



Thomas "Dale" McLaughlin

AUG 20, 1937 - AUG 20, 2024



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Thomas "Dale" McLaughlin

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Thomas Dale McLaughlin passed away peacefully on August 20th, 2024, which was also his 87th birthday. His family were blessed to all be with him in his last moments. Dale was a beloved father and grandfather, a devoted and hardworking family man.

Dale is survived by his wife Lucy (Lucille Beam McLaughlin) of 65 years, daughters Crystal Abernathy and Beverly McLaughlin (and partner Weldon Weaver), and grandchildren Gavin Guiney, Eve Guiney (John Saavedra), Evan Guiney, and Sean Abernathy. Dale would joke to people who asked how long they've been married "just 65 years, I think it's going to work out."

Dale worked at the Southern Bell Telephone Company (later known as BellSouth & AT & T) as a dock manager for over 30 years, and took early retirement at the age of 49.

Dale still loved going to work at The Mecklenburg County Market as often as he could, talking with his longtime customers about tomatoes and cantaloupes and the weather. He never met a stranger, and was well known and loved in the community. The market was founded by his maternal grandmother Pearl Wallace, continued by his parents Rebecca Wallace McLaughlin and Smiley Jay McLaughlin, and remains a family business to this day.

Dale loved cars and had restored his dad Smiley's 1969 Chevy Truck with "3 on the tree." He enjoyed going to the Kannapolis drag races with his father-in-law Luther Beam in the 1960's and early 1970s. He took pride in his cars and in earlier years would spend hours on a Saturday washing and waxing them.

Dale was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1966. He was also the oldest member of the Derita Lions Club, who raised funds for their chosen charity Camp Dogwood for the Blind & Visually Impaired by selling brooms, pecans & peanuts, and citrus fruit boxes direct from Florida.



Obituary

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Dale was a devout Christian and lifetime member of the Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon and an elder for many years, including serving as Clerk of Session. He and his wife Lucy were active participants in the church's square dancing club in the 1970s. Dale and Lucy were also a big part of the Mallard Creek BBQ where they volunteered for many years. Dale grew up watching his mother Rebecca McLaughlin (known as Becky or Miss Beck) make the Brunswick stew from scratch in huge cast iron cauldrons over an open fire, stirred with canoe paddles. Dale worked the ticket booth, while Lucy worked the sandwich counter. They also met for the first time at the Mallard Creek BBQ.

Dale loved woodworking and he hand-made furniture and other items which will be continue to be treasured by his family. He loved spending time with family at their mountain house in Blowing Rock.

Dale was a loyal provider and protector from another era. His strength, devotion to family, work ethic, generosity, and kindness will live on in his children and grandchildren. He will be sorely missed, but he leaves behind a wonderful legacy.

A funeral service will be held at 3 PM at Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, September 4 with burial following in the church cemetery and visitation in the church one hour prior to the funeral. James Funeral Home of Huntersville is serving the family.



Events


Thomas "Dale" McLaughlin

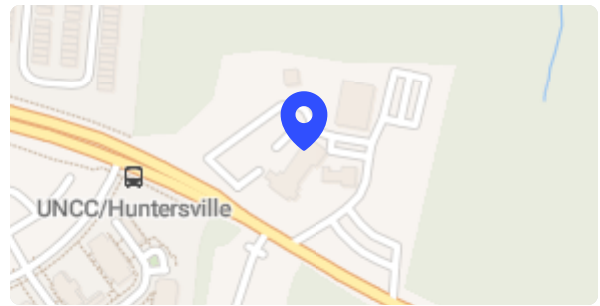
AUG 20, 1937 - AUG 20, 2024

Visitation

 **Wednesday**, September 4, 2024


 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET


 **Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church**
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road, Charlotte NC
28262

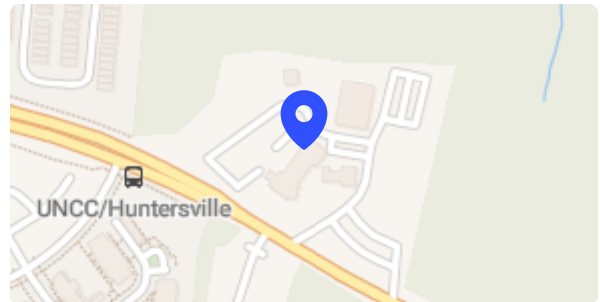


Celebration of Life

 **Wednesday**, September 4, 2024

 3:00 PM ET

 **Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church**
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road, Charlotte NC
28262





Tribute Wall

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James Funeral Home shared a **Video**.



September 3 at 9:44 AM



Weldon W. sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the McLaughlin family.



September 3 at 1:04 PM



Michael Rodaway posted:

Dale was an honourable & honest man. It was a pleasure to know him & work with him back in the 90's. My condolences to the entire family.

September 2 at 11:37 AM



Rachel H. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thomas.



September 1 at 7:40 AM



Fran Wilbourn And Dink Nolen planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thomas.



August 30 at 5:32 AM



Anonymous sent a Large Basket Garden to the McLaughlin family.



August 30 at 3:31 AM



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Wes&Donna Scott, Chuck&Tonya Bludsworth planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thomas.



August 30 at 3:31 AM



Twyla A Burks posted:

So sorry to hear of his passing. Upon meeting him I immediately knew he was a great man who loved his family. I feel honored to have met him, Lucy, and their children and grandchildren. Prayers for his family and friends as I know his passing leaves a deep void. ~ Twyla Burks

August 29 at 8:13 AM



Theresa Castellano sent a Beautiful in Blue to the McLaughlin family.



August 28 at 3:57 PM



Theresa Castellano planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Thomas.



August 28 at 3:57 PM



Johnnie Cartner posted:

remember all of us neighborhood kids picking produce when we were young. later plowing the fields for him. we,ll miss you at our family gatherings. nephew, Johnnie Cartner

August 27 at 10:17 AM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the McLaughlin family.



August 27 at 8:32 AM



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BM

Bill Mowry posted:

Dale was a wonderful friend to our family. My father thought the world of him. He was a kind and friendly man whose legacy remains a big part of the old Mallard Creek community.

August 27 at 4:15 AM

LD

Lee & Leah Darnell sent a Beautiful in Blue to the McLaughlin family.



August 26 at 2:25 PM

CM

Cathy Moran posted:

I remember many a Saturday chatting with Dale at the market. We both broke our wrists around the same time about 5 years ago. And we shared our healing journey with each other. I am sad to hear of his passing. I'm glad he was surrounded by his family. He will be missed.

August 26 at 1:10 PM

RR

Rebecca M Raborn posted:

I am sad to learn of Dale's passing. He was and kind and generous soul. Our Brandon loved him and I'm sure he is giving Dale a big hug in Heaven. We appreciate all you both did for our Brandon. My Prayers are with the family. With much Love Becky Morton Raborn and Tanya Morton

August 23 at 10:23 AM

LB

Laura Boyles lit a candle in honor of Thomas.



August 22 at 5:37 AM



Media

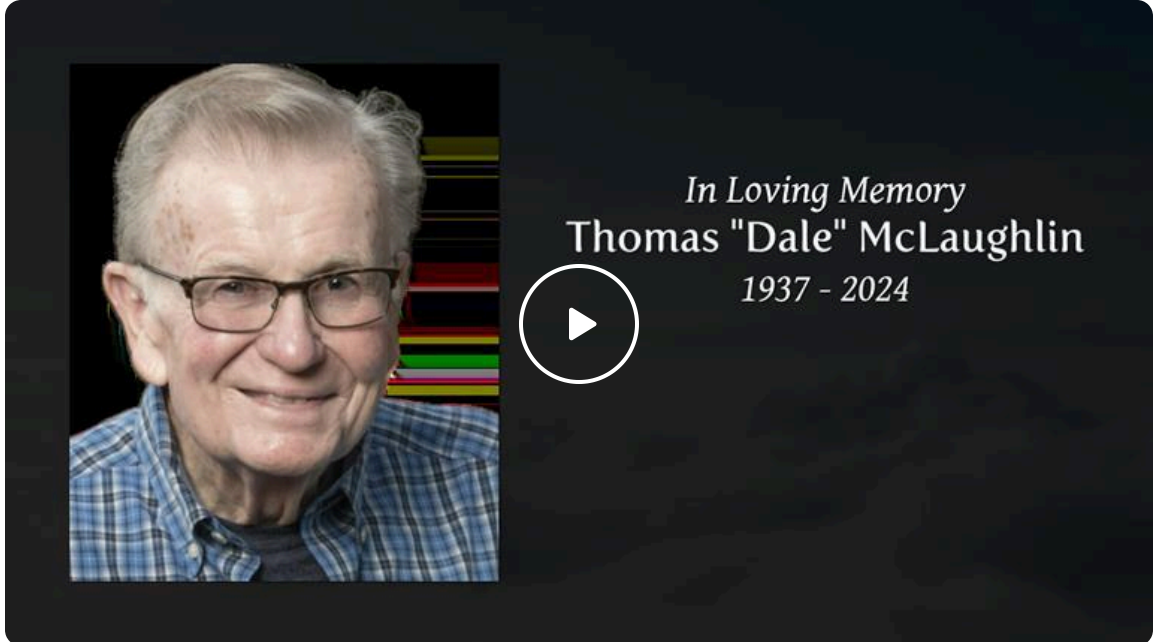
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September 3 at 9:44 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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