three children; Rebecca McCracken and husband Glenn Wade, Mary DeMarco and husband Dan, and Mark McCracken and wife Lynn. He is also survived by his grandchildren; Kelly Glick and husband Josh, Gina Dantin and husband Dustin, Erin DeMarco, Christine McCracken, Michele McCracken, Shaun McCracken, Tim McCracken, and Kevin McCracken, as well as one great-grandchild, Camille Dantin.

Visitation for Oliver McCracken will be held Sunday, November 19, 2017 from 1:00 to 2:00 PM at the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, MO. A Graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at the Greenwood Cemetery in Bolivar, MO.

Contributions can be made in Oliver's name to the American heart Association or the Alzheimer's Association.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 19. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Graveside

NOV 19. 2:00 PM (CT)

Greenwood Cemetery
S. Dunnegan Ave.
Bolivar, MO 65613

Tribute Wall



“ *Oliver McCracken Jr.*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Oliver McCracken Jr.*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *I also went to Oakview Junior High and Dr. McCracken was our amazing superintendent. My family had moved away and left Skokie, but we came back a year later and moved into the same school district. When I walked across the stage (in NEHS auditorium) to receive my diploma, Dr. McCracken said, "I'm glad you moved back." I was so touched by this moment - that he knew me & my family and made such a personal comment at graduation! I share that story often, and I carry that warm memory with me always.*

If there was ever a person who deserved to have a school named after him, he is that person.

Bless the McCracken family and consider yourselves lucky to have had this wonderful, thoughtful, caring man in your lives.

Carolyn Ulbert Mertz

Carolyn Ulbert Mertz - January 09, 2018 at 04:36 PM

RW

“ I remember Oliver McCracken as a wonderful man. I went to school at Oakview that was later changed to Oliver McCracken. He always cared about the students and had his door open. May he RIP.
Ross Waskin

Ross Waskin - December 24, 2017 at 11:46 PM

JS

“ Dear Becky,
I'm sorry to hear about your father. I remember fondly of him skiing with us at Wilmot.
I'm on a FB site for Niles East as was Scott Baranco. He was hoping to get in touch with you.
Blessings to you and your family.
Julie Schultz Sheppard

https://www.facebook.com/groups/5988712967/?ref=nf_target&fref=nf

Julie Schultz Sheppard - December 24, 2017 at 05:47 PM

JW

“ Dr. McCracken's name has become synonymous with going to school in Skokie for thousands of kids. He was a kind and gentle man who I was proud to receive my District 73.5 diploma from. May his memory be a blessing.

Joe Weiss - December 24, 2017 at 10:48 AM

GR

“ Mark and Family
So sorry to hear this news He truly was a wonderful Man He really cared about each everyone of us at District 73 and a 1/2 . He truly will be missed

Gregg Wolin - December 24, 2017 at 05:58 AM

SF

“ My deepest sympathy to the McCracken family. I have many fond memories of Dr. McCracken, especially his kindness and gentleness, and I deeply appreciate the excellent education I received under his leadership. Mark, I really understand what you are going through now, as my father passed away the first of December, the day before my 55th birthday. I know how hard it is to give such a good man back to God. Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and yours. Treasure the memories, my friend!

Your classmate,

Steven Weyand Folkers

Steven Folkers - December 23, 2017 at 10:53 PM

LS

“ I was saddened to learn that Dr. McCracken passed away recently. My mother loved her years at D73.5, many of them working directly for "Mac." He was universally respected by students and faculty alike, no small feat for a school administrator. I owe much of what I have today to the education I got decades ago at Middleton and Oakview, so much of which was due to the great leadership he provided.

Lenny Soffer

Lenny Soffer - December 23, 2017 at 10:30 PM

VG

“ I am forever grateful to Dr. McCracken for the fine education and great understanding provided for my three children Vickie, Matthew, and Robert, during their attendance at Oakview Jr.H.S. in Skokie, Illinois.

In all sincerity, Viva Gillio, Skokie, Illinois.

Viva Gillio - December 23, 2017 at 04:40 PM

DT

“ *Dear McCracken Family!*
I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of this wonderful human being. Dr.McCracken hired me to be the Physical Education teacher at Cleveland School back in 1970 of which I stayed in District 73.5 for 35 years.

He was a very compassionate person who was a real leader in every sense of the word. I had the honor of teaching all three of his wonderful children when they were at Cleveland.

My heart goes out to the entire family and I know that you all will keep those special memories alive in your hearts forever.

*Respectfully,
David Tesnow*

David Tesnow - December 21, 2017 at 09:13 PM

JM

Becky and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I so recall your dad his first year at Oakview when he was my Algebra teacher--a subject I struggled with. Then in later years babysitting at your home~and then fast forward years to meeting you thru Katie Traxell at Dunn Bros in Kenosha when you were doing acupuncture! It is a small world but your dad's light will continue to shine in the hearts of many who he impacted. I truly believe LOVE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES and we were so fortunate to be K-STREETKIDZ with parents who cared~shared and were there to watch over us. Patty Monson-Marylou Unruh Ballard~Chrissy Elliott~ Kathy Guerrero and Leslie and Nancy Clothier and I get together regularly to connect and celebrate one another~our upbringing and the parents who made a huge impact. We would love for you to join us at one of our WI/ Northern IL get togethers..... Warmly with respect, Jerin Mueller-Moore

Jerin Mueller Moore - December 25, 2017 at 02:05 AM