



J. Neil McDonald, Sr.

April 3, 1921 - January 27, 2010

Funeral services for J. Neil McDonald, Sr., 88, will be held at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, January 31, 2010 at First Presbyterian Church. A family graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. in Magnolia Cemetery. The Rev. Dr. Jeri Parris Perkins will officiate and Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home is serving the family. The family will receive friends following the service at the church. Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 213 W. Home Ave., Hartsville, SC 29550, or McLeod Hospice, P.O. Box 100551, Florence, SC 29502-0551.

Mr. McDonald, widower of Erma Moore McDonald, died Wednesday, January 27, 2010. Born in Hartsville, SC, he was a son of the late L. J. and Mary Bethune McCaskill McDonald. Mr. McDonald was a lifelong resident of Hartsville and a steadfast member of First Presbyterian Church. He attended Clemson College and then served in the U.S. Army before returning home to help run the farm and provide for his family after his father passed away. He farmed in the Auburn Community for many years. He also served as the Hartsville City Recorder before going to work for Darlington County in the Tax Assessor's Office and then as the Hartsville area Magistrate. He was a member of the Exchange Club and a charter member of the Hartsville Kiwanis Club.

He loved Hartsville and the people of Hartsville and counted most of its citizens as his friend.

Surviving are his sons and daughters-in-law, John Neil (Martha) McDonald, Jr. of Oxford, MI, Tom A. (Susan) McDonald of Florence, SC, Charles H. (Deborah) McDonald of Columbia, SC; sisters, Isabel Rollins of Greensboro, NC, Frances McRae of Florence, SC; sister-in-law, Mary Jane McDonald of Hartsville, SC; grandchildren, Caroline McDonald of Oxford, MI, Claire McDonald of Columbia, SC. He was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Margaret McDonald and his brother, Harry McDonald. The family would like to give special thanks to his loving caregivers: Vickie Baker, Larry Durant, Rose Frazier and Tywan Goodson.

Tribute Wall



“ John, Tom, Charles and all the Family of Mr. Neil -
I am so aorry Elaine & I were prevented from being with you all this past weekend. We both loved and respected Neil from the moment we first met him. He was the rock of your family and all of Hartsville. As we discussed, he certainly did have deep roots-and roots that were anchored in Jesus.

Having read the other testamonies to him, we can only state the same about him and the fine family he raised. Children are a gift from God and Neil preserved and cared for his gifts as a model father.

I have experienced the pain and grief of losing both parents to this life. I take complete hope and comfort, as you do, that we shall be reunited with our believing parents in eternity with Jesus. Your Dad fought the good fight, he finished the race, and he kept the faith. Now he will inherit the crown of righteousness which Jesus himself shall present to him and all who long for His appearing. Know this is the Word of God-it is true and dependable. Take your comfort in this and His many promises.

Gary & Elaine Narron##imported-begin##Gary Narron##imported-end##

February 02, 2010 at 07:57 PM



“ *To the family of Mr. McDonald
I will be thinking of you in this time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Grace Thornton##imported-end##*

January 30, 2010 at 02:05 PM



“ John, Tom, and Charles,
Where would I begin? So many great memories of the four of us! They were truly the happiest times of my young life and your dad was always there with a watchful eye over us. I was always made to feel more than welcome whether at the McDonalds house or where ever the McDonalds were going. Always. I, like my sister Leigh, had the opportunity to tell your Mom and Dad this, and I am glad I did. So many happy times. They say that you can tell the most popular house in the neighborhood by were the children play. I can honestly say that I don't remember one blade of grass growing in the McDonalds backyard.
I now know that homes like that are not just luck or an accident. They are the result of a solid foundation of love and happiness provided by your Dad. He is one of my heroes and I will always feel lucky to have had his influence on me.
God bless each of you.##imported-begin##Ray Walker##imported-end##

January 30, 2010 at 10:54 AM



“ My Neighbor-my friend. A great man from the greatest generation ever. I will miss him, dearly. I loved Mr.and Mrs McDonald. God Bless this man and his family. Dan Schmotzer Family##imported-begin##Dan Schmotzer##imported-end##

January 30, 2010 at 09:49 AM



“ To Neil's Family,

Neil McDonald was one of the men in my life that I will base my own around. I will remember the reverence and example he lead by. He was one of the kindest and most helpful members of my family and I'm glad to have been blessed with the small relationship we shared.

He was my Grandfather Ralph Kale's best friend and he showed what friendship really means. He helped my mother and this family through any struggles and lended a hand where he could. This was especially evident when my Grandfather was in the later part of his life and developed Alzheimers. When my grandfather needed help and Neil could, he would.

He showed what being a responsible and valuable member of the community is supposed to be. I respected him when he was alive and I will always respect what he represented. I will be satisfied to be half the man he was, and I want to take with me the conversations we shared everywhere I go just so maybe I can share a little bit more of Neil with the rest of the world. That will be one of the greatest contributions that I can make.

I know he's in a better place now happy and safe and God bless him.##imported-begin##Patrick Cole Crawley##imported-end##

January 29, 2010 at 08:55 PM



“ Dear McDonald sons (BOYS!),
Pardon the familiarity, but you will always be boys to me. This is Carol Walker your old babysitter from College Avenue. I was saddened to read of your dad's passing (I read The State online every day!) as I was also when your mother passed away as well. They were both such fine folks and real role models for me as I grew up in a divorced family. I am absolutely confident you three are equally fine, grounded, incredible young men with beautiful families. Prayers for your comfort and thanksgiving for lives well lived!
Carol Walker Wadley###imported-begin##Carol Walker Wadley###imported-end##

January 29, 2010 at 07:37 PM



“ Hello John, Tom and Charles - What fond memories Ray, Carol and I have of growing up on College Ave. Your family is a large part of that. I will always remember your dad as a fine man, one who was very kind to my family, one who had three little boys of his own and four after we moved into the street. Oh how I cherish what he did for my brother. I had the opportunity to tell him that and I am glad. My condolences to each of you. I will pray that you find comfort in your memories and the confidence that your dad was a textbook example of a life well lived. With warmest regards,
Leigh###imported-begin##Leigh Walker###imported-end##

January 29, 2010 at 07:20 PM



“ We are thinking of you all! Our prayers and hearts are with you.

Love,
Wallis, Todd and Charlie Bond###imported-begin##Wallis Crum Bond###imported-end##

January 29, 2010 at 07:47 AM



“ I will always hold the memories of Neil and Harry Mac close. They shared so many stories with me about there uncle and my grandfather Carl McDonald. The ones my mother(LOUISE) would not have shared.What a great life he lived. Donald Byerly & Family###imported-begin###McDonald Byerly###imported-end###

January 28, 2010 at 10:42 PM



“ Your family has many reasons for celebrating the life of Neil McDonald, a man who lived by his faith. The Wofford family members have been so blessed to have had the privilege of calling him their friend. I bet Bubber, Ruby, Harry, Neil, and Erma are having a grand, old time now!!!
I will not be able to go to the funeral since I am babysitting my grandchildren this weekend. However, I will be with you in spirit. My prayers continue for each family member.
Donna Wofford Askins###imported-begin###Donna Wofford Askins###imported-end###

January 28, 2010 at 08:51 PM



“ To the Family, I am sorry to hear about your loss. Please know that you will be in my thoughts and prayers that God will comfort you and give you strength to face the days that are ahead of you.
God Bless###imported-begin###Grady O'Neal###imported-end###

January 28, 2010 at 10:04 AM



“ I was very sad to learn this morning that Neil had passed away. To the entire extended McDonald family I offer my sincere thoughts & prayers. The McDonalds were the true meaning of next door neighbors and Neil did so much for our Mom & Dad in their golden years.

You will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Ray##imported-begin##Ray Bell##imported-end##

January 28, 2010 at 08:26 AM