



## Rev. John Patrick McLemore

August 11, 1946 - February 14, 2015

The Funeral Service for John McLemore will be at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, February 28, 2015, at Central Christian Church. Officiating will be the Rev. Dr. Tom Jewell, the Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, the Rev. Pamela Holt, the Rev. Michael Davison. Arrangements are by Anderson-Burriss Funeral Home & Crematory. It's said that the whole is better than the sum of its parts which is certainly true of John Patrick McLemore. A husband, father, grandfather, brother-in-law, friend, civic leader, religious leader, as well as a wonderful pastor, John embodied the greatest characteristics a servant of God can. Born on August 11, 1946 in Ponca City to John Gerald and Myrl Juanita Durrett McLemore, who predeceased him, John spent most of his younger life in Oklahoma City, a student in the Putnam City School district. Called by God to ministry in his teens, John attended Phillips University, and graduated from Central State College in 1982. He attended Seminary at Phillips Theological Seminary, graduating in 1996. A myriad of life experiences helped flesh out the man John was meant by God to be and brought him to fullness as a minister of great strength, vitality, intellect, and, most of all, love for God and Lord Jesus Christ. In his civic life, John served on various boards, including the YMCA, Rotary, 4RKids, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Hospice Circle of Love, Phillips University Alumnae Association, Phillips University Legacy Foundation, and others, showing his belief in the many ways people can serve people. In his faith life, he was the Senior Minister of Central Christian Church for 14 years, from where he retired at the end of 2014. He

ferently served God in ways large and small, and came to be loved and respected by the whole faith community. He served his denomination well, also. He was Associate Regional Minister for the region of Oklahoma where he served over 60 churches as their liaison with the region. He sat on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada, and, as well, served on the denominational Business Committee. He served the rights of women in several capacities and advocated for the elderly by his service with the Disciples Retirement Community of Oklahoma and the National Benevolent Association. While in bi-vocational ministry in the 1980's and 1990's, he managed a multi-million dollar computer business, while serving as pastor in Purcell at the First Christian Church. He has also served the First Christian Church in Perry, the Putnam City Christian Church in Oklahoma City and the First Christian Church in Kingfisher. His support of the Region of Oklahoma was evident in his being Regional Moderator, a member of the Regional Board, and his general sharing of the Region's place in the faith community. He participated in several mission trips to places such as New Orleans after Katrina, Joplin, Vietnam and was convinced of mission's place in the very center of the church. A man of very great intellect, John's sermons were rays of light in the sometimes murky air of Christian faith without being made up of \$5.00 words or concepts from theologians whose work was too difficult to share in a sermon. He was a wonderful baritone and, sometimes, he sang during his sermons to illustrate a certain point which was extremely exciting for congregants to hear. His determination and grit enabled him to serve God in multiple ways and always kept him on the path to the Kingdom of God. John, though his soul has escaped this earth, is incredibly loved and missed by his wife of 46 years, Carolyn Miller McLemore, his two children John Patrick McLemore, II and wife Lisa, Katherine Elizabeth McLemore and partner Ricky Casto, grandchildren Arielle Elspeth McLemore and partner Nick Tocco, Tristan Braeshie McLemore and partner Chelsea Hogan, Richard Casto, Madyson Jennerjohn, Catherine Casto, Cayla Casto, Annabelle Aria Casto, and Giovanna Sophia Casto. He loved and served and

laughed (you have missed something if you haven't heard John laugh) and had a lovely sonorous speaking voice that might cause one to think he was God's anointed spokesperson. So many of us.....family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances..... miss you, John. Now with God you are who you were with us, of that we have no doubt, serving our Father in ways not possible here. And, as we always say in the family, sleep tight, don't let the bedbugs bite, just the love bugs. Peace dude. And lastly, 'ee ya. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the John McLemore Legacy Fund at Central Christian Church, Heifer Project International or Week of Compassion, all to be administered through the funeral home.

# Tribute Wall

KD

“ You will be greatly missed Papa John! My thoughts and prayers are with you all!

Kisa Dawson - February 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ John was the one who married all three of my grown children. He was the one genuine preacher my family trusted; he was what a minister should be. I'm sure he will be smiling and laughing with God; I pray his family and Carolyn will be comforted for his great loss, by the knowledge that he will see them again when it's their turn to make that journey to heaven. God knows he earned a place there; everyone who knows John & family was sure he was destined to meet all the requirements. Bless all of you. Love, Sherry, Gregg, Todd, & Jennifer

Sherry Garrett - February 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AC

Thank you so much for this I am Annabelle casto the grand daughter of John I know it's been 10 years but I would like to thank you for this message :)

Annabelle casto - December 05, 2024 at 11:59 AM

BU

“ Our deepest condolences to the family you are in our prayers.

Buster - February 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AC

*Thank you so much I know this was 10 years ago but I am Annabelle casto John's grandfather I am now 11 years old and I thank you so much for saying these things I still miss him he was a great man but God and John knew it was time to go my mom still says that I was the one who made him live longer he was only supposed to live for 6 months until I was born and he lived for a year*

**Annabelle casto** - December 05, 2024 at 11:58 AM

BS

*“ Our deepest sympathies to the family,*

**Bobby Samantha** - February 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM



*“ Our enduring friendship and your legacy of good works in the world will be forever with me, dear John. I thank you so much for all the wonderful memories we've shared through so many years. I love you and will miss you. May God bless and keep you now, and your beloved Carolyn, Patrick and Katherine, and all your family. To each I offer my deepest sympathies, and all my love. Sherry Miller*

February 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AC

*Hello this is Annabelle casto Carolyn is my grandmother and Kathrine is my mom and Patrick is my uncle I thank you very much for sending this message I know it's been 10 years but thank you so much*

**Annabelle casto** - December 05, 2024 at 12:01 PM

KM

*“ My dear friend, John, I will miss you forever. Our talks about family history...and our trips hunting that illusive cemetery out in the middle of a farmer's field. You, Carolyn and I did have so much fun. I love you and will always miss you.*

**Kathi Miller** - February 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ You have been a blessing in our family through the years. Judy Gambill

February 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ We sure loved John. He was a blessing and a true inspiration to our families. May you be surrounded by God's peace. Love, Klista and Court Loomis

**Klista** - February 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ We are thinking of John's family and praying for their peace in knowing he is with his maker in Heaven. John was so kind to my parents in their time a need , as was all of Central Christian Church. We are so appreciative and thankful .May God bless John. With love, Kim (Loomis )and Dean Irwin

**Kim Irwin** - February 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Thanks to John, Carolyn for being my friend in christ

**David Glahn** - February 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Please accept our sincere condolences for the loss of John. We knew John to be an honorable man who loved his Lord. Our families worshiped together at the Putnam City Christian Church when he was the Associate Pastor. We adored his wife, Carolyn, and his children. Our thoughts are with all his family.

**Jim** - February 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM