



Bruce Ellsworth McLean

January 8, 1922 - May 23, 2019

Bruce McLean, 97, of Centralia, IL. Passed away in his home on May 23, 2019.

Bruce was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. T.E. McLean of Oakdale, IL. After graduating from Pinckneyville High School, he enlisted in the Air Corps on Jan 2, 1942. In 1943, Corporal McLean was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross due to his extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights in the Southwest Pacific area from 12/27/42 to 4/16/43. He was awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster for meritorious service later that year.

After returning from service, Bruce attended SIU at Carbondale. Following graduation, he served as a teacher/principal and coach in Hoyelton, IL. In 1963, Bruce continued a career in education serving as principal at Washington Elementary School, and finally at Schiller and Bronson. He retired from Centralia City Schools in 1986.

Bruce married his wife, Viva Dempsay of Pinkneyville, IL on June 6, 1947. They were married 71 years and were active members of the First United Methodist Church in Centralia.

Bruce is survived by his wife, two sons, Dennis McLean (Becky) of Centralia, IL and Mike McLean, of Los Angeles, CA, five grandchildren, Heather

Honeycutt, of Atlanta GA, Mandy Byrd of Murray, KY, Trista Kozuszek (Brandon) of Irvington, IL, Ashley McLean (John Lenzini) of Centrailla, and Sean McLean (Shannon) of Troy, IL, and three great grandchildren Annabelle Lenzini, of Centrailla, Braelyn Kozuszek of Irvington, and Everett McLean of Troy.

Bruce preceded in death by his parents, two brothers Thomas and Elmer, sisters, Esther, Nellie and his only daughter, Catherine Jean (David) of Fulton, KY.

Funeral Services for Bruce McLean will be held Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 12:00 PM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia. Visitation will be held Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the funeral home.

A Graveside Service will be held Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 3:00 PM at the Oakdale Township Cemetery in Oakdale, Illinois. Military Honors will be accorded at the gravesite by the Nashville American Legion Post 110. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Salvation Army and the First United Methodist Church and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the McLean Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 29. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home

Funeral Service

MAY 29. 12:00 PM.

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home

Funeral Service

MAY 29. 3:00 PM (CT)

Oakdale Cemetery
Oakdale, IL

Tribute Wall

LL

“ Hi Mike. So sorry to read about your dad!!! I just seen this. Keeping you and your family in my prayers!

LeAnn Littrell - June 08, 2019 at 05:33 AM

VM

“ Mike,
I was sorry to hear about the passing of your father. Missed seeing you at our 40th Centralia High School Reunion. I still play the violin.

Victoria Stover Migliore - May 29, 2019 at 09:09 PM

LW

“ I would like to express my sympathy to the McLean Family. I remember visiting with Bruce, Viva and their children as a child and occasionally in more recent years seeing them in Oakdale. I'm sure my dad, David Kroener, and Bruce always had good visits when they got together.


Lynn Welling - May 28, 2019 at 07:53 PM

TF

“ The Humphreys family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bruce Ellsworth McLean.



The Humphreys family - May 28, 2019 at 03:24 PM

 Rachel
Alyssa

“ I grew up next door to Bruce and Viva for the entirety of my childhood. They always welcomed me over and I loved spending time with them. So sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. Prayers go out to Viva and family.

Rachel Alyssa - May 27, 2019 at 10:44 PM

LG

“ Heather and Family:
I share with you my sincere condolences as I know how much you loved your grandfather.
Much Love, Lizann

Lizann Gibson - May 27, 2019 at 01:29 AM

PW

“ I had many great visits at the camp site in Oakdale Il over the years they were great friends of our family a lot of enjoy times when out camping my thoughts and prayers to all the family RIP Bruce Paul wisely

Paul Wisely - May 26, 2019 at 07:45 PM

MA

“ Mary A. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bruce Ellsworth McLean.



Mary A. - May 25, 2019 at 05:46 PM

NS

“ We were neighbors and friends for years. Will miss him.
Joe and Nadine Stonecipher and family.

NADINE STONECIPHER - May 25, 2019 at 12:33 PM

NS

Sorry we can't attend memorial, but we are moving to Ky. the day before Nadine

NADINE STONECIPHER - May 25, 2019 at 12:34 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Bruce Ellsworth McLean.



May 25, 2019 at 10:42 AM

DH

“ As a young child in Oakdale, I remember a ride in a horse-drawn milk wagon driven by Bruce. I am 83 years young myself now, but this is what I remember, and it was so exciting because I loved horses and we didn't have one! I also thought Bruce was wonderful, and later he had a beautiful wife, called Viva. Rest in peace, Bruce, and rise in glory.

Dolores Frieman Hewitt - May 25, 2019 at 02:07 AM