



## Dwight Allen McElree

October 13, 1946 - August 1, 2015

A much-loved husband, Dad, and Papa, Dwight Allen McElree, 68, of Richland Center, Wisconsin, died unexpectedly on Saturday, August 1, 2015, at Meriter Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, with his family by his side.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2015 at 3pm at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Friends and family are invited after mass to the Clary Memorial Funeral Home reception area for a time of gathering and meal.

Dwight was born to Harry and Frances McElree on October 13, 1946, in Oelwein, Iowa.

Dwight lived faithfully to his values, teaching others by living by example. His faith and devotion guided him through life as he completed his Masters of Divinity at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and began his doctoral work on Theology at the University of Iowa. He pursued a life of helping others as an ordained minister, devoting his pastoral services to churches in North Dakota and Iowa. Dwight then moved into financial planning, guiding the financial security for his clients for 33 years as an investment representative, most recently with Investment Centers of America at Richland County Bank.

Dwight embraced his family with unwavering love and devotion. Holding hands until death do us part, Dwight and Connie (Hawks) McElree met while in college in Dubuque, Iowa and married months later, on December 18, 1971: a true love story of 44 years. Dwight and Connie raised three children, Tracey, Emily, and Joel, with a loving and guiding hand. As always a priority to Dwight,

he brought out the beauty and gratitude in the word, family. As the family grew with five grandchildren, Dwight filled the family with laughter and happiness. Dwight approached life as a daily blessing and brought laughter and fun to all he touched. From his infamous 1st base splits to the sweat that he left on the racquetball court to the coin flip for the cup of coffee to the intense theology discussions to the baseball coaching with his grandkids and his passion as an Iowa Hawkeye fan. His smiles, his advice, his nicknames, his hugs, his pats on the back, and his jokes have left an imprint that will stay with us forever. Living by example, he has taught us all to love.

Dwight is survived by his wife, Connie (Hawks) McElree; his children, Tracey Jeanne McElree, Emily Kate Willoughby (Jason), and Joel David McElree (Laura); his grandchildren, Anabelle Rose Willoughby, Tyler Allen Willoughby, Thomas Anthony Krueger, Lydia Faith Willoughby, and Josephine Ann McElree; and his sisters, Wanda White (Bob) and Beverly Newton (Tim). Recognizing the incredible joy he felt for life, long live the beauty that comes down and through and onto all of us. How wonderful life was while you were in the world.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

AUG 8. 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church  
160 West 4th St.  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 647-2621

## Gathering

AUG 8. 4:15 PM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC  
26777 Jelland Drive  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
(608) 647-6390  
josh@clarymemorial.com  
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

GK

“ It has been a year since Dwight's death but i just received word of it through a Wartburg mailing. I entered WTS the summer of 1971 for Greek and met Dwight and his friend Larry. It was a new experience for me coming from Texas. I didn't know Dwight that well but we lived in the same dorm that first year. It is with sadness that I now know of his death at such a young age. Even though the is late I do offer my sympathy to the family. His death touches us all. gary kleypas

gary kleypas - August 03, 2016 at 01:03 AM

RM

“ Ron and Karen Boldt and Tim and Terry (Boldt) Mergen purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dwight Allen McElree.



Ron and Karen Boldt and Tim and Terry (Boldt) Mergen - August 08, 2015 at 10:25 AM

KP

“ Kellie Spencer & Joann Phillips purchased the Spring Has Sprung Mixed Basket for the family of Dwight Allen McElree.



Kellie Spencer & Joann Phillips - August 07, 2015 at 01:59 PM

CH

“ Corey, Tiffany, Noel, Brooklynn and Canton Hawkins purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Dwight Allen McElree.



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**Corey, Tiffany, Noel, Brooklynn and Canton Hawkins** - August 07, 2015 at 10:54 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dwight Allen McElree.



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August 07, 2015 at 10:07 AM



“ I am truly sadden by his passing. My love and deapest sympathy to you Connie. Miss.you: :(:(:(

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**Teresa Brey** - August 07, 2015 at 06:51 AM



“ Irish Wake Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Dwight Allen McElree.



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August 06, 2015 at 04:55 PM

TH

“ Dwight had such a kind, gentle, and easy going manner, but he was a rock, solid, trustworthy, and honest. His enduring qualities left an indelible impression on all he met. He is greatly missed.  
Your brother-in-law, Tom

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**Thomas Hawks** - August 04, 2015 at 10:47 PM

GK

“ Dear Connie and Family,  
I'll miss Dwight calling me "Mrs. District". He was fun loving, quick witted, and will be missed by all who knew him. Steve and I are so sorry for your loss and pray you find comfort and healing in each other.  
Ginny and Steve Knuth

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**ginny knuth** - August 04, 2015 at 03:59 PM

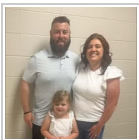
TM

“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



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**Tracey McElree** - August 04, 2015 at 02:37 PM



“ I'll miss playing softball with Dwight. He made everyone smile. He gave me some of the most fun years playing ball I've ever had. You will be missed by many.- "Danny Boy"

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**Daniel Machovec** - August 04, 2015 at 10:05 AM

JW

“ Dwight was always fun to visit with, especially when it came to either football or cars, Mustangs. Never could talk him out of wanting everything with a stick shift but I guess with legs and arms as long as his he never had any trouble reaching the pedals. Ha. He will be missed by many. Heck of a guy. To many good men and women leaving us way to soon. Make sure he takes his pipe with him on his journey upstairs.

*Uncle John*

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**John Weisshaar** - August 03, 2015 at 05:52 PM

JR

“ Connie and family,

*I was shocked to hear that Dwight passed away on Saturday. He was always good for a laugh and I enjoyed the times that we were able to sit across from each other at District Christmas parties. I will miss seeing him at the back door of the Richland County Bank taking a break and waving as I went through the drive-thru teller. Please know that you are all in Sherri and my thoughts and prayers.*

*John & Sherri Rudersdorf*

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**John Rudersdorf** - August 03, 2015 at 12:41 PM

DR

“ Connie and family-I was so sorry to hear of Dwights passing. He was a good man. We used to look forward to his coming to Accents for coffee, he always seemed to have a wise crack to make us laugh. I am sure he will be missed. You have my prayers and blessings. Donna L. Rose

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**Donna Rose** - August 03, 2015 at 12:12 PM