



## John M. McElroy

December 13, 1934 - March 14, 2019

John M. McElroy, DDS, 84, of Grand Island, passed away Thursday, March 14, 2019 at Edgewood Memory Care.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 AM Friday, March 22, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island. Celebrating Mass will be Father Scott Harter.

There will be no visitation. John has bequeathed his body to Creighton University. All Faiths Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements.

John was born December 13, 1934 in Creston, IA to Ed and Martha McElroy. He married Kathleen A. Clinch on August 9, 1958.

He graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Agronomy and worked for Eli Lilly for a year. He entered Creighton Dental School, graduating in 1961, and began a 51 year career in his dental practice.

John is survived by his loving wife, Kathleen, children, Mike McElroy (Dinah) of Omaha, Monica Reich (Roger) of Minot, ND, Mary McElroy of Costa Mesa, CA, Mark McElroy (Beth) of Lincoln; 12 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren and sisters, Ethel Herring, Mary McElroy and Patricia Knock.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter Michele Gamble, his brother Kenneth and his sisters Helen Linderman, Katherine Kuhl, Margaret Kernen and Jean Vais.

Memorials are suggested to Creighton Dental School.

A special thanks goes to the leadership and staff at Edgewood Memory Care and the care received from Hospice.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.giallfaiths.com](http://www.giallfaiths.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *John M. McElroy*

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October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Kathleen, I am so sorry to hear of Jonn's passing. I just heard about it yesterday at the Nebraska Dental Association meeting.*

*I will always have fond memories of hunting with John along with Bob & Marilyn Diers and our clients. What a great easy going gentleman. I will keep you and John in my prayers.*

*Jim Spitsen*

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**Jim Spitsen** - April 13, 2019 at 08:48 PM



“ *Kathleen, I'm so sorry for your loss!  
Dr McElroy was our dentist when we moved to Grand Island in 1976.  
We lived about a block from you on Division St.  
And now our paths cross again in the Alzheimers world :(.  
May he rest in peace now. And may God comfort you with His peace.*

*Sue Whitman*

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**Sue Whitman** - March 24, 2019 at 03:58 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of John M. McElroy.*



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March 20, 2019 at 12:16 PM



“ *Dear Kathleen and children,  
On behalf of the Buhrman family I offer you condolence at the death of Dr. McElroy. He was my dentist and he worked with my dad, Bob Buhrman in their early careers. He was always so gentle and caring. I'm sure you will miss him tremendously. Kathleen, you have done a great job in caring for him.  
Unfortunately I will be out of town on the day of his funeral. But you will all be in my prayers as you say your goodbyes and celebrate our faith in Jesus, the savior.  
God bless you all,  
Rev. Donald A. Buhrman*

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**Donald Buhrman** - March 20, 2019 at 09:09 AM

GS

“ We send our love, thoughts and prayers to the extended Dr. John McElroy family..if I'm one of the first, I'll probably get some grief from someone....but John LOVED me, so here goes...the guy (bro-in-law) loved to tell a joke...and "re-tell" the same joke...and laugh before he got to the PUNCH LINE...so we were always laughing along with him, so I'm not sure if the joke was ever funny because we were always laughing so hard...and sometimes they were "just stories"...but he had a serious side, too..he'd just LOOK at his "young kids" and/or clear his throat and their "kids" behaved...never failed...especially in church...my mom thought he'd "hung the moon" so he was NEVER in trouble with her...Back in time, really back in time...when John came to meet our small family of "8" he wasn't phased, as he'd come from "9"... "the stories" had a bit of "Irish flare and Shenanigans" in them...so who really knew...Was this guy for real, was he really that GOOD-LOOKING, and tall, and funny, and Catholic, and traveled by "hitch-hiking" and smart, and ate anything, and nice, and serious; and he was going to marry our beautiful sister, Kathleen? Could we really vote on him (remember this was before social media)...I don't know who counted the votes but he was "IN"....so as a lil' 11year old I thought this was kinda' cool..A guy shows up, passes ALL the tests and a new family member is gained!! Such a deal!!! The stories NEVER stopped about John...soon we met his family and they "voted" on us...the wedding day arrived and the "Kathleen and John's story" began...we were blessed, and blessed again from their wedding day forward....so it is with the greatest of love and respect that I say, "John McElroy, you were one of a kind, you were unique, you will be missed, your wife loved you more than most are ever going to witness, your children and your wife were probably your greatest of gifts" God likes to hear "love" so I'll sign off by saying..."May God Bless You and give you peace...May He hold you and your beautiful family in the palm of His hands."

We're coming for some IRISH hugs, tears, memories, tributes, stories, and I hope someone can remember one of your "PUNCH-LINES"  
LOVE,

*One of your favorite sis-in-laws, Gloria (Clinch) Stephenson &  
hubby, Gregg Stephenson  
RIP*

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**gloria stephenson** - March 18, 2019 at 10:46 PM

SI

“ Dear Friends, Kathleen and John's children,  
Our sincere sympathy to you and your loved ones as you mourn this departure of your dear husband, devoted Dad and loving, proud Grandpa.

We didn't have to know John very long before we figured out two things: He lived for a purpose much greater than himself and secondly, he married one of the grandest help-mates God could have sent him to journey through life with. By his example he taught us how to live life with love for God's creatures and creation and with a smile and positive attitude that was only surpassed by his love for God, his family and small town living. He made a difference in his profession and his community and was glad to share his enthusiasm for both.

He could tell stories that made you laugh with him and not just at him and as he described coming from the old grit school, you could understand where his relentless optimism came from. He bathed in the sun of blessings and fought like a warrior in accepting life's crosses, finding meaning even in his suffering. Everything can be taken from a man but the last of the human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances. He was fortunate to have you at his side, Kathleen. And we feel blessed to have had the pleasure to serve him for so many years. We share your grief even as we celebrate the unspeakable joy he is experiencing today...no pain, tears wiped away and that welcomed greeting "Well done, good and faithful servant!".

Heartfelt condolences,  
Sean, Rose and Jodi at State Farm  
Gellatly Agency

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STATE FARM INS - March 18, 2019 at 07:26 PM

GS

*AMEN to all of your beautiful words about him and my sis, Kathleen.....*

gloria stephenson - March 19, 2019 at 06:47 PM

GH

*“ Kathleen, my heart goes out to you and your family. I will never forget the hunts and your cooking. Gordon Hrnicek*

gordon hrnicek - March 18, 2019 at 11:20 AM



*“ Meat & Cheese Sympathy Gift Crate was purchased for the family of John M. McElroy.*



March 18, 2019 at 11:18 AM

AW

*“ My sympathies to the family. Dr McElroy was our family dentist all through our childhood and beyond. He was a lovely man and took good care of us for many many years. So very sorry to hear of his passing.*

Annette Wetzel - March 17, 2019 at 09:50 PM