

Thank You!!!

The entire McElroy family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to all those who have supported us during this time of loss. Thank you for your prayers, your participation and your kindness. A special Thank You to David and Dolores Pippin of East Coast Carvings for the custom made lighthouse table center pieces.



<https://dalemcelroy.com>



In loving remembrance of
Dale Carlyle McElroy



November 18, 1940 – December 22, 2023

*Beloved husband,
father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle,
brother, veteran, civil servant & story teller.*

The Adventures of Dale

Welcome friends and family to the celebration of the beautiful life of Dale McElroy.

I hope you are enjoying the wonderful video Dale's son, David, was able to put together for us. His son, Donald, is singing many of the songs.

Dale was born in Michigan in 1940. He enlisted in the Navy in 1958 just before Alaska became the 49th state in 1959 and Hawaii became the 50th. While stationed in Long Beach, California his brother, Bob, introduced Dale to Roberta and in 1962 they were married in Charleston, SC. In 1963, while the war in Vietnam was blooming, Dale was in Morocco and became a daddy with his first son, David. Next, in 1964 he had his son, Donald, also born in Morocco.

With two little children, the Navy sent him and his family to Maryland and Radioman B school where the family lived in an old converted stable, in Perryville, MD. The neighbors next door lived in the chicken coup on an old farm.

Dale's next move was to Japan where his daughter, Barbara, was born. She was only 6 weeks old when the family left Japan for a short stop in California to see family before driving across the country to Jacksonville, Florida and more school. At the completion of that duty station he was surprised to get another tour in Morocco for another three years.

With a slight separation from his family, the Navy moved him back to Long Beach, CA where he picked up the USS Guadalupe. That ship then moved to San Diego...with him on it while his family remained in base housing in Long Beach.

In 1975, while on the Guadalupe, he was ordered on to an LPD to accompany the Admiral of Con Serv for the 7th fleet to access the damage to the USNS Jack Pendleton. The ship ran aground due to shifting weather on Triton Island. They had to helicopter him to the location and lower him down to the ship. To return to his ship he had to catapult off an Aircraft Carrier back to the Philippines only to find his ship had left for Hawaii. So he had to hitch whatever rides he could find to get back to his ship. That was quite an experience, he said, for him.

When the Guadalupe returned to San Diego she sailed to Bremerton, Washington to be decommissioned... with the help of his two sons who got to go along for the ride. Little did the boys know each of them were assigned jobs on the ship for the whole time they were on board...and they loved it...being with their Dad on his ship and the memories they now share.

Dale served the last three years of service as a Communications Tech Control Chief of Watch at the Communications Center in Wahiawa, Hawaii.

He was truly honored at his retirement ceremony. The US Navy Band played, his crewmen requested a review of the troops and it was a big honor for him to do so. The base commander presented certificates and plaques to him and they threw a huge BBQ with a more private party later in the evening at the NCO club. He didn't realize how much the service meant to him. It almost made him want to stay...almost.

Dale retired from the Navy in Hawaii in 1978, with over 21 years of service.

Following his retirement from the Navy he returned to Florida and joined the Postal Service. The mail must get through and he had an enjoyable 21 years as a letter carrier with the Post Office.

He couldn't wait to retire because he had a plan. He decided he wanted to travel these United States. So he sold their home in Palm Beach Gardens and moved into a 34 foot RV and he and his wife went off on another adventure in life. He said those years, almost five, were the best years of his life.

In 2005, they sold their RV and settled down in Melrose, FL. In 2008 they moved to Fort Mill, SC to be closer to their children.

In 2021, when Dale started to have health issues and was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Dale needed to think things through when his bother Bob gave him an idea, the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, MS. He applied for residency and was accepted along with his wife, Roberta. There, they had friends, comfort and all the amenities they needed.

...Dale called this his "last adventure".



Made you Smile - Made you Laugh

by David McElroy 11-18-2010

I've often wondered
is there a purpose to my life?
What's my destiny?
Will I ever have a wife?

How does one measure success?
By the toys they own?
By the profit they make?
By the size of their home?

I believe my success will be measured
in the future, some fine day
by the number of lives I've touched
in a positive way.

I've often wondered
"Does everyone feel like this?"
That they have a higher purpose
that they can't dismiss.

When I ponder spiritual questions
I value your advice
so I recently asked you this question
not once but twice.

"Do you feel you have a 'higher' purpose?"
By your answer, I was stuck
Expecting a resounding "YES"
but no such luck.

You had no hesitation
making me feel like a dope
when you replied emphatically
"Nope".

Taken back I silently wondered
Why? You have so much to give
to so many people
who want you to live.

And then you started to explain
and with a confident voice I did hear
"My purpose in life is to
make my family happy!"
and then it became clear.

I've had time to reflect
on that cool Carolina day
on what you said
to my dismay.

With a smile, I now believe
there is no higher purpose in life
than to make your family Happy
especially your beautiful wife.

Smiles all around
that's all I've known
from a kid to a man
from a Happy home.

I've taken for granted
I'm ashamed to say
how much I should thank God
each and every day.

Look around us
if you dare
broken families
everywhere.

I'm one of the lucky ones
because each day you live
you remember your purpose
Happiness is what you give.

And not just to your family
But to everyone you meet
Not just friends and neighbors
but anyone on the street.

I've never heard spoken
A negative word
about you or your wife
who's becoming quite the nerd.

Over the years
I've heard people say
even strangers
in their own way.

"He's great!"
"He's awesome!"
"He is so damn funny!"
"He is always smiling!"
"I love being around him!"
"He makes me laugh!"
"What a story teller!"
"You are a lucky boy!"
...and I agree!!!!!!!!!!

I realize without question
how fortunate I am
you are truly a blessing
and a damn good man.

We are all better people
for having you in our life
and to be together still
with your beautiful wife.

You've made your family happy
your purpose is clear
and I think I speak for everyone
"We need you year after year!"

You've paid it forward
with smiles and laughter
you've touched more than you know
forever after.

With tears of gratitude
now running down my face
and joy in my heart
I'm in a Happy place.

I just wanted to take a moment
on this special day
to THANK YOU!
more than words can say.

Made you smile...made you laugh...
That's something I can only pray
I will say to family, friends & strangers
each and every day!

I am so happy
I am so glad
for you are in my life
and an amazing Dad!!

With all my love,

David