



Claude McConnell

MAY 28, 1924 - JAN 17, 2020



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 8



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Dr. Claude Hardison McConnell

Dr. McConnell, 95 of Davidson, passed away on Friday, January 17, 2020 at The Pines at Davidson, where he was a resident. Claude was born on May 28, 1924 in Lewisburg, Tennessee. He was the next to the youngest of eight children born to Jennie Groves McKnight McConnell and Edmund David McConnell.

Claude grew up in Tennessee, graduated from Marshall County High School in 1943 and immediately enlisted in the US Air Force as a Technical Sergeant/Flight Engineer/Bombardier with the Eighth Air Force.

He flew 32 missions over Germany in B-24 Liberators and proudly remembered being on the crews flying fuel to General Patton in Africa.

At the end of WWII, he attended and graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry. While there, he met and later married, Dr. Mary Jane Gates in 1950. Together, they moved to North Carolina and began their optometry practice on Main Street in Davidson. Their first office was located in, what is now, the second floor of the Kindred restaurant. They had offices in Davidson and Mooresville. Both retired after 40 years of practice.

Dr. McConnell was devoted to his family, patients and community. He gave over 20 years of service internationally, working on medical missions in South America, Haiti, Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala as well as the USA.

Claude loved adventure. He hitchhiked across Australia at age 65 and enjoyed camping/driving his old Ford F-150 to Newfoundland and Alaska. Every summer he planned a month-long family



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trip across the US and Europe. Claude was a member of Bethel Presbyterian Church, Sons of the American Revolution, Williams Masonic Lodge 176 and American Legion Post 86.

Claude was a proud American Patriot. He appreciated the opportunity this country afforded a country boy, truly one of the last from the Greatest Generation.

Dr. McConnell was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Mary Jane Gates McConnell. He is survived by daughters, Mary Claudia (Coco) McConnell Killian and her husband, Ray Allen Killian, Jr. of Charlotte, NC; Gayle Jane McConnell Tallardy and her husband, Charles Carroll (Carl) Tallardy III of Charlotte, NC and Key Largo, FL; and son, Hardison Gates McConnell, Sr. and his wife, Robbie Massey McConnell of Huntersville, NC; grandchildren, Ray Allen (Rally) Killian III and his wife Alison Woodruff Killian of Charlotte, NC; Mary Gates Killian of Atlanta, GA; Hardison Gates (Skip) McConnell, Jr. and Cameron O'Neal McConnell of Wilmington, NC.

A service to celebrate the life of Dr. Claude Hardison McConnell will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 21 at Bethel Presbyterian Church in Cornelius, NC with the Reverend Dr. Tom Boone officiating. Visitation to follow the service in the Family Life Center. Burial is private.

The family extends their most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Dr. Ron Beamon of Atrium Health-Davidson Clinic, Dr. Clarence Coutts of the VA Clinic and the loving, devoted staff of The Pines at Davidson.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to Bethel Presbyterian Church, 19920 Bethel Church Road, Cornelius, NC 28031 or The Pines at Davidson, 400 Avinger Lane, Davidson, NC 28036.

James Funeral Home of Huntersville is serving the family. www.jamesfuneralhomeLKN.com

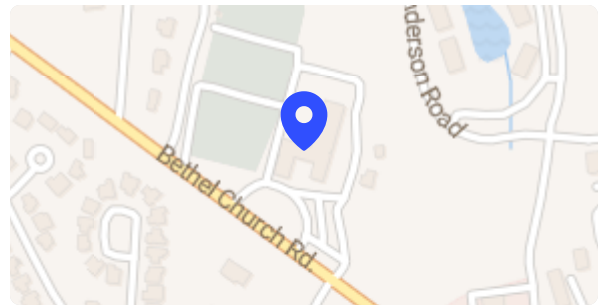


Events

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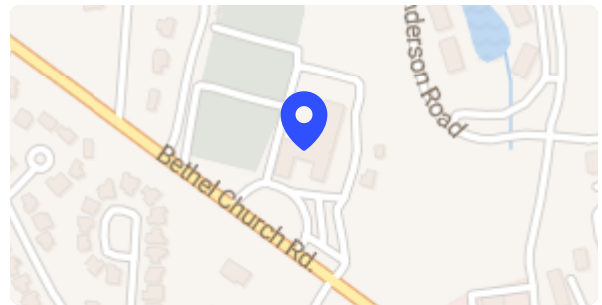
Memorial Service

- Tuesday**, January 21, 2020
- 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM ET
- Bethel Presbyterian Church**
19920 Bethel Church Road, Cornelius NC 28031



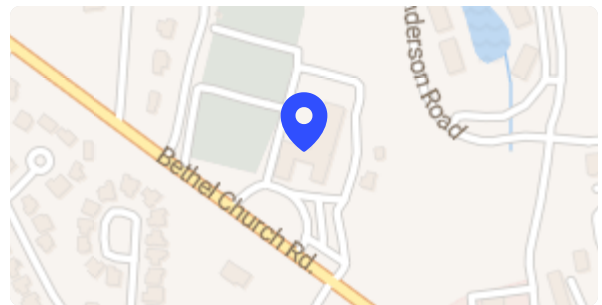
Visitation

- Tuesday**, January 21, 2020
- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM ET
- Bethel Presbyterian Church**
19920 Bethel Church Road, Cornelius NC 28031



Cemetery Details

- Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery**
19920 Bethel Church Rd, Cornelius NC 28031





Tribute Wall

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Terri Carbon shared an album called **Memories Album.**



January 20 at 11:10 PM



Alisa Morrow posted:

Hardy and family, I am sorry for your loss. You and your family are in our hearts and prayers Glenn & Alisa Morrow

January 20 at 7:05 AM



Terri Carbon lit a candle in honor of Claude.

Claude was a joy to be around! He had the power to mesmerize you with his many war stories and memories of his past including talking about the great love of his life, Mary Jane. He was also a true gentleman. We consider ourselves blessed to have been able to know him. Joe and Terri Carbon, Mooresville, NC



January 20 at 5:24 AM



Sue Tallardy posted:

Although we only met Claude on a few occasions he truly was a joy to be around - especially when we talked hunting. He had a great sense of humor and always made you feel comfortable around him. Love, Sue & Kurt

January 19 at 12:09 PM



Raymond & Susan Bradley & Family lit a candle in honor of Claude.



January 19 at 10:47 AM



Raymond January 19 at 10:49 AM

So Sorry to learn of the passing of a Great man. Our prayers are with you all.



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The Carlin Family lit a candle in honor of Claude.

Truly one of a kind, a cheerful and accomplished family man with a can-do attitude who touched so many lives and left smiling faces in his wake. Our family feels so blessed to have known such a wonderful man. A good example for us all, he will be remembered fondly.

January 18 at 4:20 PM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the McConnell family.

January 18 at 1:19 PM



Dee D'oria sent a Pink Tribute Spray to the McConnell family.

January 18 at 11:13 AM





Media

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Terri Carbon shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

January 20 at 11:10 PM



Valentine's Day 2019-Richard's Coffee Shop



Memories only last if you share them

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



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