



## W. F. "Pat" McKee

August 27, 1924 - December 29, 2016

W.F. "Pat" McKee, area educator and respected political leader died Thursday, December 29th at Southeast Hospital. He was 92 years old.

He was born August 27, 1924 in Springdale, Arkansas and moved to Whitewater when he was five years old. He lived in Cape for 54 years. He graduated from Illmo High School and Southeast Missouri State University with a Master's degree in Educational Administration.

He married Joann "Jodie" Brazel in 1948. They had three children, Cinda, Tami and Brad.

McKee retired from 41 years of teaching in 1987 having served as a classroom teacher or principal in the area towns of Zalma, Bernie, Chaffee, Morley, Sikeston and Cape Girardeau. He held professional offices in the Classroom Teachers Association and the Missouri State Teacher's Association.

His passion was in molding the character of his students and instilling knowledge to be best prepared for life. He especially delighted in seeing former students after he retired and finding out what they were doing in their lives.

His hope of insuring critical thinking in his students led to political involvement. He ran for several offices including U.S. Congressman. He felt each person should have a sense of civic duty to contribute to his community.

McKee served on the Board of Directors for Cape River Heritage Museum for approximately 25 years, he was a member of the Zalma Masonic Lodge 545,

a Boy Scout leader, Head Start participant, sponsor of the SEMO State University Friendship Family Program, a WWII Army veteran serving in the Pacific Theatre, a volunteer for the resettlement and educating of Vietnamese families after the Vietnam War, office holder and advocate for Missouri Citizens for Life. He loved to travel and take cruises with family and friends. As a Christian his spiritual belief was strong and uncompromised. He was a member of Cape Bible Chapel. He did what he thought was the right thing to do – to give a voice to the oppressed and underprivileged. A fun activity every Christmas Eve was to anonymously give away money to those in need as they shopped in area discount shops.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Jodie McKee of Cape Girardeau; two daughters, Cinda (George) Buck of Claremore, Oklahoma and Tami (Rod) Holshouser of Cape Girardeau; one son, Brad (Marian) McKee of Cape Girardeau; sister, Olivia (Joe) Tharpe of St. Louis; four grandchildren, Byron (Catrena) Buck, Jenny (Will) Herstek, Melodie (Jonathan) Dougherty and Tara Buck; eleven great-grandchildren, Shantel (Blake) Burch, Dalton Turner, Taylor Turner, Jordan Turner and Alexis Herstek, Justin (Megan) Embrey, Markus Buck, Spencer (Tori) Buck, Megan (Chris) Scott, Halle Dougherty, and Zane Dougherty; one great-great grandchild, Lucas Burch.

He was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Seth, Edward, Glen and Al; two sisters, Arnita Wilson and Dee Kane.

Friends may call Monday, January 2, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel. The funeral will follow at 1:00 p.m. at the funeral home with Rev. Dan Greene officiating.

Burial will follow with full military honors at Cape County Memorial Park.

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1909  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 2.** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1313  
[info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

## Service

**JAN 2.** 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
(573) 334-1313  
[info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of W. F. "Pat" McKee.*



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January 02, 2017 at 09:22 AM



“ *More than a family friend, my family enjoyed many new year's celebrations with Pat and Jody, Cindy, Tami and Brad - they were/are our family. The most loving, honest, funny, intelligent, kind, generous of heart and spirt man I've ever known. He IS with God and hopefully, my dad too....love to you all. Ivette Pointer Rothschild*

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**Ivette Rothschild** - January 01, 2017 at 10:48 PM



“ *My sympathy to members of Pat McKee's family in this great loss. Pat was always a quiet, gentle and thoughtful individual. He dedicated his life to the education of youngsters in southeast Missouri. He was a champion of public education and America's democratic process. He was a model citizen, teacher and scholar. What an exceptional life he lived, and what great contributions he made to this region, state and nation. Thank you good friend.*

*Frank Nickell*

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**Frank Nickell** - January 01, 2017 at 04:14 PM

FF

“ *Frank Clippard and family purchased the Heartfelt Memories for the family of W. F. "Pat" McKee.*



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**Frank Clippard and family** - December 31, 2016 at 12:14 AM

TF

“ *The Seth McKee Family... purchased the With Distinction for the family of W. F. "Pat" McKee.*



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**The Seth McKee Family...** - December 30, 2016 at 09:52 PM

RW

“ *Words can't express what a loss I feel....Uncle Pat was a giant among men but more importantly one of the kindest & generous souls...Mom & you will have a great time up there...get the party started the rest of us will be joining you all soon...I know your family is grieving now but soon I hope they will be celebrating your life and remembering all of the fond times they/ we had as there were many...Don't tell anyone but you were my favorite uncle. So long Uncle Pat will be seeing each other soon...your nephew Randy*

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**Randy Williams** - December 30, 2016 at 01:55 PM