



## Michael Thomas McCann

February 6, 1945 - May 11, 2016

Michael Thomas McCann, age 71, of the Oronoque Village section of Stratford, died peacefully, Wednesday, May 11, 2016, surrounded by his loving family at his home from Pancreatic Cancer. He was the beloved husband of Jeannine Carpentier McCann. Mr. McCann was born in Bridgeport on February 6, 1945, the son of the late Donald George and Amelia Hennigan McCann. He lived in New Haven for 40 years before moving to Stratford in 2014. Being the second oldest of 8 children, he has always been the one his family turns to in times of crisis when someone is needed to solve problems and give sound advice. In his young years and into his teenage years Scouting became a large part of his life where he rose to the level of Eagle Scout at the age of 17. He attended Fairfield University on a Voice Scholarship, where he received a BA in history. There, he was a soloist in the Glee Club, Minstrels and Bensonians. Mike enlisted in the Army at the age of 23 becoming a Green Beret medic and served in Vietnam in the Special Forces 5th Group as a combat medic. He was awarded The Bronze Star with Valor for heroism in a ground combat action and received a Purple Heart for injuries received in that incident. After returning home, he earned a Master's Degree in communications from Fairfield University and went to work for Southern New England Telephone in the Public Relations Department. He worked at SNET for 24 years ending his career as Director of Media Relations. After retiring from SNET in 1996, Michael recorded a CD titled Soldier's Songs. He served on the New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade

Committee from 1990-2000 and was elected the Grand Marshal of the parade in 1999. He also headed the publicity for the CT Irish Festival from 2000-2007. Most recently, his passion has been fundraising for the Community Soup Kitchen in New Haven, The Kick for Nick Foundation in Wilton and the Wounded Warrior Project. In 2013, Michael completed his memoir titled Retracing the Road Less Travelled: from Gregory Street to Nui Ta Bec, in which he recalls the first 25 yrs of his life. Most recently (exactly 2 months ago) he was inducted into the Notre Dame of Fairfield High School's Alumni Hall of Fame. He was a communicant at St. Mary's Parish in New Haven where he sang in the choir for 14 years, and served on the staff of the church's Sunday soup kitchen. In addition to his wife he is survived by children Michele (Jim) McGuire of Stratford and Sean (Gretchen) McCann of Southbury; grandchildren, Connor and Mary McGuire, Aaron and Morgan McCann. He is also survived by brothers Peter (Jacalyn Sheridan) McCann of Nashville, TN; David (Diane) McCann of Monroe, Richard (Jean) McCann of Phoenix, AZ, and sisters Katie Tressler of Easton, and Martha (Michael) Lesnick of Nashville, TN along with many nieces, nephews and grand nieces and grand nephews. Michael was predeceased by a sister Mary McCann Bradicich and a brother Donal McCann.

Friends are invited to go directly to St. Mary's Church, 5 Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven, Monday morning where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:45. Interment will be private. Family and friends may call Sunday from 3pm to 7pm at the Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. The family wishes to thank the staffs of Smilow Cancer Hospital in New Haven especially Dr. Jill Lacy and Carol Staugaard-Hahn and CT Hospice in Shelton for their loving care of Michael these last three years. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Community Soup Kitchen of New Haven, 84 Broadway, New Haven, CT, 06511, The Wounded Warrior Project, 150 Cambridge Park Drive, Suite 202, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140, or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network., 1500 Rosecrans Ave.,

Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. [www.siskbrothers.com](http://www.siskbrothers.com)

# Previous Events

## Calling hours

MAY **15**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home  
3105 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT 06518  
(203) 288-7114  
siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net

## Funeral service

MAY **16**. 9:45 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Church  
5 Hillhouse Ave.  
New Haven, CT

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ Yesterday I received Mike's obit in the mail. It was a shock not only because Mike had passed but because I am now living in North Carolina and I worked for Mike 37 years ago. I don't even know who sent me the obit but I'm glad they did. I met Mike as the result of a unique experiment by AT&T SNET called Phone Center Stores. I was hired to be responsible for the Visual Merchandising of those stores in CT. Mike was my boss and he couldn't have made my transition into the corporate environment easier. Being the same age we became colleagues and friends and found we shared a lot of the same likes, including singing Irish songs. We only spent a couple of years in the same department but they were perhaps my best years at SNET.

*My thoughts and prayers are with you. And a thank you to whoever sent me the obit.*

*Joe Perrone*

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**Joseph Perrone** - May 20, 2016 at 11:00 AM

BM

“ Another true hero gone before his time. Our condolences to his family. Brett & Ellen Muccino



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**Brett Muccino** - May 16, 2016 at 11:37 AM

Kelly  
Plourde

“ *Kelly Plourde lit a candle in memory of  
Michael Thomas McCann*



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**Kelly Plourde** - May 16, 2016 at 11:27 AM

Kelly  
Plourde

*My deepest sympathies for your loss. What a great man and a true  
hero to this country.*

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**Kelly Plourde** - May 16, 2016 at 11:28 AM

BS

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. Mike was such a great guy who did so  
many good things for the community. He was such a dear friend to  
my Dad and he will be missed. Thinking of you all.*

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**Brooke Spadaccino** - May 15, 2016 at 01:04 PM

MS

“ *We had the fortune to have our Special Forces Medic's reunion at  
the Touch of Ireland for over a decade. Mike and Jeannine were  
very gracious host to open their home to us once a year. These  
times we will treasure,*

*Mark Sprague and Kathleen Gill*

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**Mark Sprague** - May 15, 2016 at 10:51 AM

SE

“ *Very fond memories of time spent with Michael and Jeannine at Touch of Ireland which was a little Oasis in itself. Many condolences to Jeannine and family. We didn't know Michael that well but he was a truly great and generous character. Take care and best wishes, Sean and Heather*

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**Sean** - May 15, 2016 at 07:11 AM



“ *So sorry for the loss of your beloved Michael. What a accomplished life he lead. He will be missed but never forgotten . Your fond memories will help carry you through. Sending Prayers for strength.*

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**Dawn Maturo Black** - May 14, 2016 at 06:08 PM



“ *This was heartbreaking news. I will always remember singing Christmas carols at your home with Michael smiling wide, surrounded by friends and family. What a very special man he was. I am so sorry for your loss. Love to you all.*

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**Tamara Leavitt Jenkin** - May 14, 2016 at 12:03 PM

EJ

“ *I will never forget how Michael took me under his wing when I became News Manager at SNET, one month prior to our longest strike in company history in 1986. He was a great mentor, and I will always remember how much he helped me. Rest in peace Michael.*

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**Elissa Jenny** - May 13, 2016 at 07:40 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Thomas McCann.*



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May 13, 2016 at 01:39 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy & condolences go out to Jeannine, Michele & Sean and their families, as well as to Michael's siblings & extended family members. Although our ways were parted over fifteen years ago, I harbor many many happy memories of times spent with him & his family in New Haven and elsewhere. However, until I read his obituary I knew Mike only as a Grand Irishman, faithful fiend, talented musician, Scout enthusiast, and loving family man.[ as if all that isn't enough ! ]*

*I had no idea he had been a doubly decorated soldier, nor of the great extent of his community involvement (!) He certainly made the most of his years, before and after retirement ! BRAVO MIKE ! I miss his Irish sense of humor, and happily shared moments that still make me laugh. :) "Thanks for the memories", Mike; my life was better for having known you. There is no doubt in my mind you were warmly welcomed by Our Loving Father with the words : "Well done, my good & faithful servant."*

*Jane M. Robinson*

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**Jane Robinson** - May 13, 2016 at 01:04 PM



*Thanks so much Jane. There are many happy memories of the McCann, Robinson, Chadburn families*

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**Jeannine N Michael McCann** - May 14, 2016 at 11:47 AM

LB

“ Meeting and getting to know Michael was pure joy. Having renewed our relationship with the family after so many years we were embraced by him with open arms. The Barnes' are grateful to have shared our journey with him and will remember him forever.

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**Lewis, Rowena, Justine and Jillian Barne** - May 13, 2016 at 12:46 PM

RN

“ My wife and I met Michael some years ago through Barbara and Tom Puffer. Mike was a year older and had experienced many of the ups and downs of our generation; the music, the war, and the great pleasure of a loving family. Mike made an immediate impression on me as a of person of character and strength, a friendly man and one that is at the core of a good community. Rest in peace good soldier.

*Ray Nichols*

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**Raymond S Nichols** - May 13, 2016 at 12:17 PM

WO

“ Mike was a great addition to the St Patrick's Day parade committee. His skill's as a PR pro gave the parade the most exposure we ever had over the years. Promoting the Grand Marshal was his personal challenge every year and he sure did a great job doing that, even sometime getting recognition for them in newspapers as far away as Ireland. He and Jeannine even hosted media party's at their home to generate recognition for the upcoming parades. He was the best. RIP Michael.

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**William O'Brien** - May 13, 2016 at 11:35 AM

MP

“ From one Vet to another, sending my condolences and wishing the family well in this time of sorrow.

*Marty Platt*

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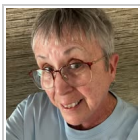
**Marty Platt** - May 13, 2016 at 09:58 AM

BP

“ Jeannine, Michele, Sean & family.... I have known Michael for more than 40 years; my husband knew him for 30. That's a lot of time to pack in a tremendous number of memories and laughs and songs. We will treasure them all and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for sharing Michael with us. We know that you too will be warmed by your own memories and the tributes coming your way in the next days and months. But most importantly, we were all witness to the strength and compassion you showed him during his long cancer journey and goodbye. He loved you all so much and was so tremendously proud of you all. Take solace in those wonderful memories. We will be out of state for Michael's services, but know we are there in spirit, prayer and love. God bless you all. RIP, Michael. Barbara & Tom Puffer (Florida & Guilford)

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**Barbara & Tom Puffer** - May 13, 2016 at 07:47 AM



“ So sorry to hear this news. We have wonderful memories of our time spent together here at our b&b in Florida, Thurston House. Our thoughts are with you all. Carole & Joe Ballard

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**Carole Ballard** - May 12, 2016 at 08:16 PM



We had always hoped we would get back there some day. The two nights spent at your B & B was a peaceful time at the end of a couple of emotional weeks we had spent after finding out the extent of my brothers illness. Thank you.

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**Jeannine N Michael McCann** - May 14, 2016 at 11:53 AM

JS

*Jeannine, Michelle, Sean & family-*

*I first became acquainted with Michael many years ago, when a colleague of mine told me about "Soldiers' Songs." After getting a copy, I wrote Mike, introduced myself, and next thing I knew, my wife and I were invited to "A Touch of Ireland" where Jeannine won us over with her pancakes, and Mike with his friendship. We shared a love for music--especially the rich trove of songs written by and about G.I.'s. Mike invited me to several family folk festivals and I treasure the times we spent (and harmonized) together. His life is a story of quiet courage, patriotism, community service, and love of family--qualities in short supply these days. Mike, I will miss you more than any words can express. Love, John*

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**john sprung** - May 22, 2016 at 10:25 AM