



Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling

November 15, 1948 - July 5, 2023

On Wednesday, July 5, 2023, Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling, 74, passed away in the company of his wife and children. He was continuing his fight with cancer at the time of his passing. Les was the eldest son of Harold Ellsworth and Mona Avonell (Christensen) McFarling, born on November 15, 1948, in Hot Springs, South Dakota. The Family moved to a ranch near Gann Valley, SD in 1950 and remained there until after Harold's death in 1977. As a young boy, Les enjoyed life on the plains of South Dakota. With beautiful pale blue skies, plentiful sunshine, and the forces of nature; he gained humility as a rancher that shaped the man he became.

He attended grades 1-8 in Gann Valley, SD, followed by high school in Wessington Springs. He enrolled at the University of South Dakota from 1967 until 1974, where he earned his Bachelors, Masters, and PhD degrees. He held deep appreciation for the sacrifices his parents made to provide him with an education, as well as for the invaluable academic opportunities presented to him by his professors and mentors in graduate school, Dr. Norm Heimstra and Dr. Vern Ellingstad.

Les met Kathryn (Kitti) Trudeau at USD in 1968, and they were married in 1969. They were blessed with two sons, Mark (1970) and Ryan (1974). Their marriage ended in divorce in 1990, but their respect for each other as individuals endured.

While at USD, he was a member of ROTC and was a Distinguished Military Graduate, receiving his commission in August 1971, entering active duty in June 1974, and serving at the Academy of Health Sciences at Fort Sam Houston, Texas until his honorable discharge in 1978 at the rank of Captain. After leaving the Army, the family moved to Virginia where Les worked as a contractor and self-employed consultant until 1992 when he became an Army civilian.

Les' professional milestones include serving as Director of the Army Substance Abuse Program, managing a contract research firm, contributing to GPS implementation in US Army helicopters, designing control implementation of US Army howitzers, managing overseas construction projects, and authoring and publishing books, scholarly articles, and papers in the field of Psychology. His impactful career spanned across various regions of the US, Central America, Asia, and Europe.

Les met his current wife Alisa Harvey in 2000 and they were united in their marriage in 2001. This marriage was blessed with a stepdaughter Virginia and a son, Skylar (2002). Les and Alisa have continually made their home in Manassas, Virginia.

Les was predeceased by his parents, both sets of grandparents and numerous aunts and uncles. Les is survived by his wife Alisa Harvey, sons Mark McFarling, Ryan (Julia) McFarling, and Skylar McFarling, stepdaughter, Virginia Hill, his brother, James (Faith) McFarling, niece, Samantha (Ben) Nelson, and nephew Lee McFarling, numerous cousins, whom he had a closeness with, and nieces and nephews.

Services will be held on Friday, July 14th, under the direction of Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street Manassas, VA 20110, (703) 257-6028. Viewing at 2pm followed by the service at 4pm. Interment will be held Monday, July 17th 10am at Quantico National Cemetery, 18424 Joplin Rd, Triangle, VA

22172.

Contributions in Les' memory may be made to the American Lung Association
(<https://www.lung.org>)

Cemetery Details

Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Rd
Triangle, VA 22172-1636
(703) 221-2183

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 14. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 14. 4:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



July 14, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.

July 14, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



July 12, 2023 at 11:14 PM

LA

“ I have known Les for over 37 years. We first met at a project site in York PA back when we were both working for The Essex Corporation. Those were the days of working hard but having fun eating stromboli, drinking Genesee 12 Horse Ale, and bonding as friends. After I moved on in my career and Les moved down to DC, I spent many a day traveling back to that area for business and always enjoyed getting together with Les and others from the Essex days. Working together for that company allowed us to forge extremely strong friendship bonds that have survived to this day.

It is hard to reduce a person like Les into mere words. He was extremely intelligent and wise, offering great knowledge of his field as well as life wisdom. He had a terrific dry sense of humor and a quiet smile. He was self-effacing but at the same time confident. He showed kindness to all and was a great mentor to other professionals, including myself. At times he seemed totally serene and unflappable in face of some of the ridiculous situations that he faced in his professional life.

I greatly admired and respected Les as both a friend and a colleague. I will miss the witty engaging conversations over dinner and that quiet, sly smile. I do feel that Les has left a legacy that many of us should aspire towards. To use a nautical metaphor, as he sailed through life he left a positive wake. Rest in peace my friend.

Larry Avery

Larry Avery - July 12, 2023 at 09:01 PM

AD

“ *Alisa and family,*

We send our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences. Les was a part of the G-1 Army Resilience Directorate family for so many years and those of us who knew and worked with him share in your grief.

Les's dedicated work for the Army is his legacy for the Soldiers, Civilians and the Families world-wide. He will be missed, but not forgotten, as he touched the lives of so many co-workers.

Army Resilience Directorate - July 12, 2023 at 08:42 PM

LA

“ *Larry and Cheryl Avery purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



Larry and Cheryl Avery - July 12, 2023 at 08:31 PM

JA

“ *James A. purchased the Love Everlasting Bouquet for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



James A. - July 12, 2023 at 10:33 AM

JA

“ *James A. purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



James A. - July 12, 2023 at 10:33 AM

JT

“ It is difficult to fathom that Les is no longer living- as he was such strong confident presence- quick to smile and offer praise. He was forever smart, well-spoken and wise- he was the essence of a gentleman.

Our deepest sympathies to you Alisa, Skylar, Virginia, Ryan and Julia, and Mark. We grief with you.

As my older brother-in-law, he always treated me with respect, - just as he treated everyone. He had a gift of eliciting the best from people- sometimes with simple gestures such as asking for one's opinion or referencing personalized experiences. He clearly cared. He remembered details and listened more than he spoke, yet he was a wonderful communicator.

The entire Trudeau family was always so proud of Les, he represented the best of us and this is why he is forever family. Although he had more to be proud of than anyone, he was forever humble!

We've lost Les in-person, but he is part of who we are and hopefully we can honor him in perpetuum by remembering how he taught us the fine art of living.

We loved you man.

Sincerely,

John and Bird

John Trudeau - July 11, 2023 at 08:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



July 11, 2023 at 03:39 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



July 11, 2023 at 09:41 AM



“ *Les was a colleague and friend who worked tirelessly in support of the Army Substance Abuse Program and the services delivered Army wide to Soldiers and their families. As Director, he was always open to new ideas and pursuits. I retired several years ago and moved to Texas and lost touch with Les. Then I ran into him on a business trip and was reminded of his great sense of humor. I'm sorry for your loss. Marsha Drain*

Marsha Drain - July 10, 2023 at 05:02 PM



“ *Marsha Drain planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*

Marsha Drain - July 10, 2023 at 04:16 PM

MD

“ *Marsha Drain purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



Marsha Drain - July 10, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



July 10, 2023 at 01:21 PM

YT

“ *Your Running Store Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*

Your Running Store Team - July 10, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



July 10, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.



July 09, 2023 at 08:32 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.



July 09, 2023 at 01:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.

July 09, 2023 at 01:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.

July 09, 2023 at 08:38 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.



July 09, 2023 at 08:38 AM

DO

“ My deepest sorrow to Dr. McFarling family. I worked with Dr. McFarling in the Drug and Alcohol program known as ACSAP from 1999 to 2010. Additionally, I had spoken to him many times when our office changed to a new Directorate in the Army. My best memory was a team trip to Vicenza, Italy. He really took work seriously and had fun trying the Italian food! He also enjoyed running as well. Dr. McFarling was a respected professional, great mentor and always spoke of his love for his family. He will be missed.



Diane Osborne - July 09, 2023 at 08:30 AM

JF

“ Jeff Harris & Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.



Jeff Harris & Family - July 08, 2023 at 05:25 PM

JH

“ *Cousin Les was a kind, thoughtful, genuine, gentle spirit.*

He was 'always there' when it came to reunions, weddings, funerals, etc.

He was the first to call when both my Mom and Dad had passed away.

Had a great time as a kid visiting Aunt Mona and Uncle Harold in Gann Valley back in the 70's.

Even though he was not there at the time, seeing the simple rural country living you brothers had the opportunity to grow up in was such a blessing!

Reading his obituary, I did not know that he and I were both born in Hot Springs.

I kind of knew about his military career, but not to the full extent described in his obituary. What incredible contributions he made to our great country.

Thank you for the great detail about his life and the rich family history.

The McFarling and Christensen families are a huge part of my life.

I hope to honor Les and all of you by carrying on the heritage and spirit of our lost ones and ancestors in a way that they would be proud of.

May the weight of sorrow for all of us be fully felt, but brief, with the realization that Lord willing, we will one day all be together again.

Blessings and condolences to all from the Harris family.

Jeff Harris - July 08, 2023 at 05:06 PM



“ *tom and mel harrah, neighbors. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



tom and mel harrah, neighbors. - July 08, 2023 at 02:26 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Leslie Harold McFarling.*



July 08, 2023 at 02:06 PM