



## Harry Ernest McCoy II

June 27, 1938 - July 27, 2018

Our dear husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Harry Ernest McCoy II, passed away peacefully on July 27, 2018, one month after his 80th birthday.

Harry was born on June 27, 1938, in Parkersburg, West Virginia, to Harry Ernest and Bonnadine Overton McCoy. He was the eldest of seven siblings.

Harry joined the Air Force right out of high school, doing his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, then being stationed briefly at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, then at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. He was in the Air Force band, playing bassoon, clarinet, and string bass, just not at the same time. Harry would remain in the Air Force ROTC for many years.

While in Alaska, a fellow band member, Paul Heimdal, invited him to attend the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints with him. Harry joined the church in April of 1958. From January 1960, to July 1962, Harry served an LDS mission to Helsinki, Finland.

Harry came to Salt Lake City in 1963 and eventually decided to attend law school at the University of Utah. While here, he worked for Litton Industries and joined a dance band which played local parties and events. During one of these outings, in late-August, 1964, he met the former Helen Westenskow of Gunnison. They were married a year later, August 28, 1965. Harry and Helen have eight children: Chris Whitaker, Jon, Carrie (David) White, Cathy (Fili) Soakai, Tim (Candi), Sallie Paraskeva, Boubacar Barry (Vania), and Mandy (Ryan) Daley. Along with Helen, Harry was also a foster parent to 145 babies with the Salt Lake County Shelter Program.

Harry graduated law school in 1970 and worked for many law firms in Salt Lake and elsewhere through the years, most of the time as a real estate attorney, specializing in resort development.

In 1973, Harry took a job as an in-house attorney with Lakeway Resort in Austin, Texas. He (and his family) were there until 1976, when they returned to Utah.

His first job after returning from Texas was with Vernon Romney's Attorney General's office, where he had helped establish OSHA a few years earlier. He next worked for Keith Romney Associates, where he was one of the pioneers in developing timeshares. He later worked with Fox, Edwards, Gardiner & Brown, then his own firm of Edwards, McCoy & Kennedy, and finally with Jones, Waldo, Holbrook & McDonough, and Ballard, Spahr,

Andrews & Ingersoll.

Throughout the years, Harry was involved with many professional organizations, most notably the American Resort Development Association (ARDA), where he served on the Board of Directors.

Harry had many leadership opportunities in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, which, after his family, was his greatest joy. He served as a high councilor, branch president (while on a mission to Toronto Canada in 2003-05 with Helen), bishop of a University of Utah single's ward, and stake patriarch. His favorite job, though, was as Gospel Doctrine teacher, which he taught in nearly every ward he lived in. He brought many people an understanding of the gospel through the Spirit.

After returning from Texas, Harry and Helen settled in Holladay, first in the Olympus area, then the heart of Holladay. After 17 years, in 1993, they moved to South Jordan where they lived for 22 years. His last few years were spent in a condo in West Jordan (something he said he would never do after developing them)!

Harry was an avid reader, especially about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and history. He knew everything about the Civil War, which two grandfathers fought in, and what he didn't know he would make up!

One of his great loves was singing in barbershop quartets and choruses. He was the president and master of ceremonies for the Saltaires Show Chorus, which gave him another opportunity to showcase his talent for public speaking.

Harry is survived by his wife, Helen, his eight children, his brother, Paul, sisters, Sue and Ann, 22 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents and three siblings, Tom, Mary Fox, and Mike.

Harry had a great love and understanding of people of all cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds. He was truly a friend to all.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, August 1, at 11:00 am, Country Park Stake Center, 2447 W. 11400 S., South Jordan, with viewings the previous night from 6-8 pm and an hour before the services.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Meg Skibitsky and all the nurses, aides, and doctors at Intermountain Medical Center, Riverton Hospital, Rocky Mountain Care in Riverton, Cascade Springs at Riverwood, and Mt. Olympus Care Center. A special thanks to the wonderful people at Encompass Hospice.

# Events

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**JUL**   **Visitation**   06:00PM - 08:00PM

**31**

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Country Park Stake Center

2447 West 11400 South, South Jordan, UT, US

**AUG**   **Visitation**   09:30AM - 10:30AM

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Country Park Stake Center

2447 West 11400 South, South Jordan, UT, US

**AUG**   **Funeral Service**   11:00AM

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Country Park Stake Center

2447 West 11400 South, South Jordan, UT, US

# Comments

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“ I'll miss my friend Harry McCoy. I served with him when I was a bishop and he was our high councilor. He gave two of my children their Patriarchal blessings. He lifted my spirits and taught me spiritual insights many times. I am better better because of him, as are many others. Good journey.

**Reed Nelson** - July 31, 2018 at 06:24 PM

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“ HEM was a very dear mentor, friend, colleague and supporter throughout my legal career. He taught me how to read condo plats, draft declarations and network at ARDA. Harry introduced me to pro bono work and we represented many foster families over the years who adopted children. He also played a divine role in the adoption of our first child. I will never forget him. May Heavenly Father's most tender blessings be with Helen and the McCoy family — Nicole Evans



**Nicole Evans** - July 28, 2018 at 12:22 PM

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“ The McCoy family from Parkersburg, West Virginia was my second family. My deepest friendship in childhood was with two of the youngest siblings - Mike & Ann McCoy. I respected their oldest brother. As years went by he played a special role in the family's life as the patriarch of the family. I will cherish always the visits with Harry, and especially at the death of dear Mike. Harry spend some time in conversation with me. May God surround the Harry McCoy II family, and thanks be to God for his life. May God give eternal rest and peace. Rev. Dr. Bill Wilson

**Rev. Dr. Bill Wilson** - July 27, 2018 at 10:45 PM

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“ Harry has been a sweet friend to our family. Helen and Harry cared for our son when he was in foster care before we adopted him. He handled the legal matters of the adoption of our 3 children and kept in touch with us over the years. We were thrilled to have Helen and Harry visit us in Nauvoo several years ago. We have a special place in our heart for both of them. Tracey Grow



**Tracey Grow** - July 27, 2018 at 09:52 PM



“ This was taken in Nauvoo about 2005 with the Grow boys.

**Tracey Grow** - July 27, 2018 at 09:54 PM



“ What a man. How lucky for me to have met HMc. For 40+ years he was my friend and often a reminder that rigorous honesty could be a way of life. I never saw him waiver in his faith, nor compromise his values. I will miss him and have no idea who will correct my spelling with such enthusiasm.

**Gordon S Sloan** - July 28, 2018 at 07:22 AM



“ I met Harry when I worked at Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll. When the firm sponsored golfing events holes in one, Harry took me with him. You get to know a lot about a guy when you share a plate of squid, seriously. What a great guy and mentor. Tracy Nickels Aguayo, Clark, SD

**Tracy Nickels Aguayo** - July 30, 2018 at 11:45 AM



“ Harry McCoy was such a wonderful, friend, colleague and mentor to me! Truly one of a kind and larger than life. He was a great mentor and example to me in my relatively short legal career. I will be forever grateful for his guidance and friendship. I learned so much from Harry about the law, about priorities and about life, He will certainly be missed, but he leaves such a wonderful legacy. You could not associate with Harry for long and not be changed for the better. My heart and prayers go out to Helen and Harry's family. May God be with you, especially during this time of transition.

**Lisa Rischer Bickmore** - August 01, 2018 at 10:56 AM



“ I served with Harry as a counselor to Bishop Robert W. Edwards during 1972-73 in the Yale Ward of the Salt Lake Bonneville Stake. Later, I was privileged to be a partner with him and Robert Edwards in a Salt Lake City law firm. His keen mind and good nature made him a wonderful associate in a variety of endeavors. Our young families intertwined and brought us even closer. We love him and will miss him. John Paul Kennedy

**John Kennedy** - August 09, 2018 at 10:05 AM



“ Harry McCoy sorry to you have died. Rosalie and George Leposky

**rosalie leposky** - September 05, 2018 at 07:52 PM