



Milton M. McPherson Jr.

July 12, 1936 - October 6, 2023

Milton Martin McPherson, Jr. (Mack) died at home on the morning of October 6, 2023, after a short illness at the age of 87.

Mack was predeceased by his parents, Sybil and Milton, Sr., and his brother, Rudolph Gene and sister-in-law, Margaret Campbell.

Mack is survived by his spouse, Ellen (Connolly), of 63 years; and by his children, Julia (John), Sybil, Ellen, Leah (Norman), Milton III, and Josephine (Pete); as well as his grandchildren, Rachel, Damien, Sierra, Sayeed, Elijah, and Tristan. He also has one great-grandchild, Kamari.

He is remembered well by friends and extended family, including beloved nieces and nephews, his brothers and sisters in law, and his aunts and cousins, who appreciated his humor, intelligence and playfulness, his artistic talents, and his adventurous energy.

Mack was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and emigrated to the US in 1947. He graduated High School in Brooklyn and entered military service with the US Army. He was a proud member of the 101st Airborne paratroopers. After the service, he enrolled in Caton Rose Art School in Brooklyn where he studied his life's passions – art and Ellen Connolly, also a student. They married on July 2, 1960, and initially settled in Queens. In 1964, they moved to Westbury,

LI, where Mack opened his own commercial art studio. In 1973, the family moved to Fishs Eddy, NY, to explore life on a small farm, and to raise their 6 children. Mack did freelance artwork and worked at the NYS Department of Transportation. Eventually, he moved everyone to Albany, NY, where he had yet another career as a graphic artist supervisor for the Office of General Services of the State of New York. He eventually retired, traveled extensively and painted his favorite memories from his life. He always loved the outdoors and continued to kayak into his early 80s.

A wake will be held at Magin and Keegan Funeral Home, 891 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12208, from 4-6 pm on Friday, October 13, 2023. The funeral service, officiated by Fr. Francis O'Connor, will be held at the Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Americas, 273 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206, at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Burial to follow at St. Agnes Cemetery in Menands, NY 12204.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Northeastern NY Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association; or to your local Community Hospice Services.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Mack was a wonderful guy! I knew him from my earlier kayaking days. He was such an enthusiast for everything he did, and terribly sweet. My condolences to the family.

Celia Murray - October 24, 2023 at 06:50 AM

WI

“ My condolences to the family. I worked with Mack years ago he truly was a kind soul.

Willa Ivery - October 13, 2023 at 08:32 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Milton M. McPherson Jr..



October 12, 2023 at 07:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Milton M. McPherson Jr..

October 12, 2023 at 07:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Milton M. McPherson Jr..*



October 12, 2023 at 03:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Milton M. McPherson Jr..

October 12, 2023 at 03:37 PM



“ *It's been years but I remember special times with your family. He was a great person , husband and father. Sorry for your loss Ellen and everyone 🙏🌸*

Corinne Hazen. - October 11, 2023 at 09:52 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Mac's passing. We've lost contact over the years, but I have great memories of kayaking together and his gentle nature. His painting of the ships at Wiscasset hangs in our home and I've often thought of him and his wonderful family. Sincere condolences to Julia and the rest of the family. Life is richer for knowing him. Bill Wehrle*

William Wehrle - October 11, 2023 at 06:21 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Milton M. McPherson Jr..*



October 11, 2023 at 11:04 AM



“ *Chrys Ballerano and Fletch Brightman have such fond memories of our visit with Mr. Mac McPherson at his home years ago where he graciously shared personal favorites of his paintings and the gorgeous canoe he'd handbuilt years ago; while we swapped stories of loving the river and the natural world. We know how beloved he was to so many family and friends and send our deepest heartfelt condolences with much love and care. May his memory be a blessing to all.*



Chrys Ballerano - October 11, 2023 at 09:41 AM



“ *I worked with Mack at OGS at the campus. He was truly the most kindest individual I've ever met. I loved seeing his latest projects whether it be a carving or painting or whatever sparked him. As a mater of fact he I commissioned him to do a painting for me back in 1984. He was genuine. One of a kind. He will be missed by many*
Barbara Dougall

Barbara Dougall - October 10, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Milton M. McPherson Jr..*



October 10, 2023 at 06:10 PM



“ *I only met Milton a few times but I feel like I got to know him pretty well through his daughter Josie, who was my office mate and friend for several years. Her end of the phone conversations (which I never listened to on purpose) were always "interesting." Living in the same house gave them endless opportunities to prank each other, which was quite an insight to me, a Chinese daughter taught to respect her elders! It was also clear the love and concern for each other expressed in the daily little things that were done. Always with an underscore of humor. Did she really balance a bucket of water on the top of the door? How many times did I see pics of the two of them bibbed up, settling in for a crawfish boil? I could hear the laughter in the background! The McPherson's family gatherings were never small, and kept growing. That kind of family connection does not happen by accident but through loving purposeful intent, repeated over and over again. He had to be a strong man to raise rowdy, strong, smart, confident women and man, still in the family constellation he built with their Mom. I know he will be terribly missed but will keep making us laugh at the memories!*

Jean Fei - October 10, 2023 at 12:32 PM

BB

Mack had a kind and gentle personality and was a wonderfully talented artist. It was always such a pleasure to chat with him and Ellen at art events! Mary Beth and I own two of his paintings. Those paintings, and a print of one of Ellen's paintings, are reminders of our cherished friend and artist colleague.

Bob Blackmon - October 11, 2023 at 10:14 AM

SM

I know Mack And his family for my attendance at Saint Patricks for many years. He and Ellen and other family members were very active at our church. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the mass but you will be in my thoughts and prayers for you and for your family.

Sr. Jean McGinty

Sr. Jean McGinty - October 13, 2023 at 07:25 PM

MS

I'll miss seeing Mack and his gentle and kind ways. I only learned recently that he was a talented artist byt I'm not surprised. I extend my condolence to Ellen and the rest of his family.

Maeve Smith - November 05, 2023 at 01:32 AM