



Dr. E. J. McClendon

January 21, 2006

McClendon, Dr. Edwin J. "E.J." age 84 of Canton, January 21, 2006. Beloved husband of the late Ruby. Dear father of Ed McClendon of Canton; Melody Lang of Plymouth; and Joy (Jeff) McClendon of New Jersey; and beloved grandfather of Kimberley Lang; Tracy McClendon; Christopher Lee and Edwin McClendon III. Dr. McClendon, affectionately known as "E.J." was born in Oklahoma, and lived in Michigan for almost 50 years. He received his Bachelors Degree, and his Masters Degree in Education from the University of Oklahoma; his Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina; and he earned his Ph.D. in Education and Public Health from Wayne State University. He was Professor of Health Education in the School of Public Health, University of Michigan, where he taught for 33 years; Assistant State Superintendent of Schools, Wayne County Intermediate School District; Director of Tuberculosis Control for Wayne County; Plymouth Board of Education Past President; American School Health Association Past President. He was also very active in civic and charitable organizations: Plymouth Rotary Past President; Plymouth Chamber of Commerce; World Health Organization; American Cancer Society; American Tuberculosis Association; and had numerous teaching positions through the years, as well as being High School Principal. Dr. McClendon was author and co-author of numerous articles and books in school health and curriculum. He was inducted into the Plymouth Hall of Fame in 2002. The new Plymouth Education Building was dedicated in his name. He had been the recipient of

numerous awards through the years, including the American School Health Association's William A Howe Award.

Dr. McClendon was a World War II veteran, serving in the Asia-Pacific theater as Second Lieutenant and Executive Officer of the USS Cofer. He was aboard the first ship to arrive at Nagasaki after the war, entering Ground Zero to liberate American POW's. He was a recipient of the Bronze Star (two commendations) two battle stars and the Purple Heart.

Dr. McClendon will lie in state Wednesday 12 Noon until 1 PM funeral service at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, where he and his wife Ruby had been long-time members. Visitation will be Monday 4-9 PM and Tuesday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Road (between Sheldon and Beck Roads) Plymouth. Burial at Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mott Children's Hospital, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor MI 48109-0253. To leave a message of condolence, click on the Online Condolences link on this page.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. E. J. McClendon*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I was saddened to learn of Dr. McClendon's passing and offer my sincere condolences to his family. I was honored to chat frequently with Dr. McClendon during the time I served the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools as its superintendent. He was a bright, enthusiastic and capable man, and it was my pleasure to visit with him about the history of the school district -- and his own history, as well. He was a remarkable man who leaves a great legacy to his community and his family. God be with you all.*

Dr. E. Kathleen Booher - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

RJ

“ To the MFamily of EJ McClendon,

I am very sorry to hear of EJ's passing. I knew EJ through the Rotary Club which he held very dear. Even before I joined the club (but had attended several meetings and work a few BBQs), he would see me at Salem football games when he came to watch his grandson in the band and sit with me while I watched my sons play. He was very interesting and always had great stories to tell. As I am a Michigan alum, EJ enjoyed talking about the University but he most enjoyed telling about his children, grandchildren and most especially his wife.

I visited EJ at WaldenWood last spring. Although he couldn't remember my name, he knew me and seemed really proud to introduce me to staff and residents as "his friend." I was proud to be his friend. As we walked, he became clear that his most cherished possession was a picture of Ruby. He feared that he might lose it and never see her again. Now he is with her and I am sure happy.

EJ was well respected and liked in our community. He served our country both in the military (for which he was very rightly proud) and as an educator. I am better for having known him and will always remember him for his stories, pride in his heritage, accomplishments and family and for his gentle, dry sense of humor. I am sorry that I am not able to be at the funeral. Please know that he will be in our prayers.

*Sincerely,
Russ Jones*

Russ Jones - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

DK

“ To the McClendon family,
I first met E.J. in the early 1970's, before I had ever heard of Plymouth or the Plymouth Rotary Club. I was a PhD. candidate at the U and E.J. was already a respected member of the faculty. We were both on a program at Eastern Michigan University for teachers on substance abuse education. I was impressed with his expertise then and even more so with his wonderful personality. Later in 1980 when I came to Plymouth and joined Rotary our paths crossed again. E.J. and Ruby were very important to Andrea and I, and their passing has left a void in our lives. All the best to the family, and a special thank you to Ed for all the hard work at all those chicken barbeques. God bless you all. Dale

DALE D. KNAB - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

JP

“ To the family of Dr. McClendon-
I have been honored to do a series of interviews with the local media where I have had the opportunity to recall the many outstanding contributions from Dr. McClendon. He certainly was one of the founding fathers of the modern day Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. I am honored to work in the building the bears his name. We will do all we can to continue to remember Dr. McClendon and keep his high ideals alive in our building and the district. I will be honored to be in attendance at his service on Wednesday.
Jim Ryan, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

Jim Ryan, Superintendent, PCCS - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

MT

“ I offer you my sincere condolences in the passing of your father and grandfather, Dr. E.J. McClendon. I met E.J. about ten years ago while serving on the PCCS Long-Range Planning Committee. We also worked together to help form a group known as Michigan Citizens for Fairness in Public School Funding, which hosted 3 statewide summits to inform the public about the need for more stable, adequate and equitable school funding.

E.J. was always a very friendly, talkative and knowledgeable individual. His unwavering commitment to public education was readily apparent - when it came to school issues, he was ALWAYS there to offer his opinion or his helpful support long after most men his age had vanished into other pursuits in retirement.

E.J. McClendon left an imprinted, indelible mark on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, making it one of the premier school districts in our state. His contributions to our students, to our schools and to our communities will long be remembered and cherished.

Martha A. Trafford - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

RK

“ Joy,

I'm sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. As soon as I heard the news, memories came flooding back. As I'm sure you're aware, your Dad affected so many lives. In high school when I focused only on those things that had something to do with me, he was one of the few adults to whom I took notice. I remember thinking about why he was so active in the school board, and the president, no less. From what little I knew about the school board from reading the paper, this was a thankless job. It was full of conflict. No matter what you did, someone was upset and it was broadcast everywhere in the newspaper. At that age, I just wondered why anyone would do that. He didn't seem to be someone that was drawn to positions of power. He always appeared very humble. I would now have to speculate that he had a clear idea of the direction he thought the schools should be going and wasn't afraid of the rough road it took to get there. I can recall occasions when my Dad was reading the paper and I would overhear comments like; "That-a-boy E.J.", or "E.J.'s in a pickle this time?". He always seemed to be in the news making tough decisions for the benefit of the community.

E.J. had his work in Ann Arbor, he had the school board pressures and yet he still had time to participate in Fife and Drum Corp and band activities. He was able to relate to people on all levels too. Heck, he related to me. Not always positively, but after all he was a Dad.

Joy, I pray for comfort for you and your family during this time. Your Dad lived such a full and meaningful life. Wish we could be there.

Rob & Cathy Krieg

Rob & Cathy Krieg - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

NH

“ Joy, Jeff, & Chris,

My deepest sympathy goes out to you & your family. My thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

Nicole Hoffman - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

NB

“ To the Family and EJ,

I am so sorry to hear of the loss of one of my favorite Rotarians. When I first joined the club 14 years ago, EJ was the President. He went out of his way to make me feel a part of the organization from the beginning and continued to do so through the years. He and Ruby were a wonderful couple. I remember many Rotary conferences where we shared many laughs and good times. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Baldwin

Nancy Baldwin - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

CL

“ Joy and Jeff

My most sincere condolence for your significant lost. My prays and thoughts are with you.

Take Care

Cesar A Lopez - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

JS

“ Dear Dr. McClendon's Family,
Your father/grandfather/brother was my health education advisor at the University of Michigan in the 1970's. Seeing his photo in the newspaper today brought back memories of his kind and compassionate demeanor. He will live on in the hearts and minds of those who were blessed to know him...

Joan Stern - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

TB

“ To Dr. McClendon's children:
Your father was my advisor and teacher up at UofM back in the early 1980's. He was a great down-to earth guy who taught me a lot. Years later I asked him to write me a letter to get into medical school. He very kindly wrote a beautiful letter. He will be remembered by me always as well as by his many students. May you all find strength in this difficult time.

Tricia Barber - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

CB

“ Please remember often how highly thought of your father and grandfather was and will continue to be. I have been in food service in Plymouth-Canton for 28 years and have nothing but fond memories of E.J. He certainly was a most interesting character. Not many people leave with the legacy and memories EJ has left us with. Bless your family at this time. We all loved your Dad...

cindy bastion - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM

KM

“ Ed, Melody and Joy and families,
Sorry for the lost of your dad. You are all in our prayers.
Kerry & Ken and family

Kerry & Ken Muravnick - December 12, 2014 at 10:34 AM