



## John Francis McCreary

August 14, 2019

John Francis McCreary passed away in his home in Dumfries, Virginia on August 14, 2019. He was born in St. Louis, MO on November 26, 1946, to Eugene and Mary McCreary and was the third of their five children. He attended a Catholic seminary for high school but ultimately decided against becoming a priest and went to the University of Illinois, graduating magna cum laude in 1968. He was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. Later in 1968, he moved to Northern Virginia and became an intelligence research analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency. In January of 1969, he married Linda Chalmers. In 1975 he graduated from Georgetown Law Center with a juris doctorate. He was a member of the Virginia State Bar.

From 1980 to 1992 he was the senior analyst and director of the National Warning Staff in the Office of Central Intelligence. In 1992 he served as the lead attorney-investigator for the Senate Select Committee for POW/MIA affairs. From 1993 to his retirement from the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2006, he was the senior analyst in the Directorate of Intelligence, J2, Joint Staff in the Pentagon. He was promoted to senior rank in the first class of Defense Intelligence Senior Level Experts in DIA. At his retirement, he was the senior ranking Defense Intelligence Senior Level Expert in the agency and in the Joint Staff at the Pentagon.

He received dozens of commendations, citations, medals and awards from

the Intelligence Community, the CIA and the DIA. In 2004 he received a Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service, the only DIA analyst to have received this award.

He was the principal author of NightWatch, a daily threat summary newsletter, since its inception in 1993. After his retirement from the government, he continued writing NightWatch, and at the time of his death was publishing it himself. He also was a mentor and teacher, specializing in his brand of analysis.

He was active in his community, both coaching youth soccer and teaching CCD at various churches. He was a devout Catholic, rarely missing Mass. He was well-traveled and collected art from all over the globe. Ultimately, he devoted his life to his country and was a true patriot. He is survived by his two children, Melissa and Timothy McCreary, two grandsons, several siblings and many good friends.

Services will be held at Miller Funeral Home, 2300 Golansky Blvd, Woodbridge, Virginia on Monday September 2, 2019 at 2:00 PM. Reception to follow at Old Hickory Golf Club, 11921 Chanceford Drive, Woodbridge, Virginia, 22192

Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to the League of POW-MIA Families.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

SEP 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.  
3200 Golansky Blvd.  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
703-878-CARE (2273)  
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Francis McCreary*

January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *It was one of the most rewarding friendships of my life being with Linda and John, and every visit brought me closer to the Heavenly Father. In my prayers for John, and remembering all the efforts he made to help me and other Patriotic Friends seeking to find answers for POW/MIA families. I can still hear John's voice and read his last message. May God Bless John with Peace. In His grip, Bonny Sisson Stilwell*

**Bonny Sisson Stilwell** - October 25, 2019 at 04:50 PM



“ *Yuske, UNDSS purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Francis McCreary.*



**Yuske, UNDSS** - August 31, 2019 at 05:02 AM

TM

“ Another walk down memory lane. I attended a conference in Aug. 2016, near the National Aquarium. John and I were able to link up for quite a few hours at a nearby restaurant. I offered to meet half-way but he insisted coming thru DC to get up to the site of the conference. We had an enormously good time sucking down cup after cup of coffee (see photo) and discussing/arguing over everything from politics to religion to...who can remember it all?

John not only gave me a gift of his time, but the most precious memory is the physical gift he gave me. At some point in the past, Dad had given John the New Testament that Dad had used during his formation/conversion to Catholicism...its a study version, soft cover, any number of notes. Its a really great translation of a Greek version; lots of historical footnotes and other helpful insights. John gifted that in turn to me! He knew of the long-standing dialog Dad and I had by phone and e-mail about religion, about how Dad came to his Faith and how he lived it. With Dad's passing, John stepped into that role for me...and the New Testament he gave me, with all the history it represented...it almost knocked me off my pins. He had some very keen insights into the human heart and soul; was exceedingly gentle (when needed) and kind.

This picture is in part how I will remember him. In the way of things...I look like a dork but oh well. Couldn't get the waiter to take more.

Love you, John

Tim & Genevieve



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Tim (J) McCreary - August 29, 2019 at 07:03 PM

AN

“ *Anonymous made a donation to National League of POW/MIA Families in honor of John Francis McCreary.*

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**Anonymous** - August 28, 2019 at 03:53 PM

TM

“ John, my dear brother...I got to visit Wash. DC with John many times when the family was in Bethlehem. I was in high school. He took me to the first tour outside of China of the Qin warriors! It was magnificent to view these larger-than-life warriors. I visited with him a few days before he married Linda Grace. In fact, the evening of the wedding, as we were finishing a few toasts (Pepsi) to the future, Linda called in tears...she had lost her engagement ring! We raced to the apartment, discussing along the way how to expeditiously discover the whereabouts...we both focused on sinks! Fifteen minutes after arriving, we found the ring in the P Trap in the bath sink. We drove off heroes singing Irish songs of conquest. OK, maybe just Irish folk songs. All in a day's work.

He and I carried on an e-mail exchange of theological insights for the last 4 or 5 years. It challenged me to dig further into our common faith than I had ever done before...we didn't always agree, but the exchange was always invigorating. And it exhibited a depth of faith that he had, not unlike that of our Dad...a convert and ardent Catholic.

Another light in the firmament gone from this world...but I imagine him already in heady arguments with the likes of St. Paul, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas. The next time you hear thunder rumbling overhead...its John! He and brother Jim...Dad always called them the sons of thunder after the Gospel reference.

Tim, Melissa, your Aunt Genevieve and I grieve with you.

Love

Uncle Tim

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Tim (J) McCreary - August 27, 2019 at 08:49 PM