



Harrison Fargo McConnell

July 24, 1935 - September 1, 2017

Harrison Fargo McConnell died September 1, 2017 at age 82 after a brief hospital stay near his home in Manassas, Virginia.

He is survived by his daughter Catherine McConnell (Lawrence Boland), granddaughter Olivia McConnell, and ex-wife Susan Longstreet whose special care this year enabled him to live at home independently. He was predeceased by his beloved mother Zerelda Clark McConnell.

Harrison was a graduate of the University of Virginia. He was active in local grassroots politics. He was a hook and bullet conservationist who hated wastefulness. He was a lifelong gun enthusiast, an American history buff, and enjoyed drinking good scotch until he gave that up a few years ago, much to everyone's surprise. He was proud of the hard work he and his mother did maintaining her home at 510 Wolfe Street in Alexandria. He was a folk artist and created detailed works in wood and paint on themes of trains, boats, ocean fish, and quotes from his favorite historical figures.

He enjoyed life and had long friendships he valued with people of all ages. He was polite and respectful but could cuss like a trucker. He was no-nonsense about getting things done right, but he enjoyed telling stories about the antics, hijinks, and shenanigans he and his buddies got into back in the day. No fool, no fun, he liked to say.

Harrison's remains have been cremated at his request, his ashes will be spread in private, and there will be no funeral. The family offers heartfelt thanks to the good friends who looked out for him.

Tribute Wall

TJ

“ *To Harrison's family.*

My name is Tom Jones and Harrison and I shared Sunday school together for more than 20 years, starting in our infancy. We, along with his mother, Zerelda, were members of Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, DC where my father was one of the ministers. From the earliest of years, Harrison and I shared a wonderful friendship and I spent countless nights at 510 Wolf Street with he and his mother. I can well remember the awful accident that took his eye. Sometimes the three of us would go to a seafood restaurant on Main Street in Washington and Harrison and I would each devour a captain's platter, much to Zerelda's amazement. On a number of occasions we would go out back to the barn and explore. I vividly remember finding a mini ball deep in a brick which was no surprise to Harrison who had discovered others on prior occasions. After high school we parted ways, for life as it turns out. We occasionally visited through college and then our careers took us on divergent paths.

I have never forgotten those years or the grand friendship we enjoyed. Over the past several years I attempted to contact Harrison, wanting to exchange greetings and hoping to share a bit of life together once again. As a part of that search I found this obituary, too late at it turns out. I am so sad and I write this with a tear in my eye.

To his family I send my very late but sincere condolence, I am sad our paths did not cross during his marvelous lifetime.

Tom Jones - April 11, 2018 at 09:40 PM

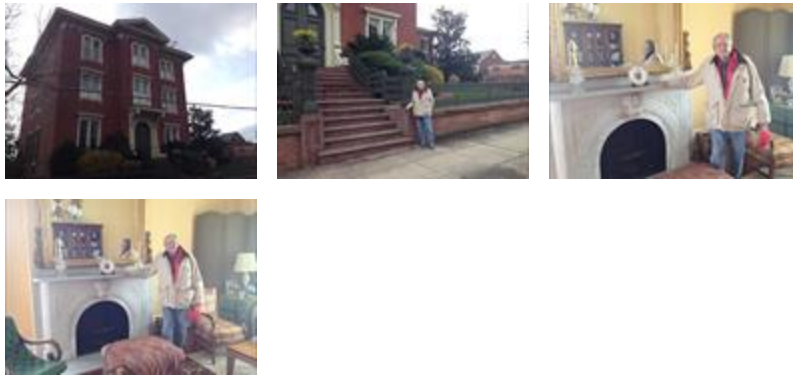
CM

Thank you so much for this remembrance. I am sorry he didn't get the chance to be reacquainted with you, I'm sure he would have enjoyed reliving memories with you. Best wishes to you! Sincerely, Harrison's daughter Cathy McConnell

Cat McConnell - December 19, 2019 at 11:24 AM

TT

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Tony Toth - October 29, 2017 at 11:13 AM

BL

“ *Love my friend Harry, will always be in my thoughts.*

Brian Legal - September 30, 2017 at 10:52 PM

TT

“*Memories of Harrison reach back to my early childhood when we would go fishing in Hatteras or to the farm shooting or hunting with the many friends and acquaintances of Curtis Shockley. I was always excited about excursions that included Harrison or knowing that he was going to be at the many parties and pig roasts we attended with other close friends over the years. I have fond memories of the road trips we took in the old Pontiacs we both liked to drive back in the day.*

Harrison was always so much fun to be around. He loved to get out there and “cut a rug” with the ladies and was always the lifeblood of the party. No matter what the occasion, he would invariably get on a role and keep us all in stitches with laughter.

He always had a good time with the many sayings he got from his helper at 510 Wolfe St., Edward Colvin. This I believe, is where Harrison’s favorite line, “no fool no fun” originated. I never knew Edward but feel as though I did as Harrison reflected on those days of 510 Wolfe as long as I knew him. I could only imagine the comedy of these characters on the streets of Alexandria as Harrison told their stories.

In those early years our paths crossed only during other planned events. In 1987, he moved into a new home in Manassas where we become more regularly connected in our friendship. We worked hard together to finish his basement and gun room and to add interior trim details to the rest of the house.

He was a history buff and artist, Harrison knew the history of all the guns he collected and the conflicts they were used in - an interest he had since he was a young boy. Harrison also spent countless hours in his shop working on art projects. Framings, wood carvings, plaques and models are throughout his home. About ten years ago, Harrison gave me one of his framed train models. I was honored to receive this very special gift, as I could clearly see the many, many hours of time that went into its creation.

Harrison never whined or complained about things but could get mad, and as he would say, "come unglued like a cheap suit." (another Edward Colvin line). He'd further say, "you don't want to mess with Harry McConnell." At these times, he would see himself as the tough guy, but from my perspective, could see a man of kind heart; a gentle man. He most often conducted himself as the true southern gentleman his mother raised him to be. It wasn't hard to see that he was very close and proud of his mother.

Harrison was always proud of his family. He spoke most of his Mother, daughter Cathy, granddaughter Olivia and ex-wife, Sue Longstreet. He was most proud of Oliva, working to finish her college education. It was very important to Harrison that Olivia have a good college education.

Frugality was a prominent aspect of Harrison's persona. He was always sparing every expense for self while thinking and giving to others - making art for someone, working a deal for someone, visiting elderly friends, writing letters, sending cards, calling friends or supporting causes and volunteering his time. While so generous to others, some of the things I recall him doing to save a buck make me laugh until I cry knowing there will never be another Harrison McConnell.

I will forever miss Harrison. It gives me comfort to imagine that somewhere on the other side of this life – this new guy has just arrived, and he's having a good time making everyone laugh and smile.

Tony Toth

Tony Toth - September 22, 2017 at 08:54 AM



Tony, I am a cousin of Harrison's from Kentucky. I very much enjoyed and appreciated your tribute. Makes me realize there was a lot to him I didn't know. I'd love to reach out to Cathy but don't know how to find her. Could you help with that? Thank you.

James Spragens

James Spragens - October 12, 2017 at 09:20 AM



James,

Harrison was a very special person.

I don't have Cathy's contact information but will pass this on to Sue Longstreet.

Best, Tony

Tony Toth - October 29, 2017 at 11:03 AM



James - i am sorry that i didn't have your contact information so i could have sent you a personal note concerning Harrison's death. If you will provide your address, i'll send you Cathy's contact information. Best, Sue Longstreet

Sue Longstreet - October 30, 2017 at 08:53 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Tony Toth - September 22, 2017 at 08:13 AM

DS

“ Harrison, myself and John Wallace used to share tables at the Virginia Gun Collectors Association shows. We kept in touch after I moved to Ohio, and would meet up at the Ohio Gun Collectors Association shows. I think the statement that he was a true Virginia Gentleman is most appropriate. Rest in peace old friend.

Dan DeGoricia, Sr.
Dublin, Ohio

Dan DeGoricia, Sr. - September 19, 2017 at 09:17 AM

TF

“ I met Harrison in 1965 as an 8 year old boy. He and Sue and then Cathy were our neighbors at Van Dorn apartments. Harrison looked after me and my family while my dad was in Vietnam. I have fond memories of him taking me shooting, our "death march" camping trips and numerous other adventures. Always interested in saving a buck or two, I was with him when we "rescued" a suitable Christmas tree only to drive into a huge pot hole that bent the car's frame. I can still see the look on Sue's face after learning of the "accident." My comment was--- after he stopped swearing-- was"that didn't sound so good." He was the definition of a guys guy whose deep laugh I will always remember.

Tom Fenig
Charlotte, NC

Tom Fenig - September 14, 2017 at 04:14 PM

JC

“ Surprised to learn of Harry's passing only today. I spoke with him in August when I was in VA and tried to visit him, but he said he didn't feel like company that day, but maybe on the next trip - that would have been today.

Harry was my longest friend, meeting him the summer of 1969 when I went to work for MacIntosh & Assoc. in Fairfax. He was a big brother to me as a teenager, but became my strongest friend in and through my adult life.

He was a true Virginia Gentleman, highly intelligent, and loyal to those whom he treasured - I'll miss old "good-good-good" a lot.

Thank you Sue for taking care of my friend, he loved you,

John Collier, Myrtle Beach

John Collier - September 08, 2017 at 10:44 AM