



Daniel Francis McHugh

September 17, 1926 - April 1, 2015

Daniel Francis McHugh age 88. A 33 year resident of Louisville, Kentucky, recently moved to Houston, passed away in Houston on Wednesday, April 1, 2015.

He was a charter member of the Roanoke, Virginia "Knights of Columbus" Council 562, and a lifetime 4th degree K of C member. He also was a charter member of the Rutherford, North Carolina BPOE "Elks Lodge" 2037. In Louisville he served for 30 years as a volunteer usher at Actors Theatre of Louisville. He also had been a board member of the Dream Factory, Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, and Kentuckiana Mensa, for whom he handled the public relations while hosting its 1989 Louisville national convention. When active in American Mensa, he also served as its planned (charitable) gifts advisor. For ten years prior to his retirement, he published the "Endowment Builder", an internationally distributed planned giving newsletter. In addition to his having been a member of "American Mensa", he also was a member of the American Legion and the VFW. In 1955 he founded the Kentuckiana Chapter of the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association., for which he served as Commanding Officer until his departure to Texas, in 2014.

Dan was the youngest of seven children of Dr. and Mrs. Francis T. McHugh of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, six of whom served overseas during WW II. One brother was a marine flyer in the SW Pacific and, subsequently in Korea. Two

served in the Army in the SW Pacific and two sisters served overseas in Europe and the Pacific with the Red Cross. Dan served in the North Atlantic on the ship Willis (Destroyer Escort 395) performing anti-submarine duty and, subsequently, in the Pacific where it participated in securing several Japanese occupied islands. Dan was a graduate of McDonnell Memorial High School in Chippewa Falls, where he was elected class president two years and captain of the football team. In a national contest sponsored by "Auxilium Latinum", he earned a magna cum laude one year and a summa cum laude another.

After the war, he attended the University of Wisconsin (Madison) for two years and finished up at Marquette to earn his BS degree. Prior to retiring in 1993, Dan's 30+year career was as a professional fundraiser and development consultant. During those years, he found time to take courses at Creighton University, the University of Minnesota, Southwest Louisiana University, Bellarmine University, and the University of Louisville. His fundraising career included serving on or directing campaigns for a series of churches, YMCA's , private secondary schools, universities, hospitals, and the United Way throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Louisiana. In 1987 he instituted the planned giving program for American Mensa. During those years he several times was a featured speaker at regional and national NAHD (National Association for Hospital Development and CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) development conferences.

Dan founded the Kentuckiana chapter of DESA (Destroyer Escort Sailors Association) which in 1995 hosted the organizations' national convention in Louisville. That same year his wartime DE comrades elected him Commanding Officer, a position in which he served up until August, 2014. Dan was an informed, life-long Catholic, and a fourth degree Knight of Columbus, having joined Council 562 in Roanoke, Virginia back in 1953.

Just prior to his retirement in 1993, Dan took on the task of organizing annual reunions for his WW II ship, USS Willis (DE 395). Those were so successful that in 1994 his shipmates voted him National Commander. Among those three-day reunions in 16 different cities, three were in Canada (Toronto, Montreal, and Quebec City), something which no other American warship has done before or since.

In early 2012, moved by the deaths of so many older veterans and, as he has said, perhaps divinely inspired, he instituted the practice of using a bosun whistle at the end of the funeral service to render a 60 second salute at the funerals of more than 200 deceased Jefferson county Navy and coast Guard veterans.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Virginia (Mills), one daughter, Kathryn c. (Casey) Obrien, and four sons Patrick G. (Sylvia) of Cypress, Texas, Terrence J. (Jeanie) of Friendswood, Texas, Dr. Daniel J (Lisa) of Brentwood, Tennessee, and David J. of Atlanta. In addition, nine grandchildren also survive him.

The McHugh family will be present to receive friends Tuesday, April 7, 2015 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM, with a vigil service beginning at 7:00 PM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77079. A funeral Mass will be celebrated Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 11:00 AM at St. Cyril of Alexandria Catholic Church, 10503 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77042. He will be interred in the VA Houston National Cemetery following holy mass at 1:15 PM.

In lieu of flowers please consider contributions in Daniel's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

Cemetery Details

VA Houston National Cemetery

10410 Veterans Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77038-1502
[http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/houston.as
p](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/houston.asp)

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Vigil/Rosary

APR 7. 7:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Funeral Mass

APR 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Cyril Of Alexandria Catholic Church
10503 Westheimer Road
Houston, TX 77042

Graveside Service

APR 8. 1:15 PM (CT)

VA Houston National Cemetery
10410 Veterans Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77038-1502
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/houston.asp>

Tribute Wall



“ Daniel Francis McHugh

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ Daniel Francis McHugh

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ Daniel Francis McHugh

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ Daniel Francis McHugh

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ While my father thought the Wounded Warrior Project is an excellent endeavor, he preferred donations made in his honor be directed to one of the not-for-profit organizations which he held dear. The first organization is the School Sisters of Notre Dame located at 13105 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove, WI 54122.

My father was extremely proud of his family and his home town. He would be honored by donations made in his name to either the Chippewa County Historical Society and the Chippewa Valley Genealogy Society, both located at 123 Allen St, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

Casey McHugh-O'Brien - June 27, 2015 at 09:23 PM

JH

“ Jimmie Hohle: There was only one TOM TERRIFIC!!! I have had the pleasure of knowing Tom nearly 30 yrs. He was one of the smartest people I know; not only in the sprinkler trade but in all aspects. I had the pleasure of working with Tom. at the VA hospital, the Berry Center, several others, and the Tremont retirement home; where I worked my last day with Tom as my foreman for Cole Fire Protection.(didn't even let me off early lol). I also played golf (nearly a scratch golfer when he kept score) poker and had a few beers at many bars. He also sprinkled the L'auberge casino and I think of him when I'm there. My sincere condolences. to his entire family. You will be missed Tom. RIP.

jimmie hohle - April 15, 2015 at 04:33 PM

CG

“ We enjoyed Dan's visits back at his Alma Mater McDonell High School. On September 14, 2012 was his last visit. He was back in Chippewa Falls, WI to attend his class reunion, which, by the way, he had organized from KY. It was Friday of homecoming. He and a few of his classmates from 1944 came for lunch and a visit. Dan took time to visit grade 8 English classes and the sophomore religion classrooms. During this time he shared his knowledge of reciting poetry by memory and his love of the Rosary. The class of 1944 were recognized at half-time during the homecoming football game that night. We were excited to have Dan and a football teammate standing on the football field one last time. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. Rest in peace Dan.

- Cathy Greenseth, McDonell Area Catholic Schools

Cathy Greenseth - April 09, 2015 at 11:00 PM

SJ

“ I never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Daniel McHugh. However, his kindness at my father-in-law's passing has not been forgotten. Here is the letter shared by him with our family. I believe that the McHugh's, Chisholms' and Jasper's are all raising a ruckus as they are reunited.

*Sincere condolences and sweet memories,
Sherry Jasper
Chippewa Falls WI*

*3-19-08
Hi Robbie,*

I just read in the McDonnel High Mack Messenger of Jim's death. I know he had been ill a long while. Even so. It still must have come as something of a shock to you. Please accept my sympathy and condolences. Jim was a good friend to our whole family,

As you probably know, the Jaspers, McHughes and Chisholms all grew up together. Jim lived almost behind our house, and the Chisholms just two door away. My brother Bill was a year ahead of Jim, who was in Dave Chisholm's class. And my brother Jack was a year behind them, and I two years.

When we were growing up back in the Depressions, our mothers arranged for us to pass along clothes as we outgrew them, but which would fit someone else. Being the youngest of our family, I probably made our fairly well.

You may know that at one time Heinie ran a tavern. If memory serves me right, it was the adjacent shop to the west of what then was the Ihle Drug Store. I was just a little shaver, but I do remember my dad taking me in there one day and having a beer. Him, not me. That must have been during the Depression, too. As a child, I was oblivious of how tough things were back then. I'm sure they were for Heinie and Dorothy.

We spent a fair amount of time at each other's house then. On one occasion, I must have been sitting right next to Heinie, when I reached up and touched his chin, and asked, "How did you get that?" referring to the deep dimple he had on his chin. His reply was that he had been shot by a bullet. When I told them, I recall my folks getting a chuckle out of that.

Jim was a great football player-ie, "great" in a relative sense. McDonnell almost always fielded a pretty good team. Although Jim may have weighed but about 145 pounds, he made up for his lack of weight by being extremely aggressive. He feared nothing. He played guard, and apparently enjoyed being in the middle of all the action. It was fun playing with and against him.

You may remember a conversation we had about my seeing him on Guam. Dorothy must have told my mother that Jim was at the base hospital on Guam, and she passed it along to me. So, when our ship tied up there, I tracked him down and enjoyed at least one good visit with him. We were in and out of Guam a number of times, so I probably saw him at least on several occasions.

Well, I didn't mean to ramble, but did want you to know how close Jim was to my family. The door was always open to him, and if it weren't he would open it. He was very much at home with everybody. We loved the guy.

Thanks for the love and care you gave him, Roby.

*Yours,
Dan*

*Daniel F. McHugh
2509 Walbrook Drive
Louisville KY 40222-6262
dfm@win.net*

Sherry Jasper - April 09, 2015 at 09:35 PM

KC

“ *Uncle Dan,*

You leave behind an extended family that is enriched by knowing you. You gifted us all with our genealogy. You connected us across the country with all your clippings and stories in the very big envelopes. Thank you for all those letters.

Thank you for all the times you stood by us. Thank you for all the prayers you sent our way. You made a difference in our lives. When called you always answered

The sounds of the bosun's call will forever echo in my heart.

Lovingly,

Your niece,

Kathleen McHugh Collins

Kathleen McHugh Collins - April 08, 2015 at 05:16 PM

CM

“ *1 file added to the album Dan's Family*



Casey McHugh-O'Brien - April 08, 2015 at 05:09 PM

CM

“ 1 file added to the album *Dan's Family*



Casey McHugh-O'Brien - April 08, 2015 at 05:08 PM

WO

“ Dan,

It's with great sorrow I bid you farewell. You were very instrumental in my personal development over the last 44 years. I'm sorry recent developments didn't allow us to continue our constant contact.

There were too many good words, deeds and actions over the years to start listing them. One however was quite indelible. I was happy to follow in your footsteps as a 4th degree Knight of Columbus. And I will always cherish the ceremonial sword you presented me at my installation.

You will always be remembered fondly and with great love.

*Your favorite son-in-law,
Gardnar*

W. Gardnar O'Brien - April 08, 2015 at 03:49 PM

MR

“ We would like to offer our sincere sympathy to the McHugh family upon the death of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He certainly helped many, many people throughout his busy life. We will miss him greatly at St. Albert's parish in Louisville, KY. He was always kind and showed such concern for others. I knew him from lecturing through the years, but did not realize how much he had done for others until reading the obituary. He certainly lived a full life and reached out to many people who needed help. You must be very proud of his accomplishments. He has left an enviable legacy.

We will make a donation to Wounded Warriors Project in his memory.

Mary Jo & Flave Reising
2403 Hayward Rd.
Louisville, Ky 40242

Mary Jo Reising - April 08, 2015 at 02:17 PM

ED

“ My family was standing on the steps of St. Louis Bertrand Church after the 2014 funeral of my 84 year old Naval Reserve veteran father, talking to friends, when I heard a whistle through the conversation. As the gathered mourners' attention turned to the sound, I saw a man standing beside my father's casket blowing his bosun whistle as the casket was loaded into the hearse for its trip to the cemetery. Then he saluted my father. The touching tribute brought our thoughts to the potent meaning of the moment.

The man then quickly walked away, so I chased him down the sidewalk to thank him and to ask who he was. My family will never forget Mr. McHugh. When we saw his obituary, we wanted to express to his family our great appreciation of this very special man.

The Dolle family
Louisville, KY

Eileen Dolle - April 08, 2015 at 12:34 PM

MT

“ It was my pleasure to meet and assist Mr. McHugh in the past few years. He was an inspiration. I admired his desire to continue learning and his keen interest in business and the human condition. His love of those in service to the country was deep. I have spoken to several people in Louisville who witnessed Mr. McHugh voluntarily giving tribute, upon the passing of their loved one, with his bosun. An example of service to his country and to fellow soldiers to the end. He lived a life of many accomplishments in a wide spectrum. My condolences to the family. May he rest in peace in eternity.

Mark Thompson
Louisville KY

Mark Thompson - April 07, 2015 at 04:16 PM

DL

“ Dan and Lisa purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Daniel Francis McHugh.



Dan and Lisa - April 05, 2015 at 11:31 PM

LM

“ It is with deep gratitude for the military service of Daniel Francis McHugh that a donation has been made in his memory to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. The Special Operations Warrior Foundation provides the surviving children of American special operations personnel who have lost their lives with full financial assistance for college, and immediate financial assistance to severely wounded and hospitalized special operations personnel.

Lisa McHugh - April 05, 2015 at 10:38 PM

SC

“ Sean, Carly and Conan purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of Daniel Francis McHugh.



Sean, Carly and Conan - April 05, 2015 at 09:57 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Daniel Francis McHugh.



April 03, 2015 at 01:11 AM