



Richard John McCracken

April 25, 1938 - April 4, 2025

Richard John McCracken, 86, of Sayre, PA, passed away Friday, April 4, 2025. He was born April 25, 1938, in Towanda, Pa., son of the late Paul Eugene and Helen Louise (Keyser) McCracken. Richard graduated from Towanda High School and lived there until he joined the Marine Corps.

Richard's first duty assignment was in Japan. While there, he applied to join the United States Air Force. His chosen career field was Crypt Analyst. Future assignments included Fort Meade Maryland; Zweibrucken Germany; Athens Greece. With a deployment to Vietnam 1968-1969. He was very proud of his accomplishments during his service time. Richard retired from the USAF in 1977 as a First Sergeant at the rank of Master Sergeant, serving for 22 years. After retirement from the military, Richard was employed at E. I. DuPont, Towanda Pennsylvania. After leaving DuPont, Richard worked with the Veterans Affairs Office of Bradford County.

Richard was active in community service and activities. He served as Athens Township Auditor; member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Monroeton, Towanda, and Bridge Street Hill Rod and Gun clubs.

Most recently, he achieved a lifelong goal of achieving 32nd Degree Mason. He was a dual member at Rural Amity Lodge No. 70 F&AM and Union Wyalusing Lodge No. 108 F&AM. Richard reached impressive multiple degree

ranks including Valley of Towanda 18th Degree Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and Williamsport Consistory 32nd Degree Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. He was also a member of numerous other lodges and chapters.

Richard is survived by his loving wife of 33 years Margaret (Bata) McCracken; his brother-in-law Jack (Sandy) Vanderpool, sister-in-law Laura Benjamin. He is also survived by his children: Jon McCracken of Highland, Md.; Tammy (Stephen) Allis of Magnolia, Del.; David (Amy) McCracken of Sandy Hook, Va.; Paul (Maureen) McCracken of Lebanon Ohio; Jennifer McCracken of Vandalia, Ohio and Robert (Amy) McCracken of Leland, N.C.; Gloria Vanderpool of West Franklin, Pennsylvania; Tracy (Kate) Vanderpool of Towanda, Pennsylvania; 20 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. And many loving nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Richard was preceded in death by his sister, Sue (McCracken) Flynn, son, Lywn (Pete) Vanderpool; daughter, MaryAnn Bata, and grandson, Joshua McCracken.

A Masonic Funeral Service will be held April 11, 2025 at 3 O'clock in the afternoon at Wysox Cemetery, Wysox, PA. Full military honors will be accorded by American Legion Post No. 42 and Beirne-Websters VFW Post No. 1568 Towanda. His family and friends will miss him dearly. Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting www.bowenfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Wysox Cemetery

Route 187
Wysox, PA 18854

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 11. 3:00 PM (ET)

Wysox Cemetery
Route 187
Wysox, PA 18854

Tribute Wall

NR

“ Nexpera James River purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Richard John McCracken.



Nexpera James River - April 09, 2025 at 12:10 PM

NR

“ Nexpera James River planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard John McCracken.

Nexpera James River - April 09, 2025 at 12:10 PM

JB

“ Julie Shay Bump lit a candle in memory of Richard McCracken



Julie Shay Bump - April 09, 2025 at 05:31 AM

KB

“ Our heartfelt condolences to Aunt Margaret and all of Richard's friends and family. We will miss his wit and wisdom. He was our "go to" guy for anything related to history, the military or local folklore. He led a full and benevolent life and will be missed by so many.
Love Always,
Kim and Arthur Bobbs

Kim C Bobbs - April 08, 2025 at 07:24 PM