



## James Thomas McCain

April 28, 1926 - January 18, 2017

James Thomas McCain passed away peacefully at Hospice of East Texas leaving the bounds of this earth and into the loving arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Wednesday, January 18, 2017. He was a true blessing to everyone who knew him the past 90 years.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Frances Anne McCain; parents, Mae and A. E. McCain; sisters, Arlene McCain Johnson and Virginia McCain Skeen and brother, Douglas McCain.

He is survived by his loving wife Mary Anne Nenney McCain; sons, James Thomas McCain, Jr. and wife Chaley, Elbert John McCain and William Loftin McCain; grandchildren, Elizabeth Calhoun McCain, James Thomas McCain, III and his wife Ashley, Charles Clayton McCain and his wife Blythe; great-grandchildren, Louise Corwin McCain, James Thomas McCain IV, Cecilia Frances McCain, Eliza Mae McCain and Charles Loggins McCain. He is also survived by nieces, Ann Lilly and her husband Roy and Ginger Skeen Vance; nephew, Jack Skeen, Jr and his wife Barbara and numerous cousins including Henry Bell III and Allen Bell and his wife Cindy.

James was born in Tyler on April 28, 1926. He attended Gary Elementary, Hogg Junior High and Tyler High School. Upon graduation, he attended the University of Texas. His education was interrupted by World War II. He joined the navy and served on the battleship Texas. James was honored to serve and defend our country and he personally witnessed the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima. James was the epitome of the Greatest Generation.

Upon the end of World War II he returned to his beloved University of Texas. He lettered in tennis and it sparked a lifelong love of the sport.

After graduation, he returned to Tyler and married the love of his life, Mary Anne on June 25, 1949. He began work at the family business, Coats McCain Lumber Company and retired from the lumber business in 1998. At the ripe old age of 70, he earned his real estate license.

James was a Charter Member of the Sharon Temple Shriners and was a 32nd degree Mason.

His life was devoted to his family and friends and he was a man of utmost integrity.

James was an avid fisherman and it is said that he was on a first name basis with every fish in Greenbriar Lake. He even had a sign in his yard that said "No working during fishing hours."

James was a member of Christ Episcopal Church for 68 years and served as Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and a member of the Vestry. He also was a past president of the Order of the Rose and a former director of Citizens 1st National Bank.

James' smile and laugh will always be remembered by everyone who knew him. He was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. During his time in Real Estate, he would patiently wait at the office for Mary Anne to pick him up for lunch, and if asked, he would say "I'm waiting on an Angel."

He would quietly put American flags at the cemetery and at the office on patriotic holidays. He would anonymously send "Cheer Up" cards to widows and did countless other acts of kindness, never wanting any recognition. He was generous in spirit and always had an encouraging and cheerful word for others while maintaining a positive outlook to others and in his life.

A celebration of James' life will be held at 3:00 PM on Friday, January 20, 2017 at Christ Episcopal Church with the Reverend David Luckenbach officiating under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Dan Diebel, Raymond Hedge, Jack King, King Ramey, Tom Ramey, Whit Riter, Elam Swann, Chris Woldert, Tom Woldert and James

Wynne.

The family requests memorials, if desired, to Christ Episcopal Church, 118 S. Bois D'Arc Tyler, Texas 75702, The Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd. Tyler Texas 75701 or Alzheimer's Alliance of Smith County, 211 Winchester Dr. Tyler Texas 75701.

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook  
Tyler, TX 75702

# Previous Events

## Service

JAN 20. 3:00 PM (CT)

Christ Episcopal Church  
118 South Bois d' Arc  
Tyler, TX 75702

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Mr. McCain was an avid fan of the Birdwell Dodgers. I don't remember him missing any games so he could watch Bert play first base and catch the wild throws we made. However, more telling was when my own son played, at ten years old, and I saw him sitting in the stands next to Mr. McCain. There the two of them alone were laughing and having fun...Mr. McCain with the next generation just has he had done with us and so it went.... He was a positive and encouraging man whose legacy, in part, is his infectious optimism, and through it all, the unquestioned and evident love he had for his family, and the unfailing respect I saw his family have for him. He earned it. I'm blessed to have known him...and the entire McCain family. God bless you.*

*Brandon Baade*

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**Brandon Baade** - January 20, 2017 at 01:22 AM

KH

“ *Kathy Huff sent a virtual gift in memory of James Thomas McCain*



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**kathy huff** - January 19, 2017 at 06:22 PM

KH

“ *In your time of sorrow, my thoughts and prayers are your families. Mr. MacCain will be missed. Sincerely, Mrs. James Bedingfield*

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**kathy huff** - January 19, 2017 at 06:16 PM

DD

“ *mr mc cain was a great man. a dear friend of my dad. i dealt with through the lumber business. always a pleasure to be with and deal with. he will be truly missed. always a great friend. Doug Dotson.*

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**doug dotson** - January 19, 2017 at 01:39 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of James Thomas McCain.*



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January 19, 2017 at 10:03 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of James Thomas McCain.*



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January 19, 2017 at 10:03 AM

MG

“ *James was my cousin. My grandfather and James mother were brother and sister. One of the nicest men I have ever known. I will miss him.*  
*Mike Garrett*

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**Mike Garrett** - January 18, 2017 at 10:49 PM