



## Wesley James McCoy

August 27, 1924 - April 29, 2020

McCoy, Wesley J. "Wes"

August 27, 1924 to April 29, 2020

Age 95, of Edina, passed away peacefully after a short illness. Wes could brighten your day with his jovial smile, gregarious personality, and storytelling abilities. He was dedicated to God, his family and his country, and was rarely seen without one of his favorite Marine hats.

Wes was born August 27, 1924 to Louise and Edward N. McCoy, and raised on a farm, without plumbing or electricity in Larimore, ND. This shaped his unmatched work ethic, discipline, and appreciation for simple pleasures, which would serve him throughout his life. He graduated from the 1st rural consolidated school in North Dakota; offering grades 1-12. He attended North Dakota State University, before serving in WWII, and obtained his degree in 1948, after his return from the service. He was a member of the 1st Marine Division and fought in Okinawa. Wes was one of six, from his platoon of sixty, to survive that battle. This was a defining moment in Wes' life. Having lived through the horrors of war, he realized he could overcome any obstacle faced in life, and remained an optimist. Being a natural speaker, he spoke to many classrooms and civic organization during his retirement about his WWII experiences; feeling it was important to share this history. In 1949, he married

Mary (Schmit). They raised 5 children and enjoyed many social gatherings with their large extended family. Mary and Wes traveled to Hawaii, Spain and Ireland during their early retirement years, until Mary's untimely death in 1996. Wes' career began in Benson, MN/Swift County as a county agent. He wrote an award winning weekly newspaper column and was proud of implementing the first Shelterbelt program in Minnesota. Dow Chemical Company recruited him to join their Agriculture sales team, where he remained for 37 years. Wes relocated his family to Minneapolis, MN, Midland, MI, and completed his career in Edina, MN in 1989. He held many positions within Dow and was recognized as an industry expert for his product knowledge, selling skills, relationship building with customers, and mentoring colleagues. He had an eye for talent and hired many, who rose through the ranks of Dow, and remained in touch until his death.

Wes was preceded in death by his parents, brother Edward McCoy, sister Opal Taylor, wife Mary (Schmit) McCoy and great granddaughter Wynne Mateffy. Survived by 5 children; Pat McCoy (Julie), Colleen Deppa (Bill), Joan McCoy, Steve McCoy (Debbie), and Kevin McCoy (Anne), 6 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren, with 2 on the way, and a large extended family.

Special thanks to Dr Randon Woodworth for many years of dedicated care and to the staff at Abbott NW Hospital.

A private funeral Mass will take place at Our Lady of Grace Church in Edina, MN. A live stream video of the Mass can be viewed on Friday, May 8, at 10:30 AM at [www.olgparish.org/olg-news-events/wes-mccoy](http://www.olgparish.org/olg-news-events/wes-mccoy)

Memorials preferred in lieu of flowers to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church or a charity of choice.

Please visit his CaringBridge site as well - [www.caringbridge.org/visit/wesmccoy](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/wesmccoy)

# Tribute Wall

MA

“ It was a beautiful funeral mass yesterday for a wonderful man. My word for the "bouquet of words" to capture the essence of Wes is "jolly"! He lived so joyfully. His love and delight in being with people shows how true happiness really lies in relationships with others. He certainly shared so much happiness and cheer throughout his dash!

*Love, Molly Anderson*

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**Molly Anderson** - May 09, 2020 at 01:02 PM

MM

“ We all know Wes' powerful laugh and smile. He knew how to fully enjoy the finest moments in life. Here are some pictures that perfectly captured his laugh, smile, and persistent happy nature. Photos taken November 2014 at my wedding.



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**Michael McCoy** - May 08, 2020 at 10:47 AM

DS

“ *Something I'd like to share about Wes and great men like him is they lead by example.  
Love you Wes and Family.*

*Dennis*

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**Dennis Sather** - May 05, 2020 at 09:26 AM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Wesley James McCoy.*



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May 04, 2020 at 11:42 AM

GD

“ My memories with Wes go back about sixty-four years, to a time when he was a young husband and father. Falling in love with sisters, we were destined to become brother-in-laws, and the rest is history.

*I have many fond memories of travel and adventures, family celebrations and traditions. Our families enjoyed many a meal at your Edina home with Wes at the head of the table, and Mary's delicious cooking. I will never forget the 25th Anniversary surprise party they threw for us. We had many opportunities to gather between special occasions and relatives coming to town. Wes and I shared a love of “Klub” (blood sausage), and we both participated in Norsk Club for many years.*

*We went on many Ag-Tours, bunking together. Wes was always well known and popular, we never failed to have a good time. He was a fantastic story and joke teller. Gerry and I enjoyed many winter trips to visit with Mary and Wes in Arizona and even drove to California together, visiting the Schmit relatives.*

*I always admired Wes for his career at Dow. The friendships he developed and maintained over so many years were remarkable. When he began publicly sharing his experiences as a Marine in WWII, there came a whole new level of respect and admiration for him.*

*The thing I will always remember about Wes is how he enjoyed people and life better than anyone I've known. He had a ready smile and laugh, with the firmest hand shake around. I was blessed to call Wes family, and he will always have a special place in my heart. While we both said early good-bye's to our wives, I smile thinking of their reunion. I pray for his eternal peace.*

Love,  
Gary DeFrance

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**Gary DeFrance** - May 04, 2020 at 12:12 AM



“ *Always the smile. Always optimistic. Always teaching. Graciously leading the way for many like me. Great memories Wes. Thanks for sharing a bit of your life with me.. Ron Townsend*

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**Poppy Townsend** - May 03, 2020 at 08:29 AM

MN

“ *Thoughts and prayers for Uncle Wes and the McCoy family. It has to be most difficult to lose your Dad right now and then for some of you to not be able to be present in person. My heart aches for all of you. I remember Uncle Wes always being ready with a great big smile and the biggest hug whenever you would see him. I remember being at another family funeral and my Dad's health wasn't the best at the time, but Uncle Wes did his best to try to cheer my Dad up and actually got him to smile. Family was important to him and not just his immediate family. He would always try to make family events and help others who needed it. He was a gem and will be missed. I'm sure his life's celebration will be very fitting for the man he was - larger than life! Hugs to all of you!*



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**Mary Nelson** - May 02, 2020 at 11:26 PM

AB

“ *Uncle Wes was quite the man. I always enjoyed talking to him when I grew up. He always had a facinating story to share and I loved his laugh. Always greeted you with a hug or kiss on the cheek. Every time he came to Grand Forks he would call me and I would ask him to come for a visit and coffee. He and Kevin finally came one time. We had a nice visit. I remember seeing him at Mass at my church here in Grand Forks. I thought it really looked like him and caught up to him after Mass. We chatted for a bit and then had to go. I remember seeing his talk about the war and what it was like. He loved his country and his family. May you rest in peace Uncle Wes. You will be missed. Sending prayers and hugs to all my McCoy cousins. Love all of you Annette.*



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**Annette Blacknik** - May 02, 2020 at 08:16 PM