Tommy Joe McCleskey Sr.

NOV 24, 1946 - APR 20, 2023

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Taylor Funeral Home
of Chattanooga, Inc.

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Tommy Joe McCleskey Sr.

NOV 24, 1946 - APR 20, 2023

Tommy Joe McCleskey, Sr., 76, of Chattanooga, passed away Thursday, April 20, 2023, in a local hospital. He was born on November 24, 1946, to the loving parents of the late Bro. William Miles McCleskey, Sr. and Sis. Mary McCleskey in the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, The Tennessee College of Applied Technology with an Associate Degree in Design and attended the University of Tennessee. In 1964, he entered the U.S. Army and served for three years. Mr. McCleskey was deployed on the frontline of the Vietnam and Korean Wars documenting video footage for CBS anchorman and broadcast journalist Walter Cronkite for the world to note. Tommy Joe's most prestigious career project was at Plastic Line with a collaborative team of experts to develop the iconic brand logo design of the "Taco Bell" sign and many other signs seen today. In addition, he worked for Carborundum as a Design Drafter/ Estimator, United Engineering as a Designer and a Sales Representative for multiple car dealerships. As a proud Christian, Bro. McCleskey began his preaching journey at Sevier Street Church of Christ in Harriman, Tennessee, where he served for seven years. Moreover, he fellowshipped and conducted worship at Shepherd Church of Christ (Chattanooga, TN), Gate City Church of Christ (Gate City, VA), Park City Church of Christ (Knoxville, TN), Hood Street Church of Christ (Waco, TX), East 3rd Street Church of Christ (Chattanooga, TN), Louisa Street Church of Christ (New Orleans, LA), Hollywood Church of Christ (Baton Rouge, LA) and West End Church of Christ (Knoxville, TN). Bro. McCleskey was very instrumental in the advisement process via a multitude of Church of Christ congregations. "Uncle Joe", as everyone called him, was indeed a jack-of-all-trades. You name it and he could fix it, from drafting architectural plans, cars, pipes, home repairs, building homes, and the list goes onward. If he was unable to fix the project, he pulled out books and researched until he could successfully master the job. As a life-long learner, Mr. McCleskey was

self-taught, an independent learner and used these skills to assist everyone within the realm of his gifts and talents. Bro. McCleskey's philanthropy was donating to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Joe had a favorite scripture he quoted "That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9 NKJV). On January 2, 1967, he married the late Walda Eleece Barksdale-McCleskey in Ringgold, Georgia. From their union, four children were born: Octavia McCleskey-Mallory (Geoffrey) Knoxville, TN, William M. McCleskey (deceased), Tommy Joe (JJ) McCleskey, Jr. (Susan) Madisonville, LA, and Lucretia McCleskey Woods (Roy) Lexington, KY. "Pawpaw" will forever be remembered by his grandchildren, Byrgundy Mallory-White (Jared), Lanceri Parson (Christopher), Jalen McCleskey

Andrelli Seivwright, Justin McCleskey, A'kniyai Seivwright, Ca'knorai Woods; in addition, great-grandchildren, Garratt Fann, Carmyn Fann, Angelo Fann and Chris Parson. Tommy Joe was predeceased in death by his wife, Walda Eleece Barksdale-McCleskey; infant son, William M. McCleskey; father, William Miles McCleskey, Sr.; mother, Mary Elizabeth Burnett McCleskey; sisters, Anna Wyche and Helen Young; brothers-in-law, Willie Hines and Earl Hopkins. Survivors include his children and their spouses; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; sisters, Sibley Hines of McDonough, GA and Quintella Hopkins of Indianapolis, IN; brothers, William McCleskey, Jr. of Chattanooga, Timothy (Shirlee) McCleskey, Sr. of Nashville, TN, and George (Mary) McCleskey of Ooltewah, TN; and a multitude of beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, friends and church family. Tommy Joe will lie-in-state on Sunday, April 30, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Taylor Funeral Home. The Home Going Celebration will follow at 2 p.m. in the chapel with Brother Michael Ludy as the eulogist. Burial on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in Chattanooga National Cemetery. The family requests black or patriotic colors be worn on both days to celebrate his life and service to his country. Bro. Tommy Joe McCleskey, Sr. will be dearly missed. Directions on Live Stream: 1. Go to Google 2. Type: taylorfuneralhomefacebookpage
3. Scroll down to view the service.

Events

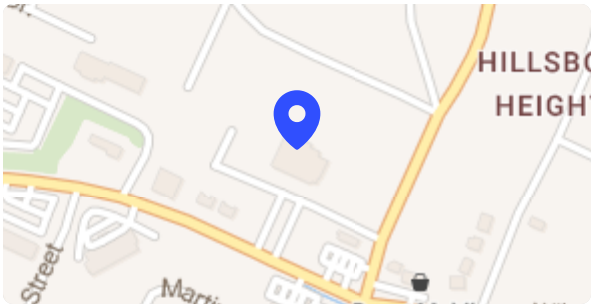
Tommy Joe McCleskey Sr.
NOV 24, 1946 - APR 20, 2023

Lie-In-State

Sunday, April 30, 2023

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM ET

Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc
3417 Wilcox Boulevard, Chattanooga TN 37411

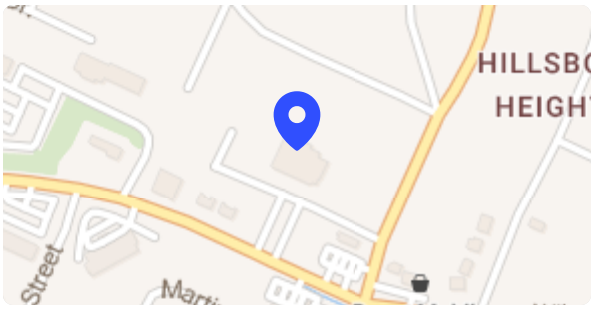


Service

Sunday, April 30, 2023

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET

Taylor Funeral Home of Chattanooga, Inc
3417 Wilcox Boulevard, Chattanooga TN 37411

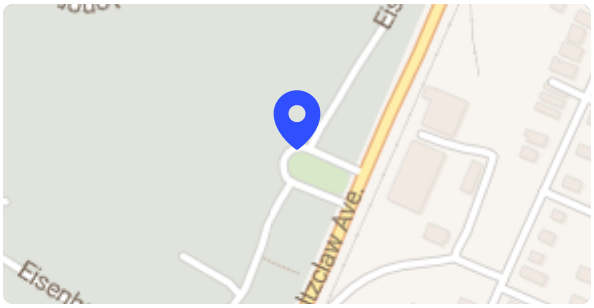


Burial

Monday, May 1, 2023

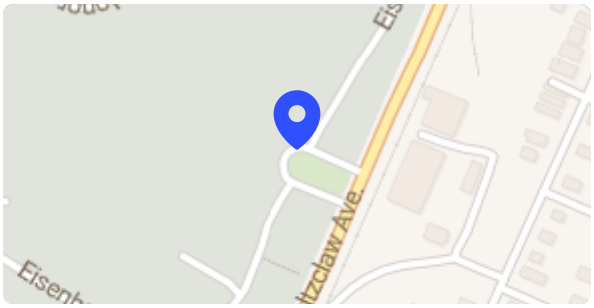
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM ET

Chattanooga National Cemetery
1200 Bailey Ave, Chattanooga TN 37404



Cemetery Details

Chattanooga National Cemetery
1200 Bailey Ave, Chattanooga TN 37404



Tribute Wall

Tommy Joe McCleskey Sr.
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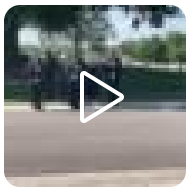
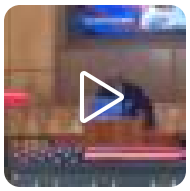
Taylor Funeral Home Of Chattanooga, Inc. shared an album called **Cemetery Service-Tommy Joe McCleskey, Sr.**.



May 1 at 3:49 PM

Taylor Funeral Home Of Chattanooga, Inc. shared an album called **Funeral Service-Tommy Joe McCleskey, Sr.**.



May 1 at 3:49 PM

LW

Linda Hatcher-Williams posted:

Condolences to the Mccleskey family. May God be with you always. Herbert L. Jones. Jr, Linda Jones Hatcher-Williams and Homer Williams.

April 30 at 4:01 PM

LW

Lucretia Woods May 4 at 3:24 AM
Daddy, thank you for being the best Daddy ever! We will miss you so much! Thanks for always being there for us all! Thank you God for our Daddy!! We love you! You will be missed!

JD

James Duke posted:

My condolences to the family. May God grant you comfort and sholom during this time of bereavement

April 30 at 8:45 AM

Tribute Wall

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JW

Jared & Byrgundy White posted:

Pawpaw,Thank you so much for all the lessons you taught Jared and I! You were the best grandfather a girl could ask for in their lifetime. Pawpaw, you were so caring, loving, HILARIOUS, truthful and a man of GOD! You instilled in your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren the word of the lord. I will cherish all the memories we made forever! Pawpaw, we love you forever and always. You left your mark on this earth and fulfilled the mission that GOD had in store for you! Jared and I, Byrgundy, love you so much and will miss you!Love,Jared & Byrgundy White

April 30 at 5:28 AM

OM

Octavia Mallory lit a candle in honor of Tommy.

We love you daddy!!! My favorite memory is going through the grocery store and you zooming through the store in the electric wheel chair...they knew us all by name and loved to see you come in to shop. There are so many good memories...we will miss you dearly. RIP! Love, Geoffry, Octavia, Byrgundy & Jared

April 30 at 12:09 AM

SW

Sharon H. Winston posted:

To the McCleskey family,Sending our most heartfelt condolences and prayers that will bind you together in comfort. Much love,Johnny (J. J.) & Sharon (Hester) Winston

April 29 at 4:35 PM

SS **Sharon Scaife** April 30 at 6:23 AM
Praying for the family.

ES

Emily Oneal Spence lit a candle in honor of Tommy.

April 28 at 5:34 PM

ES **Emily Oneal Spence** April 28 at 5:37 PM
he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away. " I will keep you in my prayers.

Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the McCleskey family.

April 28 at 3:39 PM

Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the McCleskey family.

April 27 at 4:49 PM

EW

Earl L Wilson lit a candle in honor of Tommy.

April 26 at 12:32 PM

RC

Ruth Carson Collins lit a candle in honor of Tommy.

April 25 at 12:21 PM

RC

Ruth Carson Collins lit a candle in honor of Tommy.

April 25 at 12:20 PM

RH

Rosalind Crutcher Harris lit a candle in honor of Tommy.

April 25 at 7:34 AM

Tribute Wall

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CC

Carolyn Jones Cochran lit a candle in honor of Tommy.

April 24 at 11:01 AM

JR

Joyce Reynolds posted:

Our prayers for strength and comfort are with the family. We pray the Lord surround you with so much love.Steve and Joyce Reynolds

April 23 at 4:53 PM

HT

Holly Toney August 10 at 2:22 PM
Prayers and deepest condolences are extended to the McKlesky family. The Toney Family

RH

Rosalind Crutcher Harris April 25 at 7:33 AM
Our prayers and condolences are with The McCleskey Family! Tommy Joe's presence will certainly be missed in the city and during the BTW school reunions! We pray that you will stay strong as our Lord provides you with comfort to strengthen you during these difficult days. Rosalind Crutcher Harris

Taylor Funeral Home Of Chattanooga, Inc. shared a video to the **Cemetery Service-Tommy Joe McCleskey, Sr.** album. May 1 at 3:49 PM

Taylor Funeral Home Of Chattanooga, Inc. shared a video to the **Funeral Service-Tommy Joe McCleskey, Sr.** album. May 1 at 3:49 PM

Memories only last if you share them

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

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