



Gary McAlister

February 5, 1949 - February 15, 2022

Gary Stephen McAlister, 73, of Cornelius, passed away February 15th, 2022. He was born in Iredell County, NC on February 5th, 1949 to George and Mary McAlister. Gary graduated from East Carolina University with a BA in Business with a teaching certificate. Throughout his lifetime Gary had many careers, High School teacher, mortgage banker, dance instructor, and finally a hairdresser owning three businesses. Gary loved traveling, theater, fine dining, symphony and interior design. Every Christmas, Gary, his brother, sister, nieces and nephews would travel either by cruising or throughout the United States from Florida to California. Gary loved his family, friends and clients. He lived a fulfilled life doing the things he loved.

Surviving family - Brother, Michael McAlister (Phylis McAlister) of Albany, GA, Sisters - Cathy McAlister and Susan Gail Olson (Sheldon Olson), both from Cornelius, NC; Nephews - Britt McAlister (Amy McAlister) and Cleat McAlister, Niece - Susan Olson and Great-nephew - Maddox Olson.

Preceded in death; Mother Mary McCall McAlister; Father George Heron McAlister, Nieces - Mary Laura Olson and Kristen Ashley Olson.

A memorial service will be held at 11 AM Saturday, February 19 at Mt. Zion UMC.

James Funeral Home of Huntersville is serving the family.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Cemetery

19600 Zion Avenue
Cornelius, NC 28031
<http://www.mtzionumc.net/>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Zion U.M.C.
19600 Zion Ave.
Cornelius, NC 28031

Tribute Wall

DT

“ Oh how I enjoyed Gary so much over the many years he styled my hair. We loved to talk politics. My Mom held a Republican position so that cemented our friendship! He was so easy to talk to, loved it when he and Mike would get into “discussions”....always friendly. Dottie Toney

dottie toney - February 23 at 12:54 AM

SW

“ Gary was my hair stylist for more years than I can remember. Every six weeks we caught up on the latest travels, politics and events! These appointments were always a treat since you never knew what Gary might share that day. He loved his family and his business relationships and always made each client feel special. He lived life to the fullest. Rest In Peace Gary.

Sharon Washam - February 21 at 03:21 PM



“ Tammy Aloula lit a candle in memory of Gary McAlister



Tammy Aloula - February 19 at 02:41 PM

JW

“ My friend Gary McAlister.
I worked with Gary many years in the beauty business.
There was never a dull moment in the shop when he was there.No one ever made me laugh, as much as Gary did.He was an excellent hair stylist to the point that in January reach year, his clients would come take his appointment book and book themselves for the entire year.
Gary loved life to the fullest.
Gary had many talents ,loved to travel ,entertaining his friends and his clients, but most of all he loved his family.Never will there be another person in my life like Gary McAlister.
RIP my friend until we meet again.
To the family my thoughts and prayers for you during this difficult time.

Jean Winkler - February 18 at 07:59 PM

SO

“ 29 files added to the tribute wall



Susan Olson - February 18 at 01:30 PM



Such a beautiful tribute, with all the great pictures of Gary and his beautiful family that he loved dearly! He was an amazing friend who gave me many wonderful memories that I will cherish forever. I know he will be missed dearly by all those who loved him.

Tammy Aloula - February 19 at 02:56 PM

WW

“ A childhood friend and neighbor. So creative, talented, unique and fun living. Great loss... RIP

Woody Washam - February 17 at 02:39 PM

JH

“ Gary was one of the happiest, full of life, people I have ever know. His kind and giving heart was a true gift to this community. A hair appointment with Gary was like buying a ticket to a show. You could hear great stories, discussions on the latest Broadway show and yes, a little politics could be discussed too! One of my favorite stories of his was his first trip to NYC. While in a deli for lunch he was asked what kind of bread he wanted for his sandwich, after some thought, he replied, “Merita!” This has already been said, but Gary was one of the kindest, caring people I have ever known. Rest well Gary, you’ve earned it. Well done thy good and faithful servant.

Judy Hodson - February 17 at 09:23 AM

IS

“ Gary was the kindest, most generous people I knew. He flawlessly (as we joked) cut my hair for many many years. Getting your haircut by Gary was an experience not just a haircut. Yes, he was always running behind but how we all loved him and his talent. Rest easy Gary. You are one of the good ones. Suzie Inman

Inman Susan - February 17 at 08:31 AM

IS

He wasn't a people but a person with a big enough personality to be a people. 🥺

Inman Susan - February 17 at 08:33 AM

JH

“ *Jimmy & Rachel Hucks lit a candle in memory of Gary McAlister*



Jimmy & Rachel Hucks - February 17 at 04:35 AM

DE

“ *My condolences to Gary's family. Gary was my hair stylist for many, many years, and Ann Dutton's memories of him so accurately describe the Gary I knew. Gary was a man of many talents with a big heart and personality to match! I missed seeing him after I moved out of state. My sympathies to his family and the many friends who miss him. Diana Elliott*

Diana Duggan Elliott - February 16 at 10:15 PM

JW

My heart is sadden by the passing of my dear friend Gary. Gary and I worked together many years in the hair dressing world. Gary always made work so much fun. He was my travel partner, hair shows partner, cruises, play partner. He was a kind, caring, giving person with many talents. There was never a dull moment in Scissors or the McCall Salons with Gary there. He loved his work, his clients, but most of all he loved his family.

To the family my prayer are with you during this difficult time.

R.I.P. Gary till we meet again.



Jean Winkler - February 17 at 08:49 PM

AD

“ Gary McAlister was one of the most generous, caring people I have ever known. He loved to laugh, tell jokes, discuss plays - especially musicals, and you knew if anyone said anything about politics, Gary would jump into the conversation feet first. He had a very unique sense of humor. Gary excelled as a hair stylist- women from our area, and cities and states further away, would trust Gary to perform his magic on their hair. Gary also excelled as a decorator. He could put a room together in such creative and beautiful ways. He often made the drapes for the rooms himself. I remember him telling me that one weekend he flew up to a friend's home, with his portable sewing machine, and made drapes for her new house. One thing that really bothered his loyal clients but that didn't bother Gary at all was that he couldn't cut hair and talk at the same time. I've waited many times for an hour or more past my appointment time for Gary to finally cut my hair. By this time there would be 2-3 ladies waiting and Gary would tell such funny stories that you couldn't stay angry at him. That's the Gary I choose to remember. It hurts too much to think of him after the stroke. What a wonderful, wacky, goofball who chose to see the best in people! Rest In Peace, my friend. You have a place in my heart. From Ann Dutton

Ann Dutton - February 16 at 09:28 PM

KG

I cannot possibly add anything to this incredible truthful tribute. Ann, you said it .. ALL. I met so many wonderful ladies that had traveled from other areas and states to have Gary perform his talent. I found myself hanging around to hear story after story of his adventures.

Kitty Nelson Gese - February 17 at 08:27 AM

EK

Gary cut my hair for many years. I loved being with him because we always had an interesting fun time. He was multi talented. Rest In Peace

elaine Krause - February 19 at 01:10 PM



My heartfelt love and prayers go out to all off you. A true presence in the Cornelius community who will be missed 🙏❤️

Kim Smith - March 01 at 10:02 AM