



Howard Jackie McLain

August 11, 1940 - February 9, 2026

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Howard Jackie McLain, known to all as Jack, passed away on February 9, 2026, in Easton, Maryland, at the age of 85.

He was born at home in Holcomb, Missouri, on August 11, 1940, to Erskin and Ruby McLain.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri Rolla in 1964. Before beginning his professional career, Jack served his country with honor as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

Jack began his career in St. Peters, Missouri, at Monsanto. His career later took him to New Jersey, where he served as Senior Vice President of Operations for Reckitt & Coleman. He concluded his career as President of Chun King.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Jack was an avid golfer and greatly enjoyed his early retirement years, especially the time spent competing on the golf course with his wife. He took great pride in his home and property and could often be found on his favorite "tractor," keeping watch

over the local wildlife, including the osprey nest he built, spring fawns, and neighboring foxes. He never missed an opportunity to visit the hardware store, happily adding another tool to his ever-growing collection.

Jack is survived by his wife of 56 years, Bernadette Jackson McLain; his daughter, Julie McLain; and his brothers, John McLain; Joe (Retta) McLain; and Jeff (Rebecca) McLain. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews who will cherish his memory. He was preceded in death by his brother, Jimmie (Margaret) McLain; his brother-in-law, Robert (Margaret) Jackson; and Cody, his beloved Labrador retriever.

Jack will be remembered for his steady, quiet presence, his ability to fix almost anything, and his steadfast belief that anything could be accomplished with the right tool.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Talbot Humane Society:

<https://talbotcohumane.networkforgood.com/projects/77069-th-donation-page>

Family and friends are invited to share their memories and condolences on this memorial page.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I have so many memories of course. Jack was 15 years older than me and lived close enough that we had a good relationship as I was growing up. He was always generous with his time and resources. When I was getting ready to go to college, Jack made an offer to pay for my college education if I would go to engineering school. He wanted another engineer in the family and thought I was a good candidate, and of course I was his little brother. I did not take him up on the offer, but have always been grateful for his interest in me and willingness to share in the financial responsibility for my education. And I'm also grateful for his reaction to my decision - there was none. I'm sure it was a disappointment, but I never heard any criticism and always felt like he supported me. There were other times when I am sure Jack could have been disappointed in my decisions, but he always showed me a lot of grace and just continued to be a good big brother. I will always miss him.

Jeff

Jeff McLain - February 23 at 11:01 AM

LN

“ I don't think anyone would know this except my mom and dad, Freda and Elvis, but Jack and I would quite often go to a drive-in movie in the summers. I was in high school and he was in college. The only thing was that if either of us ran into anyone we knew we couldn't have the same last name. If we met his friends, I couldn't be Linda McLain and if we met my friends he wasn't Jack McLain. I don't know why it made a difference, I didn't care if people knew he was my cousin. We actually went to eat popcorn and watch the movie (no hanky panky at all). He invited me to Rolla once for St. Patrick's Day, but my dad said absolutely not! It wasn't until years later that I found out why. All I can remember about those times is that he made me laugh and we had fun.

*Rest in peace my dear cousin,
Linda (McLain) Notesrine*

Linda Notestine - February 19 at 12:59 PM

SA

“ Cousin Jack was fantastic! He sent me a copy of his first and amended family history books with photos. I was so honored. I have never been to a family reunion but his books helped me know everyone just a little bit. We shared a few emails and I really wished I had been able to visit with him in person.
We are all blessed to have had such a caring person in our family. - love and prayers - Sandy McLain Notestine, daughter of Elvis McLain.

sandra - February 17 at 04:47 PM

RS

“ Robin Shehan purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Howard Jackie McLain.



Robin Shehan - February 13 at 05:16 PM

RS

“ Robin Shehan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Howard Jackie McLain.

Robin Shehan - February 13 at 05:16 PM