
Burke Finney McLaughlin

Oct. 22, 1929-March 9, 2015 Burke Finney McLaughlin was born on October 22th, 1929 in Moody, Alabama to Proctor McLaughlin and Betty Foreman McLaughlin. He was a graduate of Leeds High School where he participated in every sport on offer and was named the president of his senior class. He grew up spending so many happy hours collecting arrowheads in and around the Little Cahaba Creek with cousins and friends. Soon after graduation, Burke joined the Navy and was sent to San Diego, California where he pitched baseball for the Navy team. He continued his baseball career with the Saint Louis Browns (now the Baltimore Orioles) from 1950 to 1953 and then pitched in the farm teams of the Orioles in Toronto, San Antonio, Wichita and Aberdeen. Along the way he met the love of his life, Patricia Harlin and they were married in 1950 and remained married until her death in 2001. Burke picked up and completed his higher education whenever the demands of job and family would allow. The constant moving around required by baseball was not conducive to having a family so he started a career with The Hughes Tool Company where he would remain for the next 37 years rising steadily up the ranks. His five children born of this union grew up secure with his strength and sense of humor in a home full of friends and laughter. His career with Hughes took him from West Texas to Mississippi to Lafayette, LA to London, England, the Middle East, China and all over Europe. Burke retired young and continued to play tennis and grow his prize tomatoes wherever he was. After Patricia's death, Burke married Sara Lou Connell of Leeds. Burke was honored to be a part of the Medal of Honor Park ceremony in Leeds telling the story of his relative, Lee McLaughlin, a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Burke died on March 9 at the age of 85 and was laid to rest March 12th, 2015 in The Woodlands, Texas next to his beloved wife Patricia and his son Clay who preceded him in death in 1970. Burke is survived by his son Mark (Estelle), Brad, Leslye M Hardie (David), Kathleen Perschall (Beau), grandchildren, Heather, Shane, Trevor, Cameron, Lachlan, Clay and Maddie. He was loved by all who knew him, had so many friends and was always grateful for his many blessings. Memorials can be made to your local hospice or any charity fighting dementia.

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