



John P. McLay Sr.

APR 17, 1940 - FEB 17, 2022



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



John P. McLay Sr.

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John P. McLay Sr. passed away on the 17th of February 2022 under Hospice Care. He was born on April 17th, 1940, and moved to Florida in August of 1964. He has been a resident of Pinellas County ever since.

John loved his family greatly. He was always there to support and comfort not only them, but anyone who needed it. He loved to travel and spend time with all his family members. He will be forever missed. He is survived by his Wife, Teresa McLay, Sister Linda McLay Thomas, Sister Esther Sailors, Sister Martha Greer (deceased), Brother Glenn McLay and Family, Daughter Erin McLay Stover and family, Son John P. McLay Jr. and family, Stepsons John McGann and Family, Paul McGann and Family, Stepdaughter Laura Bickler and family. He has 11 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

John had a 33+ year career as a coach, educator, and High School Principal. He touched many lives and gave greatly to the betterment of schools and students throughout his career. In 1964, he began teaching and coaching at Northeast High School. He brought wrestling into Pinellas County Schools and was the Head Football Coach for nearly 15 years. In 1980 he became a dean at the “newly built” Countryside High School. Shortly after helping to open the school, he was promoted to Assistant Principal at Riviera Middle School and then Assistant Principal at Clearwater High School. He quickly stepped up and took his first principalship at Osceola High School in the mid 1980’s. From there, he became the principal at Dunedin High School and later finished his career as the principal of Dixie Hollins High School in 2000. He was known for being “hard, but fair” and a troubleshooter. He will be missed by those that worked beside him and taught under his leadership.

A Funeral Service will be held at Calvary Baptist on Saturday, March 5th at 10:00 A.M. (110 McMullen Booth Rd. Clearwater, Florida). There will be a lunch reception immediately following the service.



Obituary

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Expressions of sympathy in memory of Mr. John McLay Sr. are suggested to Suncoast Hospice. If you would prefer to send a floral arrangement, it must be received by 4:00PM on March 4th.


WE LOVE YOU; WE MISS YOU; WE WILL SEE YOU AGAIN.




Events

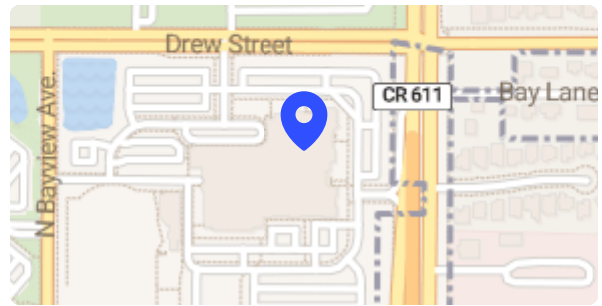
John P. McLay Sr.
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Funeral Service

 **Saturday**, March 5, 2022

 10:00 AM ET

 **Calvary Baptist Church**
110 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater FL 33759





Tribute Wall

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GL

Gregory E Lavin posted:

Played for coach at the end of '73 then 74 and 75. He was a very intense football coach. A very successful football coach. Was able to derive the best from a group that needed that type of coach. Was deserving of the respect we gave him. He transformed us into a collective group of overachievers. "Hit a lick" up there coach. Greg Lavin

July 9 at 5:58 PM

RR

Rich & Heidi Rippetoe sent a Basket of Memories to the McLay family.



March 7 at 5:41 PM

NS

Nanette Standfast posted:

John was one of the best principals that I had worked for, Ever. He was tough, he was fair and he had a great sense of humor. Although, I have not seen John in many years..I will always remember his winning smile and his fairness to all in his employ. Rest In Peace, John! You will be missed !

March 6 at 11:23 AM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the McLay family.



March 4 at 8:58 AM

SO

Strickland Oliver posted:

Coach McLay wanted me to leave the Jr. Varsity football for Varsity at Northeast High School in 1976, but I respectfully declined. Looking back, I wish I would've accepted his offer, because I realized later in life that coach saw something in me that I didn't. Oh, by the way, he was not at all pleased by my decision. Great Man and Coach!!!

March 3 at 6:44 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Sweet Tenderness to the McLay family.

March 2 at 12:54 PM



Anonymous sent a Rose Remembrance to the McLay family.

March 2 at 11:03 AM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the McLay family.

March 2 at 6:00 AM



Osceola Fundamental Hs Faculty & Staff sent a Rose Remembrance to the McLay family.

March 1 at 7:18 AM



Gary And Sharon Schlereth sent a Beautiful in Blue to the McLay family.

March 1 at 5:23 AM



Gary Schlereth posted:

John was a master act that I was fortunate enough to learn from. I cannot talk about being a principal without mentioning John's name because it was from him that I learned what it means to be a leader. God bless his family. The world lost a great man.

February 28 at 5:03 PM



Tribute Wall

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NG

Nick & Nanette Grasso sent a Serene Retreat to the McLay family.

February 28 at 12:17 PM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the McLay family.

February 28 at 11:53 AM



TB

Terri Schirtz Burke lit a candle in honor of John.

May Peace be with all the family. Mr.Mclay one of the original deans to Countryside High, always spoke to the students with genuine care and handle issues with fairness and respect.

February 27 at 9:50 AM



NF

Nancy Zambito-Franz posted:

John was a treasured colleague and friend. He was an excellent role model for the students in his schools and I never heard him utter a negative word about anyone.

February 27 at 4:51 AM

CS

Clayton&Susan Snare posted:

Such a well respected educator during his tenure with PCS. A role model for all of us. Prayers for his family and may he rest in peace 🙏

February 27 at 3:36 AM

AH

Art Hays posted:

John was a good neighbor and I always enjoyed talking with him whenever he was out and about walking his dog. Rest in peace, my friend.

February 26 at 12:44 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the McLay family.



February 26 at 9:09 AM



Dan Bumgarner posted:

It was a pleasure to work with John at Northeast High School and Clearwater High School. He was a positive influence for so many students.

February 25 at 6:04 PM



Delon & Roberta Rumfelt sent a Serene Retreat to the McLay family.



February 25 at 5:00 PM



Linda Thomas posted:

I have been blessed to call John " My HANDSOME BRO" He always agreed with me whole heartedly every time, even until God called him home, he was humble like that !

February 25 at 2:48 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the McLay family.



February 25 at 2:02 PM



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Frank Cristalli posted:

Tough... but fair. He was a great Football coach !!RIP CoachFrank Cristalli1979

February 25 at 10:50 AM



Richard December 18 at 2:26 PM

They say we were brothers. Don't remember ever meeting the guy !



William Hooper December 10 at 1:01 PM

I'm William Hooper (Bill) I knew my friend John from my teaching days at Dixie Hollins and later at Pinellas Park. I coached basketball with John's good friend Don KellerWe played a few races at Derby Lane in later years. The last time I spoke with John was right after Don had died in the accident . I never realized that he was the great Principal he was. My belated condolences to his son and two daughters:::::



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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