



Leonard McCarville

October 10, 1928 - January 29, 2023

Leonard McCarville, 94, of Kearney, Nebraska died on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at Good Samaritan St. John's in Kearney. A funeral mass will be 10:00 a.m. Friday, February 3, 2023 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Kearney with Father Paul Colling officiating. Burial will be held 2:00 p.m. Friday at Fort McPherson National Cemetery, Maxwell, Nebraska with military honors. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

Leonard was born on October 10, 1928, in Loup City, Nebraska, the son of Charles and Victoria (Zaruba) McCarville. He was the sixth of fourteen children born to his parents. He grew up and attended school in rural Loup City. He graduated from high school in 1946 and then taught school until 1951. He enlisted in the United States Air Force on May 23, 1951. He received an Honorable Discharge on December 20, 1952, from Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. He was granted a Hardship Discharge after the death of his father to assume the duties of the farm and to be the care provider of his four minor sisters. He returned to Loup City and enrolled in Kearney State Teacher's College. He and his younger siblings later moved to Kearney where he completed his education achieving a Bachelor of Arts in Education and a Master of Arts in Education. He taught at elementary schools in Kearney, including Whittier, Kenwood, and Park before becoming a school administrator. He served as principal at Kenwood Elementary and then at Central Elementary School for 24 years retiring in 1989. Serving a total of 38

years in education with Kearney Public Schools. In 1981, he received the first Pratt-Heins Foundation Administrator award. In 1994, he became the first recipient of the Retired Educator Award from the Kearney Public Schools Foundation.

In his retirement he took pride in maintaining his home, yard, and vehicles. Before losing his eyesight to macular degeneration he enjoyed driving and taking friends to lunch at small town diners. He took pleasure in family reunions where there was often a game of pitch. He also appreciated his friends and their daily chats over coffee at McDonald's. He was an active member of the Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, and the catholic churches of Kearney, St. James and Prince of Peace.

He is survived by his sisters, JoAnn Kalkowski of Rockville; Louise Hartman of Kearney; Donette Danburg of Springfield, Missouri; Betty (Al) Labs of Bennett, Colorado and sister-in-law Phyllis (Donald) McCarville as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials are suggested to The American Macular Degeneration Foundation or the Sherman County Historical Society. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entitled to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Fort McPherson National Cemetery

12004 State Highway 56A Spur
Maxwell, NE
(308) 582-4433

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 3. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
2407 W. 56th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Funeral Mass

FEB 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
2407 W. 56th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall

MA

“ I was one of the lucky ones that had Mr, McCarville as a teacher when I was a student at Central Elementary. I was doubly blessed when I went back to Central to do my student teaching, and he was the principal. He was a true mentor to all of us that had any interactions with him. I went on to become an educator because of him, and have been working with students K-12 for 41 years. We stayed in contact through our yearly Christmas cards. I owe my love of teaching to him and the examples he set for all of us. My thoughts are with his family at this time. He can now watch over all of us and smile, knowing the best of him flows through each of us.

Marc - March 30, 2023 at 05:31 PM

DW

“ My deepest condolences to Mr. McCarville's family and friends. I was a student at Central Elementary and Mr. McCarville was the principal. He was very kind and fair. He always had a smile on his face and would say hello to everyone he passed in the hallway. It has always stuck with me that he was approachable and was a 'real person', not the 'principal' who should be feared. After I had gone on to junior high and even into high school, my younger siblings were at Central Elementary. Mr. McCarville still remembered me whenever I was back at the school for them. I could share several other wonderful memories, but what sums them all up, is this...It isn't often that we have such vivid and fond memories of our teachers or principals from 40 or 50 years ago, but if they were Mr. McCarville, or someone as kind, inspirational, and special as him, those memories stick with us and influence us for the rest of our lives. Mr. McCarville: I sincerely thank you for being a part of my life all those years ago and being a special part of my memories. Sincerely,
Daniece Waggoner

Daniece Waggoner - February 03, 2023 at 12:27 PM

LL

“ I taught at Central Elementary when Mr. McCarville was principal. I enjoyed having him as my principal. He was a kind, caring man who loved the students and supported his teachers. I have such fond memories of my time spent at Central under Mr. McCarville's leadership. I am sad at the loss of this wonderful man. Rest in peace, Mr. McCarville.

Linda Liebig - February 01, 2023 at 10:45 PM

ML

“ Was a good educator and role model for students.

Mike Luth - January 31, 2023 at 08:31 PM

DD

“ Thank you for being my friend and mentor. R.I.P Buddy.
Darin.

Darin daake - January 31, 2023 at 03:53 PM



“ Mr. McCarville was one of my 5th grade teachers at Park. He enjoyed teaching--you could tell!--and had the respect of all of his students. And he always drove a nice shiny car! He was one of the best.

Nancy Hansen - January 31, 2023 at 01:47 PM

SL

“ Some of my first memories are being sent to his office at Central Elementary. It wasn't as bad as my teachers thought it would be as he was always so nice. Rest in peace.

Scott Lyons - January 30, 2023 at 10:31 PM

JK

“ Thank you, Mr. McCarville for your years as principal of Central Elementary where I was a student from 1970-1975. Thinking of the family at this time.

*Jon Kahle
Minnetonka, MN*

Jon Kahle - January 30, 2023 at 09:01 PM

RL

“ So sorry for your loss family!! He was a good man,I Remember yrs. he was my Teacher,Than Principal ...Then yrs. later i cleaned his home,we always shared alot of laughs.He will be missed...R.I.P. My friend

Rhonda Larson - January 30, 2023 at 08:47 PM