



Hugh McPhail

November 25, 1917 - September 28, 2010

Hugh McPhail was reunited with the love of his life Martha Sue Gassaway McPhail Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 700 pm. He died following a bout with pneumonia and congestive heart failure. His three children were at his side, as he had been by theirs when they needed a hand, an ear, a friend, a laugh, or simple life advice.

His wit and humor brought him many lifelong friends that will miss him, or welcome him to Heaven. Being a "greeter" at Marvin Methodist church and later at Memorial Drive Methodist Church made him a consistent part of their services. His genuine smile and greeting made everyone, friend or stranger, feel welcome at the church.

He was born in Grand Saline, Texas November 25, 1917 and moved to Tyler after high school where he became a sportswriter for the Tyler Paper. It sounds like a movie, but what could be more romantic than a Sports editor and the Society editor falling for each other? But that is what happened, and soon Hugh and Martha Sue began a family. Later he went into business for himself and owned McPhail's Garden Center for many years. When he retired from the nursery business, he always looked for ways to help his friends and others by driving them to the store, mowing their lawns, or anything he could do. He treated everyone with the same dignity, no matter what their background or status.

He is survived by his son Jim and his wife, Janie of Houston; son Clay of Austin, daughter Megg and her husband Bruce Campbell of Houston;

Brothers Joe and his wife Norma of Houston, and Larry and his wife Judy of Austin; grandsons Tyler McPhail and Douglas Campbell; granddaughters Brook McPhail Johnson, Jordan, Ashley, and Taylor McPhail, and Heather Campbell. He will be dearly missed by these and many other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers will be Bill Ross, Dr. Dwayne Andrews, Dr. Patrick Thomas, Dr. David Nichols, Web Harvey, Calvin Clyde, Lamar Johnson, Bob Hahn, Kenny Graham, and Jim Echols.

A celebration of Dad's life will be held Monday, October 4th at 3 pm at Marvin United Methodist Church 300 W. Erwin Tyler Texas. Memorials can be made to the Marvin Church or The American Red Cross at www.redcross.org. The family would like to thank all of the many people who loved him and laughed with him and drank coffee with him at the nursery and at church for so many years.

The world lost some of its humbleness, honor, honesty, and humor when our "Hughby" left us to receive his well earned reward in God's Eternal Kingdom.

Tribute Wall



“ *Hugh McPhail*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Hugh McPhail*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Hugh McPhail*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Hugh McPhail*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM

KR

“ I have just learned of the passing of Mr McPhail this week from my mother who stills takes and reads the Tyler Morning Telegraph even though she and my father moved to Athens about three years ago. I would like to express my condolences to the family and share my admiration for their father whom I had the pleasure of working for while I was in my middle teens (14-15?). Along with my friend Eugene Morton, we escaped the oppression of the East Texas hay fields to work in the comfort of the nursery business at McPhail's Garden Center. (Ha-ha) It was my first job in the nursery industry and, for a summer and many holiday breaks, after school, etc. I spent hours unloading semi loads of mulch, watering, weeding, assisting Mr McPhail in the installation of landscape plantings, and backing into that cursed Spanish Dagger specimen that was in the nursery. I was a classmate of Clay's at Hubbard and Robert E Lee HS ('71) and shared the same Drivers Ed car with Meg. Mr. McPhail was always a firm but fair employer and took care of us even though we were just dumb kids. He reinforced the Christian values we had learned at home and the strong work ethics we had been brought up with; not only by word but in deed. I was always impressed that he worked as hard as he worked us.

Since that time, I have worked other jobs both in and outside the nursery industry. I gained a BS in Horticulture at Texas A & M, served as an Army officer, and since 1983 have owned and operated Phoenix Landscape Services in Athens, TX. The operation has since expanded into the lawn equipment business with the opening of Red Line Power Equipment. I have enjoyed my career and I hope that I have treated my employees and clientel in a manner befitting the memories of my time spent under Mr Mc Phail's supervision. I have always attributed my interest in the nursery business to that first job working with Mr McPhail.

It has been months now since his passing, and it is my hope that the family members pain has subsided. I know you will continue to miss him the rest of your days but I think that is healthy. I just wanted you to know that he was a good man that had a positive

influence which extended beyond his immediate family in ways that he never knew.

I hope he is holding a place for me in God's gardening staff.

Remembering fondly,

Kenneth R Rhodes

Kenneth Rhodes - February 19, 2011 at 05:51 PM

LJ

“*Hugh will always be rememebred almost like a second father to me. I have known the McPhail family since I was in diapers, and I have great memmories of Hugh as I grew up in Tyler. Now that I am in my 60's, I have a much better understanding for, and appreciation of, his early bed time. I also picked up his love for left over cornbread in milk, and his love of desserts in general. His sense of humor, and the hillarious bickering and bantoring with his beloved Sue will always be be with me. I can hear him now: "DURN, Suebie!" Hugh, you were a wonderful man and father, and your family and friends will always miss you.*

Lamar Johnson

Lamar Johnson - November 14, 2010 at 09:51 AM

LS

“*Hugh was a wonderful person and a great friend, he will be missed by many. I have loads of fond memories of Hugh and Sue. My prayers are with all of you.*

Love Linda Sheehy

Linda Sheehy - October 04, 2010 at 08:33 AM

DS

“ On behalf of the Dr. Berman F. Shieldes family, please accept our sincere condolences. My mother and father was great admirers of Hugh and Sue McPhail and longtime customers at the nursery. I remember vividly as a kid going to the nursery with my folks to buy plants and trees from your mother and father. My father passed away a few weeks ago and he too was born in 1917, some of the greatest generation that ever lived. You are all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



Dan Shieldes - October 03, 2010 at 12:13 PM

 David McKee

“ Condolences to the family. I remember Hugh as a greeter when I first started at Marvin 13 years ago.



David McKee - October 03, 2010 at 05:59 AM

AC

“ Hugh contributed copious visual beauty to this world. Anytime I see an Azalea bloom I will be reminded of his smile and ability to promote laughter and good humor.

Alice Coker - October 02, 2010 at 02:07 PM

NH

“ Dear McPhail family, I have wonderful memories of living down the street from your family many, many years ago. Your dad came to Conroe to help my family start their greenhouse. He stayed with us and I remember much laughter around the dinner table. I will always have fond memories of Hugh and Martha Sue. I hope they have met up with my dad in heaven and are planting the place with beauty.
Love, Nancy Coker Hyde

Nancy Hyde - October 02, 2010 at 01:01 PM

NP

“ Clay, I am so sorry to hear about your fathers death,you and your entire family will be in my thoughts and payers. Caroline and Nelson Puett

Nelson Puett - October 01, 2010 at 12:08 PM

SG

“ Dear Jimmy and Clayton, I just wanted to let you know that my Mother called me this morning and told me of your Dad's passing. We all send our condolences and want you to know how much my parents love your Mom and Dad. My Father loved your Dad and they spent many hours laughing and telling funny stories. I just wanted to let you know that we are saddened by the news and if my parents were able they would come to the memorial. They are in assisted living and just don't go anywhere anymore unless it is to the doctor. Sincerely, Susan Carlisle Griffin

Susan Griffin - October 01, 2010 at 11:09 AM



“ Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one. This is one of the most difficult things we must face in this life. But the bible assures us at Psalms 34:18 that God is near to those broken in heart and those crushed in spirit he saves. He also promises that we will be able to see our loved ones again. Jesus own words found at John 5:28,29 tells us there will be a resurrection. What a wonderful hope! He also says that soon on the earth there will be no more pain, suffering and especially death. Revelation 21:3-5 We anxiously await the day when we will no longer lose those we love. May these bible thoughts bring you comfort at this most difficult time.

stephanie reyes - October 01, 2010 at 10:40 AM