



Dean Ronald McCallum

January 15, 1940 - December 16, 2020

Dean Ronald McCallum, of Fort Dodge, died on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at Fort Dodge Trinity Regional Medical Center. Funeral services are currently pending.

Dean was born on January 15, 1940 in Yankton, SD to Archie & Bengtha (Jensen) McCallum of Bloomfield, NE. He was the youngest of 6 children, raised on a farm & always played sports in school. His junior year he moved with his mom & dad to Whittier, CA. During high school, he helped his parents financially by working after school bagging groceries at Von's Shopping Bag and was promoted to the meat department which began his long career in the grocery business. While working, he attended Pasadena City College and he played semi-pro baseball in the Duarte & Azusa area. He was then drafted into the army and served as a cook in Washington and on the Central CA coast (Fort Ord). Following his time in the Army he met and then married, Nancy Jo (Fox) in 1966. {She already had a son named Blake, from a previous marriage and my dad adopted him at 5 years old. They settled in West Covina and then had their daughter together (Dana).} In 1974, the family moved to Nampa, Idaho to begin to further his career in the grocery business as a meat cutter. He was promoted to meat & produce supervisor over all of M&W Markets and retired in 1999. As a recognized pillar in the community, he coached 6th grade boys basketball in the 1970-80's, which he really enjoyed, a member of the Elks Club, and took up golfing at the local golf course and later sat on the board. Dean enjoyed dancing and music. He loved listening to an old radio as well as country and mo-town music. Family was important to Dean traveled to central Oregon almost every summer to enjoy a week with the McCallum family. {And my dad loved it there.}

{Dec. 8, 1994 my mom passed away suddenly from a stroke, my mom's funeral was standing room only at about 250 people, which just goes to show how much our community loved my folks.}

Dean-o, as he was known by all, loved to talk to family and friends over the phone and the internet. It was the internet where he reconnected with an old high school flame, Dorothy Mae (Jacob). He moved to Fort Dodge, Iowa and on June 22, 2004 they were married.

They were fortunate to be able to travel and spent the winter months in McCallen, Texas. He was very proud of his Scottish heritage and even traveled to Scotland to reconnect with his family abroad.

He loved all four of his grandchildren. He spent time with them in their own unique way. Traveling with his granddaughter, Jessica, was at the top of his list.

He would also be seen cheering on his grandson's in their high school events or spending one-on-one time playing golf, shooting, or just taking them out to eat.

Dean was a God fearing man who devoted his life to his family. Dean knew no stranger and would do anything for a neighbor in need. He was known to bring fruit to the gals at the bank and donuts to others. Dean was loved and will be truly missed.

He was preceded in death, by his parents and siblings Andrew, Melvin, Lyle, Dale, and Ruby and his first wife Nancy Jo McCallum.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy McCallum of Fort Dodge, IA, daughter Dana McCallum-Ruter, son-in-law Steve Ruter of Portland, OR; son Blake McCallum, step-daughter Sherri Berg (Brad); grandchildren Jessica McCallum (Blake) of Nampa, ID, Tyler, Brayden, and Codey (Berg) of Woolstock, IA; many nieces & nephews and beloved friends.

Comments



“ Dean had an amazing talent for friendship and good cheer. I appreciated & enjoyed our phone calls so much and am deeply sad to know of his death.
Claryce Evans

Claryce Evans - February 23 at 11:29 AM



“ Dean, I will miss you. It was fun reconnecting with you and Dorothy in McAllen, TX, during the winter months. I will miss your phone calls and emails. May you be with God as you loved him so much. Mary Ann Wenke Kaiser

Mary Ann Kaiser - January 08 at 10:31 PM



“ Deano, this is your computer genius. I will miss you.
Dee, my thoughts and prayers are with you in your loss.
You can still call if you need me....
With love,

Doug Smith

Doug Smith - December 22, 2020 at 10:35 PM



“ Dean, my oldest and best friend from the 'patch' being the only redheads in town, I will really miss all the visits in McAllen, SPI, Ft Dodge, Lincoln and Bloomfield with you. We really had great times with all our sports interactions too. Coach Curly was not happy to not having the other redhead basketball player there in 56-57. You and Allen headed to the 'gold coast'. I was glad when we all reconnected at the 25 year BHS reunion and every 5 years thereafter. You and Dee were really fun to be around. Carolene, George, Bernie and Bill will really miss our outgoing 'best friend'. I do not know anyone, outside of your 'Canadian shuffleboard player' that you were not friends with. Hope Dee is getting along alright now. Bill and Bernie Skrivan.

Bill Skrivan - December 19, 2020 at 09:22 PM



“ Dean: We will miss you forever—all those e-mails, phone calls, reminiscing, the laughter, and you and Dee staying overnight in Lincoln when returning back from McAllen, Tx, to Fort Branch. Bill, Bernie, George, and I will miss you when we go out to eat again after this pandemic. You may not be at the next class reunion, but you will be in everybody’s heart and thoughts. Heaven will love you!! George (Bill) and Carolene

PS—Attached a picture of you and Dee in front of the motor home at the class reunion in June 2017



George & Carolene Skorohod - December 19, 2020 at 08:47 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Steve Ruter - December 19, 2020 at 04:48 PM



“ Dean's Happy Place!

Steve Ruter - December 19, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ Dean taught me about a dimension of friendship I had not before or since experienced. Roughly ten years ago he unilaterally decided that we were friends and set about, quite successfully, and built a bilateral relationship. Scotland, Nebraska farm-boy, early family life, health issues, Army, politics, economics, religion, Christianity, church, witnessing, adult Sunday School classes, and most importantly Jesus Christ, we’re among the many weekly conversations we had. He was honest, open, transparent, observant of human behavior, truthful, gritty, pungent, succinct, witty, humorous, and generally right on target. We’ll all miss you “my friend.”

Drew Ivers - December 18, 2020 at 05:24 PM



“ Dean was a friend of my mother, Ardis, from Bloomfield, NE. Dean and I never met.

In 2018, Ardis mentioned to Dean that I was riding Ragbrai in 2019. Dean looked up the route and saw it was running through Bloomfield, IA. Just before the ride, we received a message from Dean, "As you come into Bloomfield, look for a sign for Tom." I didn't know what to think. But after several very long days of riding, as I rolled into Bloomfield, IA, I saw the sign! This was Dean's way of cheering me and all of us on. Every time I see that sign which hangs in my garage, I think "Dean McCallum is a heck of a nice guy."

I was hoping to meet him when Ragbrai went through Ft. Dodge in 2020. Unfortunately, I won't get the chance

Dean McCallum was a heck of a nice guy.

Respectfully,
Tom Scala



Thomas Scala - December 18, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



steve Ruter - December 18, 2020 at 12:41 AM



“ Dad, you always wanted the bagpipers to play at your funeral, but we couldn't because of COVID. So, I kept my promise & we're flying the pipes tonight for you! RIP!! Dana

Dana - December 18, 2020 at 12:52 AM



“ I love you, Dad! I know that you are with Jesus now and are forever in peace. So thankful for all that you taught me, for passing on your love of music & laughter to me. I will carry a piece of you with me ALWAYS! Tell Mom that I miss her SO much and she is in my heart, too. And, I think it is fitting that you went to heaven on Aunt Diane's birthday, because I know she was waiting for you! Blessed to be your daughter, Dana

Dana McCallum Ruter - December 18, 2020 at 12:22 AM



“ We miss you so much already. You were more of a dad to me than my own father. I will always cherish our time we had together.

Love,

Steve R.

Steve Ruter - December 17, 2020 at 10:03 PM