



Richard A. McClain

January 10, 1938 - March 26, 2014

Richard A. "Dick" McClain, 76, of Bourbonnais, passed away Wednesday (March 26, 2014) at his home. Visitation will be from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bradley, with Father John Antczak officiating. Following Mass, burial will be in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Presence St. Mary's Cancer Center or Hospice of Kankakee Valley.

He was born Jan. 10, 1938, in Kankakee, the son of Ollie and Iva Bertrand McClain. When he was young, his mother married his stepfather, Claude Drazy. Dick graduated from Kankakee High School in 1956 before enlisting in the U.S. Navy. He married his high school sweetheart Janice F. Belisle on Dec. 31, 1960.

Dick left the Navy in 1967 with the rank of Chief Petty Officer (E-7) for an appointment as a Signal Corps Warrant Officer in the U.S. Army. Dick completed three tours of duty during the Vietnam conflict. He retired with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer (CWO-3) in 1976 with a total of 20 years of military duty. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, National Defense Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with five campaign stars.

Following his military retirement, Dick was employed for five years at the Roper Corp., Kankakee division in the Appliance Engineer Division. He left Roper in 1981 to pursue a career as an electronic vocational instructor where he spent 10 years teaching electronics to grades 11 and 12 at the Kankakee Area Career Center.

Dick received his associate degree from Kankakee Community College and worked toward a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University.

Dick had a passion for bowling and in 1986 he accomplished a "bowler's dream" at Gala Lanes. He experienced the thrill when he rolled a perfect game along with a three-game 814 series, consisting of scores of 300, 247 and 267.

Surviving are his wife, Janice; daughter, Wanda Gifford, of Bourbonnais; son, Richard McClain Jr., of Tucson, Ariz.; son and daughter-in-law, Michael McClain and Marien Sorensen, of Davis, Calif., five grandchildren, Christopher, Chloe and Maya McClain, Bruce Jr. and Lauren Gifford; sister, Donna Brenyas, of Florida; sister and brother-in-law, Kay and Larry Vilt, of Bonfield; half brother, Dennis McClain, of Peoria; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Carolyn and Wayne Walker, of Kankakee; nephews and nieces, Kevin and Brenda Lamb, Guy and Melody Vilt, and Jason and Jeanna Walker. Also surviving are two aunts, Celeste Regnier and Jeanne Regnier, of Bourbonnais; close family friend, Grace "Missy" Minor; and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and stepfather; nephew, Richard Lamb; niece, Marty Vilt; half sister, Kathleen McClain; half brother, Mickey McClain; in-laws, Leroy and Magdalene Belisle; and brothers-in-law, Brian Belisle and Theodore Brenyas.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Kankakee Valley - hkvcares.org
or to Presence St. Mary's Hospital - www.provena.org/stmarys/

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 30. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

MAR 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
211 N. Center Street
Bradley, IL 60915
(815) 939-3573
<http://www.stjosephbradley.org>

Graveside Service

MAR 31. 12:00 PM (CT)

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
20953 Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Tribute Wall

DG

“ Dear Jan and Family:

As I attended the wonderful tribute at St. Joseph's, and the military rites, for Dick, at the Lincoln Memorial... many sweeping memories came to mind. Irene and I have admired you both over the years of our acquaintance... the front yard visits, on the way to a Perry Farm bicycle ride... gatherings at the Career Center... and the wonderful stories shared. What an impressive legacy has been left for our contemplation... what a wonderful man. What a privilege to have had our paths cross... the years have only endeared the friendship. On behalf of Irene, who shared those Career Center years with Dick, "Thanks for the fine memories." And I say, "Thanks, Dick, for being yourself, just one great guy."

Now I can only pray, "May the Lord bless and keep you.... be gracious unto you" as your journey continues...

FDG/fdg

Dr. Franklin Garton - April 02, 2014 at 05:55 PM

JS

“ So sorry to read that Dick has passed. Our paths haven't crossed in years, but Arlen and I recalled him helping our son Alan at the Career Center, which started Alan on his career in computers. We are forever grateful for his guidance. When we hear thunder this spring we'll know he's joined heavens bowling league.

Janice and Arlen Speckman - March 30, 2014 at 06:22 PM

SA

“ So sorry Janice for your loss. We loved seeing you and Dick walking in our "backyard".
Our prayers and sympathy go out to you and the whole family.
Shirley and Nick

Shirley Africano - March 28, 2014 at 01:09 PM

LG

“ Linda Glidewell lit a candle in memory of
Richard A. McClain



Linda Glidewell - March 28, 2014 at 12:32 PM

KS

“ Kathy Sullivan lit a candle in memory of
Richard A. McClain



Kathy Sullivan - March 27, 2014 at 05:10 PM

KS

“ He was a good man. In the time that I knew him, he always had a smile.
Jan was a wonderful and loving wife. Prayers for the family

Kathy Sullivan - March 27, 2014 at 05:09 PM



“ *California Healthy was purchased for the family of Richard A. McClain.*



March 27, 2014 at 03:48 PM