



Joseph Dale McElrath

FEB 9, 2016

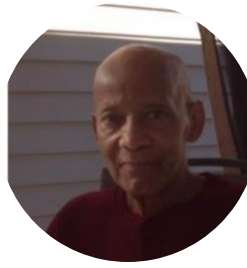


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Joseph Dale McElrath

FEB 9, 2016

Joseph Dale McElrath, 66, died peacefully in his sleep at Levine and Dickson Hospice House in Huntersville, NC on February 7, 2016.

Joseph Dale McElrath was born in Birmingham Alabama on August 23, 1949 to the late Howard William McElrath and Florence Brantley McElrath. He was the fourth born of five children. At an early age, Joseph and his family moved to Detroit Michigan so his father could have better employment opportunities. Joseph was a very bright and curious young man. He looked up to his older brother Howard, who preceded him in death, for guidance and support. Upon graduating from Central High School, he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served from 1967 to 1971. After basic training, he was stationed in Hawaii and worked in the auto mechanics field. Joseph received an Honorable Discharge, then returned to Detroit and began working for General Motors for several years. In 1973 he began working for IBM as a Field Engineer. This sparked his interest in the electronics and computer field which he enjoyed throughout his life.

Joseph worked in Tucson, Arizona for a while and eventually transferred to Dallas Texas, where he retired from IBM in 1993. He attended Mountain View College In Dallas, where he received in 1992 an Associates Degree in Applied Science. In 1994 he received a Computer Science and Engineering Degree at The University of Texas at Dallas. After retirement he continued to work in the Information Technology field doing part-time troubleshooting for businesses and friends, as well as, continued to study programming to sharpen his craft.

He met his wife Wanda in Dallas, then later moved to North Carolina and wed her in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 18, 2005. In North Carolina he began working for South Piedmont Community College in the IT department working with telecommunications and later advancing to being a Network Technician. He studied Cisco and received his certification as a Cisco Technician. He worked there until his second retirement 2014. Soon after retirement he became ill with cancer.

Joseph enjoyed the news and politics. He was active with the Democratic campaign and he supported political groups, as well as, Cancer Research and various charities in the community.



Obituary

Joseph Dale McElrath

He loved to travel, enjoyed car racing, riding motorcycles and working on cars. He also liked to read and research information on the internet. Joseph enjoyed communicating with friends through social media. Later in his illness, he lost his hearing which was troublesome for him since he was a very social person. Joseph had a big personality and a strong sense of self. He was a force to be reckoned with and he enjoyed being different. He had a big heart and a generous nature.

He leaves to mourn, his Wife, Wanda McElrath, of Charlotte, NC; son, Jeffrey McElrath and Wife Christie of Dallas Texas; Sisters, Carolyn Lewis of Detroit, Michigan and Rozalyne Reynolds and husband George Reynolds of Bloomfield Michigan; Grandson Jaylon McElrath of Phoenix, Arizona; Brother in-law Ronald Cox and wife Betsy of Elizabeth, Colorado; Sister-in-Law Brenda McElrath of Southfield, Michigan; father-in-law Junius Cox of Charlotte, NC and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins other family members and dear friends.

A funeral service will be held at 12:00 Saturday, February 13, 2016 at James Funeral Home with Rev. Rick Felts officiating. Viewing will be 11-12:00 prior. A reception will follow in the James Funeral Home Community Room.

James Funeral Home of Huntersville is serving the McElrath family and online condolences can be made at www.jamesfuneralhomeLKN.com



Tribute Wall

Joseph Dale McElrath

SC

Sam Cox posted:

Wanda I am truly sorry for your loss. Joe was already experiencing health problems when we first met but I got the feeling he was a good guy and a welcome addition to the family. Reading the comments from those who have known him longer validates that initial assessment of his character. I'm sure you carry many wonderful memories because he seemed to be a very special person and every passing life leaves something beautiful behind. My sincere condolences to you and the McElrath family.

February 20 at 3:40 AM

JC

Judi Smith Curtis posted:

Joseph was a colleague of mine at South Piedmont Community College and, for a while, I had an office next door to him. I remember his coffee brewing (there always seemed to be coffee ready) and his gusto for living. At that time, we were both thinking about retiring so we often talked about that and, threaded into the conversation, were always glimpses of his amazing life. His passing is a loss to us all.

February 13 at 2:00 AM

AB

Anna H. Baucom posted:

Joseph was a respected technician in the IT department at South Piedmont Community College. His technical expertise was very much appreciated. To Joseph's family, we share your loss. Anna Baucom

February 12 at 12:37 PM

DW

Denise S. Wilson posted:

Joseph and I worked together at SPCC. He was a tremendous guy, professional, and always willing to help our department with our computer issues. I loved his hearty laugh and his engaging personality. My sincere condolences to his family.

February 12 at 6:16 AM



Tribute Wall

Joseph Dale McElrath

NB

Nadine Burckhalter posted:

Wanda, I am sorry for your loss. Joseph was a good man who taught me a few things about life and politics. When at work we would make the best of every day uplifting each other when needed, telling stories that would make you either laugh or cry. He was a man of good faith. He played a few jokes on me that I regret I didn't get to return...I will though when I meet him again in the joy of the Lord.

February 12 at 6:07 AM

RM

Robert Mullis posted:

I spent many hours in an office with Joe. Over the course of our comradely grew and a friendship was born. I regret that life took us in different directions, how ever life does that. Joe was a fun man to be around. We laughed a lot at the absurdity of the place which we worked. This good man was plagued by health issues and stood strong against it. Im proud to have called him friend. Joseph lived well and goes to his maker leaving this world regretted. I hope the people in his life find inspiration in his indomitable will. May he meet his maker hearing these words, Well done good and faithful servant enter now in to the joy of thy Lord. Ill see you again Joe.Robert Mullis

February 12 at 4:46 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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