



John Donald McFarlan Jr

November 20, 1935 - April 20, 2026

John Donald McFarlan Jr, 90, passed away April 20, 2026. J.D. “Don” was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late John Donald McFarlan Sr “Mac” and Ethel Guenther McFarlan on November 20, 1935 and was raised in the Buckhead area of Atlanta. During high school at North Fulton High, he developed a lifelong love for the outdoors, hiking and exploring caves with his scouting group. After graduation he attended both Emory University & GA State. He enlisted in the United States Navy, was trained in meteorology, and was assigned to the USS Intrepid traveling through the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and the Arctic Circle. The many ports he was able to visit began his immense love for travel which he exercised later in life with many cruises with his beloved wife Deanna.

He began his professional career working for Auburn graduate Tom Lowe at Lowe Engineers in Atlanta utilizing his security clearance creating bombing maps for the US Air Force from imagery provided by Lockheed U-2 spy planes. He moved to F Graham Williams selling brick, tile, and stone as their architectural salesman in the southeast. He later became regional sales manager for Hastings Pavement representing 14 states then decided to form his own company with a partner and became President and CEO of Berkshire Pavers where he proudly was involved in the development of Atlanta’s Centennial Park for the Olympics as well as the Savannah River Walk prior to

retiring.

He was married to the love of his life, Deanna Nyman McFarlan for 65 years. They were continuously active in church including 40 years at Apostles Lutheran Church where he taught Sunday School and shared his love and knowledge of the book of Revelation and the end times. He loved the study of both Old and New Testament scripture. They worshipped and witnessed to many through hosting a home group in their den for decades. JD was a nature enthusiast. He loved hiking especially the Appalachian Trail and through the Great Smokey Mountains. He was a nature photographer and a longtime member of Ga Professional Photographers as well as Professional Photographers of America. His Facebook holds a fabulous collection of his works of art. His eye to capture God's beauty was applied during travel all over the US and the world. He was partial to all the National Parks, but he believed the most beautiful place in the world was the Fjords of Norway. He is remembered as a man who held a deep love for God and his country and was especially fond of Southern hospitality. His love of fishing was so great, he purchased a home in Tucker with a pond that he could fish any day of the week and has lived there the past 51 years. His love of outdoors and enjoying God's beauty is only exceeded by his love of his 14 family members. Along with his wife, JD is survived by his three children: John Donald McFarlan III (Tammy) of Fort Worth TX, Darla Howard (Mark) of Inman SC, Darren McFarlan (Monica) of Woodstock GA. six grandchildren Katey Hellman (Paul), Kaylee Jouan (Steven), Kirsten Hennes (Jake), Kennedy Howard, Kasen McFarlan, Kuper McFarlan and four great grandchildren Maxi, Harry, Hunt Hellman & John Daniel Hennes. He is also survived by his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Corlynn and Warren Wilbeck, and their four children.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday May 2nd at St. Andrews

Presbyterian Church; 4882 Lavista Road Tucker, Ga 30084; at 2:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to friendsofthesmokies.org

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Andrews Presbyterian
4882 Lavista Road
Tucker, GA 30084

Tribute Wall

WF

“ Warren, Corlynn and Wilbeck family purchased the Love's Tapestry for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



Warren, Corlynn and Wilbeck family - May 01 at 11:14 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Donald McFarlan Jr.

April 30 at 09:54 PM

LD

“ I was so fortunate to have known JD through Darren. He was such a kind, friendly family man that walked with a sincere faith. His photography was fantastic and he gave that gift to Darren. I'm grateful that he took my late wife and I's engagement photos some 35 years ago. They came out great as expected! He will be missed by many here, but has received his eternal reward.

Lenny Daniel - April 30 at 09:51 PM

AP

“ Allison Pinholster purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



Allison Pinholster - April 30 at 09:55 AM

AP

“ Allison Pinholster planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Donald McFarlan Jr.

Allison Pinholster - April 30 at 09:55 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



April 29 at 08:06 PM

MM

“ Michael John Sullivan and Chris McCary purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



Michael John Sullivan and Chris McCary - April 29 at 04:12 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



April 29 at 04:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Donald McFarlan Jr.

April 29 at 04:09 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



April 29 at 12:41 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



April 29 at 12:25 PM



“ Your Lockheed Martin Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



Your Lockheed Martin Family - April 29 at 10:58 AM

YF

“ Your Lockheed Martin Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Donald McFarlan Jr.

Your Lockheed Martin Family - April 29 at 10:58 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



April 27 at 01:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Donald McFarlan Jr.

April 27 at 01:39 PM

DP

“ Doug & Carolyn Pearson purchased the Vivid Re collections for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



Doug & Carolyn Pearson - April 25 at 08:58 PM

MS

“ Mrs. Steve (Dottie) sullivan purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Donald McFarlan Jr.



Mrs. Steve (Dottie) sullivan - April 25 at 04:46 PM

MS

“ Mrs. Steve (Dottie) sullivan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Donald McFarlan Jr.

Mrs. Steve (Dottie) sullivan - April 25 at 04:46 PM

DS

“ I remember great times at Don & Deanna's home Bible study and other gatherings. He was a quiet and encouraging presence
Prayers for the family.

Dalene Stone - April 24 at 04:06 PM

SM

“ What a gentleman, glad he was a family friend and neighbor (in the 60s). I enjoyed reading about the parts of his life I did not see or was aware of.

Scott Mills - April 24 at 01:51 PM

DS

“ Don is the one who showed me the beauty of the Smoky Mts. With my husband , Steve, we enjoyed several mountain trips. He was a good friend!! He & Deanna were my “Helpers” on my first skiing trip(Cooper Mt.)! I had always wanted to learn to ski, so the McFarlans were my “path” to learn. Don was a man of few words, but a really good friend! He also introduced me to a beer I could actually drink. His wife,Deanna, is an excellent cook ; we enjoyed many meals together! When we(Donna &I) arrived in GA We spent our first night with Don&Deanna. We enjoyed a lifelong relationship!!

Dottie Sullivan - April 24 at 01:44 PM

LS

My good buddy from 7th grade(as “sub freshman”at North Fulton high school. We had a wonderful group of neighborhood kids at Cantrell and Kingsboro! Don was always the 1st friend I contacted when home from School outside Atlanta. He was a Groomsman in my wedding to Paul at Redeemer 1959. He met my lovely Immanuel classmate, and maid of Honor, Deanna Nyman and married her the following year. I love them both dearly and we have remained close throughout these many years. He has been received into the arms of his Savior who will provide comfort for his precious family who mourn mourn his passing but remember with joy his wonderful days here on earth! 💖🙏

Leslie Dever Speck - April 24 at 04:42 PM

EM

“ Don was a great guy and a dear friend for more than60 years. He will be sorely missed. Sending love and sympathy to Deanna and the entire family,
Eloise Mills

Eloise Mills - April 24 at 01:36 PM