



Michael "Tuna" McElroy

MAR 2, 1952 - JUL 17, 2015



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FUNERAL HOME AND
CREMATION SERVICES

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Michael "Tuna" McElroy

MAR 2, 1952 - JUL 17, 2015

Decatur – Michael “Tuna” McElroy, 63, of Decatur, Illinois, passed away on Friday, July 17, 2015 at St. Mary’s Hospital in Decatur.

Mike was born March 2, 1952 in Aurora, Illinois to Dick and Betty McElroy. He graduated from St. Teresa High School in 1970 and went on to receive an Associate’s Degree from Danville Area Community College. He married Lynn (Tuttle) McElroy June 21, 1980 in Danville, Illinois. Mike currently was the Vice President of Skeff Distributing, Co. He served on Decatur’s City Council from 2003-2009, and as Mayor of Decatur for the past six years. Mike was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church and proudly served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Beer Distributors of Illinois, IML, YMCA, Friends of St. Mary’s, St. Teresa Development Board, Summer Start Festival, Knights of Columbus, Danville Convention and Tourism, Past President of Danville Jaycess, Past JCI Senator, and Former State Muscular Dystrophy Chair.

He is survived by wife, Lynn of 35 years; son, Matt (Christina); siblings: Pat, Tim (Leslie), and Ellen; brother-in-law, Lee Tuttle; nieces and nephews: Hilary and Colin Runion; Conor, Brennan and Dixie McElroy; Byrnes Kenworth; Colleen (Jarid) Thompson and great-niece Remi; Hayden Athey; Greg (Annie) and Maggie Tuttle. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dick and Betty McElroy; in-laws, Jim and Ginny Tuttle; and sister, Anne McElroy.

Public viewing will be held from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2015 in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church with a visitation for family and friends to follow from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the church. Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m., Thursday, July 23, 2015 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Very Rev. Joseph M. Molloy, V.F., main celebrant. Private family burial will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to St. Teresa High School Athletic Department, 2710 N. Water St., Decatur, IL 62526.



Obituary

Michael "Tuna" McElroy

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The family of Michael "Tuna" McElroy is being served by Moran & Goebel Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 2801 N. Monroe Street, Decatur, IL. Condolences and memories may be shared at www.moranandgoebel.com.



Tribute Wall

Michael "Tuna" McElroy

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SF

Sandy Fisher posted:

To the entire McElroy Family, the service was beautiful, the procession was amazing..it was like the entire city of Decatur stopped in its tracks..I have never seen so many cars pulled over in honor of anyone as they did for Mike: people standing in their yards, some holding U.S. flags, people outside businesses paying tribute to their great Mayor, the fire trucks (firefighters standing at attention) & police at major intersections allowing the procession to proceed, people holding their hands or hats over their hearts..I tried to wave to them all & say "thank you" as I now know family members did also..what a huge loss..Tuna was beloved by all..my heart hurts for all of you..hoping that you can find peace knowing that everyone loved Mike..I love the McElroy Family Sandy Fisher

July 24 at 6:25 PM

PF

Pam Melnik Ferris posted:

To Lynn and the entire McElroy Family, On behalf of the Melnik's, I want to express our deepest sympathy for the loss of Mike. Clearly he was loved by all who knew him and will be sorely missed. May the fondest memories of the times you shared coupled with the love and support from family and friends, help you through this difficult time. Our thoughts are with you. Much love to you all, Pam

July 24 at 12:44 PM

CS

Carol Zeni Shirley posted:

My sincere sympathy to the entire McElroy family. I enjoyed working with Tuna at ABDI and considered him a friend. He will be sorely missed. Carol Zeni ShirleySun City, Arizons

July 23 at 2:39 PM

JL

Jeff And Connie Laatsch posted:

Tim, Les and family: Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. We are so sorry for your loss. May God bless you and give you peace. Jeff and Connie Laatsch

July 23 at 1:07 PM



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BM

Betty M. posted:

My heart goes out to the family of Mr. McElroy. I want to express my sincere condolences to the family. He was a very, very, wonderful man and there will be no one like him. He was so honest and true and would see that things got done around Decatur to make this city beautiful. He will be deeply missed.

July 23 at 12:30 PM

FS

Francie Johnson, Dove Community Services posted:

The neighborhoods in the city of Decatur will miss the friend they had with Mayor McElroy. He truly believed that making Decatur the best it can be comes in all directions, which includes the residents in the neighborhoods, and the residents knew he was genuine in his thoughts. His door was open to anyone that needed his help. By working hard to make our neighborhoods better it reflected on the city as a whole. He will be missed tremendously. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family

July 23 at 9:13 AM

RA

Ray Ainslie posted:

On behalf of the membership of the Illinois JCI Senate, we are shocked and saddened by the loss of "Tuna". His Jaycee career was well known throughout the state. He was honored with the highest honor – a Junior Chamber International Senatorship # 34665. I will miss him as a friend and a source of which I always knew would come through. Ray Ainslie, Chaplain Illinois JCI Senate #44136

July 22 at 4:40 PM

TS

Tim Schook posted:

Mike gave me personal words of encouragement during a difficult time and loss of a loved one in my life that I think of often. I will always be grateful to him for that and his positive attitude. Our community and his family lost an amazing man who truly brought this community together. His great sacrifices to make this community great will live forever. My deepest sympathies prayers go to the entire McElroy family. Tim Schook

July 22 at 2:32 PM

LS

Lisa Stanley posted:

Lit a candle in memory of Michael "Tuna" McElroy

July 22 at 10:57 AM



Tribute Wall

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JO

Jacalyn Osborne posted:

I will never forget the fun times being in class with you. Jacalyn Crowe Osborne. Class of 1970

July 22 at 9:07 AM

JD

Jerry Daugherty posted:

I was both shocked and saddened to hear about Mayor Mike's death. I know that I speak for myself and many others when I offer deepest sympathy to family and friends. Mayor Jerry Daugherty City of Mascoutah President, Illinois Municipal League

July 21 at 8:31 AM

MK

M Kathleen posted:

Our Hearts Are Filled with Sorrow You Have Our Deepest Sympathy The Wm Saucier Family

July 20 at 5:37 PM

PF

Pam Melnik Ferris posted:

Dear Lynn and the entire McElroy family, On behalf of the Melnik family, I want to express our deepest sympathy to you for the sudden and tragic loss of Mike. I remember talking with him at Anne's house a couple years ago after so many years had passed. To read about his life now is an inspiration. In 63 years he accomplished more than many whose lives are not sadly taken so early. My father died the same way at the exact same age, and it's been a constant reminder to me since that day how very precious life is. May the love and comfort you feel from family and friends, coupled with the fondest memories of the times you shared, help you through this difficult time. Our thoughts are with all of you. Love, Pam

July 20 at 5:04 PM

DS

Donna Scharf posted:

No one can ever replace you as our mayor and I am resigned to that, I just hope you have your heavenly hand in whoever becomes our mayor. No one can love Decatur like you did. Our town has lost a very very dedicated man RIP

July 20 at 2:02 PM



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DF

Dave Fletcher posted:

Years ago, a family of golfers invaded the Decatur confines for a four day event known as the Fletcher Invitational. One evening after the second 36 hole day of golf, we gathered for the customary Duane Chandler grilled trifectas of steaks/chops/brats and a few barley pops. As our adrenalin slowed to a crawl, who should walk in the door but Tuna. Most of us from out of state had only heard rumors and stories about this guy, Tuna, possibly being some fictitious rebel rouser, a jolly of a man, assured to lift your spirits and put a smile on your face. Well, he didn't disappoint. Fact is, he took to the floor in front of us likened to a stand up comedian. And my beloved brother Joel was the target of most of "the roast". But that's the way it is between friends. Although I didn't know Mike well, I do know a few of his friends, and that's enough said. So raise a glass to Tuna. It's assured that he'll be toasted at our annual Invitational! Dave Fletcher, DeWitt, Ia.

July 20 at 12:25 PM

RR

Roger Ryan posted:

Sad loss for the entire city of Decatur. My sincere condolences to the McElroy family and the thousands of Tuna's friends.

July 20 at 12:09 PM

DL

Dennis Lyles posted:

A Good Man.

July 20 at 12:05 PM

DF

Dreier Family posted:

So sorry for your loss. The McElroy family is in our prayers and thoughts during this sad and difficult time. The Dreier's

July 20 at 11:40 AM

RH

Robert Helmbacher posted:

Matt In the best ways, your father was truly one of a kind – my memories are from working alongside Tuna selling Budweiser, and he was simply the best and most fun representative a company could hope to have. I admired him so much – Unforgettable man. I am sorry for your loss and will keep the McElroy family in my thoughts and prayers. He was very proud of you. Bob Helmbacher

July 20 at 10:19 AM



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RH

Randall Holmes posted:

To the McElroy Family, Sorry for your loss. Mayor McElroy was a wonderful Mayor. He done alot for Decatur and he will be greatly missed. My prayers and thoughts are with the McElroy Family.

July 20 at 9:40 AM

JS

Jeanine M Smith posted:

My heart goes out to all the McElroy family. My family moved next to the McElroys in 1963 and we remained close friends while we all grew up together. I am so very sorry for your loss. Love, Jeanine Mullen Smith

July 20 at 7:06 AM

HK

Heather V. Kimmons posted:

Tuna was such a great, kind and gentle man. A few years back, when I accepted the position as Village Administrator in Forsyth, he was one of the first to call to congratulate me and invite me to lunch. Such an ambassador for Decatur, but, more importantly, a genuinely kind and encouraging person, and a true mentor to me.

July 20 at 5:48 AM

JW

Jerry White posted:

Lynn and Family My wife Mary and I are so sad at Mayor McElroy's sudden death. When he ran for Senator he spoke at the Sangmaon County GOP Network at a luncheon at the Sangamo Club. As President it was my honor to introduce him and we had many friendly exchanges during the campaign. May God Bless your family during this sorrowful time. Jerry and Mary White Springfield, IL

July 20 at 5:20 AM

BK

Betsy Kuhle posted:

I'm so sorry for your loss! The entire McElroy family is one that I think of first when I think of Decatur. You're in my thoughts and prayers.

July 19 at 3:48 PM



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LR

Lonnie Russell posted:

He was one great friend;

July 19 at 2:15 PM

TH

Tom Harm posted:

I did not know Mr. McElroy personally but I know a lot of people that did. I came to Decatur in 1979 from Wisconsin and in that time I think he was one of the best mayors the city has had in that time. The city will miss him but I'm sure not as much as his family will miss him. You have my deepest sympathy. God Bless you.

July 19 at 1:58 PM

SC

Sue Carr posted:

To the whole McElroy family. So sorry for your loss. My family lived in the Decatur area for many years. Mike was working construction with my husband Mike Carr when my husband Mike lost his arm in a accident. Mike's dad Dick McElroy was the boss on that job. We were good friends with Dick and Betty and Dick's brother Jim McElroy. They were all great people. Prayer's to the whole McElroy family!! Sue Carr

July 19 at 12:59 PM

MM

Michael Mormino posted:

Dear Lynn, Matt, Pat, Tim, and Ellen, Cannot begin to express how saddened the Mormino family is over Tuna's passing. We could never say thank you enough times for what he did for my parents when our Dad was dying. We will never forget. Tuna was a fantastic person, husband, father, brother, and friend. He will be greatly missed. Please accept our deepest sympathies and condolences. Mike Mormino and the Mormino Family. P.S. Hey Tuna tell Gus and Boaz hello when you guys are having cocktails up there!

July 19 at 12:20 PM



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TO

The Olivers posted:

We have your family in our prayers. Thank you for sharing him with everyone in Decatur. He was a great person. It would not be surprising to find out that he is sitting next to the Heavenly Father in Heaven. May you find comfort from God's loving arms as he surrounds you during this sad time. The Olivers

July 19 at 12:18 PM

DC

Dan Cox posted:

Two years ago, I hosted an exchange student from Slovakia. Daniel wanted to meet the Mayor of Decatur when he was here. We called to make an appointment, and when we went out the door, it was snowing big wet flakes. When we got to the Civic Center, it was already pretty nasty and slick. As we walked up the front, we passed the snow removal guy who was scooping the sidewalk. We went in and up to the Mayor's office. The secretary said he would be with us in a minute. A few minutes later, she took us back... and there was the "snow removal" guy... Mayor "Tuna". He welcomed us and Daniel sat and talked with him for about 30 minutes. He gave Daniel a seal of Decatur paperweight and thanked him for coming to visit... A class act all the way. he will be missed!

July 19 at 12:02 PM

EM

Erica Mackling posted:

So sorry for your loss. Thinking of your family.

July 19 at 10:34 AM

RW

Roberta Williams posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. I remember Mike coming to Garfield for Addison's special day. My heart is with you. May you find peace and comfort in the days to come, knowing that he touched many lives. Roberta Williams

July 19 at 10:23 AM



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MM

Marianne Manko posted:

My coworkers at WAND News and I are deeply saddened by the sudden death of Mayor McElroy. He was the kind of leader who returned his own phone calls, answered any and all questions honestly and promptly and never strayed from transparency, even when navigating down a bumpy road. But best of all he was truly a friend to all. When you hear people continuously say "he never met a stranger" — believe it! Personally he was a role model for me and a great example of how to live a meaningful, prosperous life. He will be greatly missed. Many prayers for his family during this difficult time.

July 19 at 10:21 AM

CS

Cathy Uhl And Keith Stock posted:

We are so sorry Mike is no longer with us all here on this earth, and that he did not receive the gift of a longer earthly life. We pray your memories of wonderful times together bring you the comfort of his life well lived. Cathy Uhl and Keith Stock

July 19 at 9:54 AM

TC

Tom Chamblin posted:

Timmy and Pat, so sorry to here about your loss. What a great guy. I am praying for all of you. Tom Chamblin.

July 19 at 8:20 AM

MC

Mike & Pam Chesser posted:

So sorry to hear about the passing of Mike McElroy. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. Mike & Pam Chesser

July 19 at 7:42 AM



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MS

Mark Scranton posted:

My heart aches for the loss of good friend and a great leader of this communityhis candid thoughts and forward thinking about breathing new life in decatur are evident by the changes we see taking placenever was there a time that I would call Tuna with idea or a need and would take the time to listen and offer whatever assistance he couldHe encouraged me to stand up and strive to be successful in business despite many obstacles at timesThis community has loss a great man we are blessed for knowing him and many of us that could call him friendrest in peace we will have a cold bud to celebrate your lifeMark Scranton

July 19 at 5:17 AM

JN

Jan Niesman posted:

I am so sorry for your loss. I wish something I said would ease your pain, but knowing so many care, I hope will help with your loss a little. What a Great Guy! He made those he dealt with feel they were all number 1 and trusted. His sincerity poured from his heart. Our thoughts are with you during this sad and difficult time. Jan and Bruce Niesman

July 18 at 7:03 PM

RL

Roger Lowe posted:

To all the McElroy family: You have my deepest sympathies in the loss of Mike. I have great memories of him while growing up with you all at 120 N. Dennis. He lived a great life, and has obviously left quite a legacy. You all will be in my thoughts.Roger Lowe

July 18 at 1:26 PM

MF

Martha Uvick Foster posted:

Mike "Tuna" was one of the best people on the face of this EARTH, God must have need another Angel: Martha Uvick Foster

July 18 at 6:54 AM



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Marilyn Pierceall posted:

OMG, when I heard the news this morning I was in shock. Not Mike! Lynn my heart goes out to you. I have known the McElroy family since 1969. Moving here from Nebr., Betty, Mike/s mother guided me in retail buying. I covered both Dick & Betty with insurance which helped with their health problems. My friends, both gone now, then Ann the daughter of the family that was the spokesperson at the funerals for the family. Now Mike. Not fair, not fair. I feel so for Lynn and for his son. Too soon for such a good man. I loved Mike for what he stood for, along with his parents, his brothers, Pat and Tim and his sister Ellen. I loved them all and we were such good friends. We believed in the goodness of Decatur and it's people. After our retirement from AfLAC we moved to Arizona. After 4 years Bert passed away and I came back to Decatur. My home! I felt secure here with the lovely South Shores area and Holy Family parish which we shared. Please know, Lynn, that my prayers are for you and your son. Mike was a good man and I know you knew that. Love, Marilyn Pierceall

July 17 at 2:23 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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