

+++ Obituary +++
James A. McKibben
 1926-2005
A Life Well Lived

JAMES ALTON MCKIBBEN – February 17, 1926 to April 19, 2005 – will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife, sons and



daughters-in-law, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, extended family, friends, former colleagues and former clients. He died at home at the age of 79 in Miamisburg, Ohio from lung cancer after a prolonged decline in health over the last four years. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carline (Craddock); three sons: Michael Thomas of Columbus, Ohio (and wife Nancy); David Mark of Scottsdale, Arizona (and wife Bonnie); James Patrick of Miamisburg, Ohio; and nine grandchildren: Jason and Julie (and their mother Diane Hinkle), Joshua, Carrie (Fletemeyer), Max, Susanna, Holly, Rose, Justin. He and Carline would have celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on June 12. As a civil engineer he was known as a problem solver par excellence – able to tackle the most difficult of large-scale civil engineering problems. His professional leadership began as a senior at the University of Tennessee where he served as president of the Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). During his career he was considered one of the top engineers and cost estimators in the nation. His engineering achievements were many and varied, from high-rise buildings, highways, bridges, power plants, and manufacturing facilities to sports arenas, convention centers and office buildings. He leaves an exemplary legacy of civil engineering works benefiting millions that in Ohio alone include the award-winning Greater Columbus Convention Center, Capitol South (Columbus), the Super Computer Center (Columbus), Millett Hall (Miami University, Oxford) and the

Southwest Portland Cement Facility (Fairborn). In Illinois he oversaw the construction of the Associated Electric Co-op coal conveyor system built along the Kaskaskia River. Born to Max and Cordelia (Williams) McKibben, now deceased, of Humboldt, Tennessee on February 17, 1926, he is survived by brother Cornelius and sister Myrtle (Younghans); brother Justin and sisters Clarice (Tucker) and Maxine (Vaughn) precede him in death. He graduated from Humboldt High School in 1944 and soon after enlisted in the United States Army where he was assigned to the 1113th Engineer Construction Group destined for the Pacific Asiatic Theater and the invasion of Japan. The Japanese surrendered while his unit was en route, so he formed part of the Japanese occupation force. While there he saw firsthand the nuclear devastation of Nagasaki. He received four decorations for faithful service before being honorably discharged as a corporal on November 14, 1946. He immediately enrolled at the University of Tennessee where he received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in June 1950. Following graduation he began his professional employment with Maxon Construction Company headquartered in Dayton, Ohio, which was at that time one of the largest construction firms in the United States. His first job was as a surveyor for the construction of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the United States Department of Energy. From there he assumed additional responsibilities for Maxon in Independence, Kansas (Universal Atlas Cement); Greenville, Ohio (Corning Glass); Eaton, Ohio; and Dayton, Ohio. Maxon then asked him to establish an office in Warren, Ohio and represent the company in Northern Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania where he oversaw many projects, including the installation and rigging of various Youngstown steel roller mills. He then moved to Maxon headquarters where, except for a two-year interlude with B&M Construction and Elder Beerman Construction, he served in various senior engineering positions until he left the firm in 1977. He accepted the position of Chief Estimator for SOFCO Erectors, Cincinnati, Ohio on May 2, 1977 where he managed projects that included the Citizens Federal Building (Dayton), Prudential Tower (Cincinnati), and the Top Gun and Vortex seventh generation steel suspended coasters at Paramount's Kings Island (Cincinnati). He retired from SOFCO on February 15, 1991. When his sons were young, he discovered that Miamisburg had no Cub Scout Pack and successfully petitioned the Boys Scouts of

America to allow him to establish the first Pack at Mark Twain School for which he was its founding Cub Master and Carline was its first Den Mother. He was then an active father in Boy Scout Troop 102 that met at St. James United Methodist Church in Miamisburg. He faithfully attended and cheered at hundreds of his son's high school and university sports, academic and music events, then provided patient moral support over the subsequent years as the sons worked to establish their careers. After retirement, he continued to do engineering consulting and pursued various interests and hobbies including gardening, grandchildren, reading, fishing, stained glass, and woodworking.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at Ridgeville Community Church, 946 East Lower Springboro Road, Springboro, Ohio 45066, (513) 932-5504, email: psstrong@go-concepts.com. Closed casket visitation will begin at 11:30 AM immediately before the memorial service. The McKibben family welcomes you to attend a reception and meal in Jim's memory that will be provided immediately following the service at the church. Following the reception, a prayer service with the immediate family will be conducted at the crematory. Flowers are welcome. General donations in Jim's name should be made out to Ridgeville Community Church and earmarked appropriately. Donations to a specific charity in Jim's name should be made out to Gebhart-Schmidt-Parramore Funeral Home, 508 East Linden Avenue, Miamisburg, Ohio 45342-2851, (937) 866-3373, Email: jmul159@aol.com and earmarked appropriately. Closing Prayer: With the souls of the righteous, give rest, O Savior, to the soul of your servant, James, preserving him unto the life of blessedness which is with You who loves mankind.

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For additional information on funeral arrangements, contact:

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