



## Wayne Edgar McDermott

August 2, 1940 - March 25, 2021

Wayne Edgar McDermott, 80, passed away in Fort Myers, Florida, on March 25th, with his devoted wife Dolores (Dodie) at his side. Wayne was born on August 2, 1940, to Edgar Coleman and Elizabeth Ann (Campbell) McDermott in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Wayne grew up in Rome, Wisconsin, and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1959. His parents owned Bark River Lanes in Rome for many years, and eventually Wayne owned the restaurant and bowling alley as well, which led into refinishing bowling lanes, bowling pins, and repairing pinsetters throughout the state. He was an lifelong entrepreneur, establishing McDermott Enterprise Inc., Ideal Helicopter Services, among other businesses. Wayne began his career as a mechanic, and loved large equipment, owning dump trucks, backhoe, tractors, helicopters, and airplanes throughout his life. However, his passion was flying, and he purchased his first aircraft in 1968. He was an avid helicopter and airplane pilot until he retired just a few years ago. As a pilot, Wayne enjoyed giving rides at county fairs and outdoor events so others could experience the joy of flying. In addition, for many years he sprayed crops, flew for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, and had contracts with the U.S. Forest Service to fight fires throughout the U.S. At one time he owned up to 15 aircraft. He developed two airparks, one in Sullivan, Wisconsin, and Buckingham Air Park in Fort Myers, Florida, where he had a second home since 1999. In 2012 Wayne received a Certificate of Award from the Forestry Branch at Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia, for providing 30 years of prescribed burning, wildland firefighting and aerial reconnaissance services by him and his company.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Donald Sr. Wayne is survived by his wife Dodie and his companion poodle, Lexie. His legacy of hard work and ambition were passed along to his five children: Jeffrey (Michelle), Sandra (John) Grunewald, Cheryll (Michael) Price, Ronald (Sherri), and Rebecca McDermott. As well as his 12 grandchildren: Craig McDermott, Cassandra Bevars, Elizabeth Grunewald, Carl Grunewald, Jared Grunewald, Amber Hartenstein, Stephanie Doran, Kyle Powers, Travis McDermott, Ryan McDermott, Christian Haug, and Alyssa Robinette. He is also survived by many great grandchildren, brothers- and sisters-in-law, and his nephew Donald Jr. and niece Dawn McDermott.

A celebration of his life will be held in Rome, Wisconsin at a later date. Gendron Funeral  
Cremation Services in Fort Myers is assisting the family -  
<http://www.gendronfuneralhome.com>.

# Events

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**APR**   **Memorial Service**                      04:00PM - 06:00PM

**16**

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Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. - Lehigh Acres, FL  
2701 Lee Blvd., Lehigh Acres, FL, US, 33971

# Comments

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“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Wayne Edgar McDermott.



April 15 at 06:53 PM

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“ I grew up with Wayne. I went to school in Rome, so I've know Wayne a lot of years. We went to Catechism classes in Sullivan at St. Marys. I talked to Wayne a few years ago, I saw an ad in the paper, for something here in Florida, called the number in the paper, and had a nice chat with him. We talked about getting together , time gets away and so sorry it didn't happen. My sympathy to the whole family and God bless you all at this tough time.

Betty (Kratky) Strand and Ray

**Betty and Ray Strand** - April 07 at 09:01 PM

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“ Al & Lenore Bennett purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Wayne Edgar McDermott.



**Al & Lenore Bennett** - April 07 at 10:00 AM

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“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Wayne Edgar McDermott.



April 06 at 10:43 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Wayne Edgar McDermott.



April 04 at 04:28 PM

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“ RIP my friend, and may God keep his family safe and provide comfort. God is truly amazing! I met Wayne in the early 90's while delivering my Cassatt Racer to a Gent at his airport in Wisconsin. He was a kind, gentleman willing to help me anyway he could! Then years later, I moved to Florida and first time visiting friends in Ft. Myers. Who do I see on a tractor working? Wayne! What the hell are you doing here? We both laughed... I have always visited with him even for a minute since when down there. Was saddened when I arrived to hear he was in the hospital. I will always have my memories of the kind, gentle man, always willing to help me.. LJ

**John Chmura** - April 03 at 09:39 AM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayne Edgar McDermott.



April 03 at 12:33 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Wayne Edgar McDermott.



April 02 at 07:26 PM

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“ Karl Kimball lit a candle in memory of Wayne Edgar McDermott



**karl kimball** - March 31 at 04:10 PM

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“ Wayne was a wonderful friend to me. We shared many good times and great conversations. I will miss him and never forget him. My deepest sympathy to his family.

Shane Tillman



**shane tillman** - March 28 at 11:13 AM