



John McLean

August 23, 1939 - February 10, 2008

John James McLean, DDS, age 68 of Fort Collins died Sunday at his home. A gathering to celebrate his life will be held Wednesday from 5:30 to 9:00 P.M. in the Canyon West Room at the Lincoln Center. Tributes will be coordinated by Leonard Urban at 6:30. John James McLean, Jr. was born August 23, 1939 in New York City to John and Patricia McLean. He grew up in Yonkers, New York and was a graduate of Manhattan Prep in the Bronx; Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts; and Columbia University Dental School. John served in the U. S. Army and was stationed in Hawaii. Following his discharge, he spent a year with the Catholic Missions in St. Lucia, setting up dental clinics. He returned to New York and practiced general dentistry in Bronxville, NY. He then returned to Columbia and received a graduate degree in Orthodontics. John was active, generous, mischievous, had an irresistible smile and a deep concern for those who were not as fortunate as he. He loved magic, children, good books and movies and he especially enjoyed surprising his many friends with gifts left unwrapped at their door. He was the past president of the Larimer County Dental Society; was a member of the Colorado Mountain Club and was working on climbing all of Colorado's 14'ers. He was active with the Fort Collins Sertoma Club and presently sat on the Board of The Homeless Prevention Initiative. For several years, John headed the St. Patrick's Fundraiser for the Mission (a shelter for the homeless). If he could see how doing something could make the world a better place, John would enthusiastically support it. He loved to hike and he participated in five

outward bounds excursions. What was most important to him, as he reflected on his life, was that those near and dear to him make sure they treat themselves to a good laugh as often as possible. John is survived by his sister Marianne McLean Doran of Pleasantville, NY; his brothers, Edward Peter McLean of Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Paul Joseph McLean of Fresno, CA; nine nieces and nephews; 24 grand nieces and grand nephews; and countless friends. John requested that any memorial donations please be made to The Homeless Prevention Initiative in care of Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Drive, Suite E, Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall



“ *John McLean*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *I knew John my whole life. He was the most profoundly spiritual, irreligious person I have ever known. He lived life to the fullest and took us all along with him. I will miss him.*

Joan Fitz-Gerald - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *We visited the Buddhist Temple here in Keller, Texas in 2004 when he travelled here to visit my wife, my mother in law and me. My mother in law was dying and he came down to say goodbye and raise her spirits. We talked about the Wheel of Life. John was an unforgettable person. We will all miss him.*

Michael Hagan - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Uncle John was always bigger than life to me. His gifts were unique. His generosity was heartfelt. He wanted people to read and learn and live life to the fullest. The news of his passing stopped me in my tracks and one of my first thoughts was that I am sorry my children are too young to remember him. I will miss him.*

Jimbo doran - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ We met John when he lived near Windsor. It did not appear he knew a stranger. We often met him walking the neighborhood or country roads. John always carried dog treats in his pockets for his furry friends. He was generous with his time, stopping to talk and share. Even after John moved from our neighborhood, he would drop by our Fort Collins office to say Hi. We will miss his smiling face and kind spirit.

Peggy Haller & Mike Reagon - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I was one of Dr. Mclean's first orthodontic patients many, many years ago. I came from a family of 6 kids and braces were a extravagance. Dr. Mclean made a deal with my father and bartered to have my teeth straightened. I am sure Dr. Mclean got the short end of that deal, but I will forever be grateful to him for his generosity. I remember to this day how gentle and kind he was and the nice things he said about my father. Thank you Dr. Mclean and God speed.

Mary Beth Moreng - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *March will not seem the same without John and his Saint Paddy's Day party. I last saw John at a fundraiser for CARE Housing and he seemed very vital and in good cheer.*

I am so glad I had the chance to know John and experience his amazing personality. He will be greatly missed in this community. His humor, smile, and generosity are well known and appreciated.

John said he supported Project Self-Sufficiency because his mother had been a single parent raising children alone and he understood the issues. He supported many other causes that reach out to the disadvantaged of our community.

My condolences to all John's family members and friends.

Mary Carraher (a good Irish name!)

Mary Carraher - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *John was our next-door neighbor when he lived on Loomis Street. We never quite knew what to expect from John. One night he showed up at our door wearing a gorilla suit. Another time he was there wearing a huge set of false teeth. As the paper said, he loved laughter and loved making others laugh. We saw John rarely after he left Loomis Street, but we know how much he will be missed by all who knew him.*

Charles and Pat Smith

Charles and Pat Smith - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ I'll never forget John. I'll always try to be more like him. To read more books, give more gifts, go more places, generate more laughs. He was a rare sort of person.

David Cooper - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Best orthodontist i'll ever meet. Always makes you smile.

Kendra Schwartz - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ John was our next door neighbor when he lived in Windsor and was a very good man. Every year I was the youngest kid on the hill so John would higher me to help with his St. Patricks Day parties, his birthday party, Stan Matsunaka's dinner party, and I would be the Easter Bunny for Easter every year. John loved entertaining people and would stop by our house all the time. John would let us feed his fish, he'd give our dog dog treats so we could barely get Sam back home. John was a great person he will be greatly missed.

Lisa Edman - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ I met John 4 years ago when I went to work for the company that manages his many properties. He was just "one of our owners' until the day he brought his whoopee cushion to the office. He had me in convulsions cos I thought this older, straight laced guy was passing gas in my office thats the day I became his friend. He was always fun to be around. When I was pregnant and later when I had my daughter he was always concerned at how I was feeling. He bought my daughter her very first soft toy before she was even born and when my parents came to visit from England he showed them great kindness also, inviting them for dinner and taking them out for the day. I cant imagine opening my email and not finding a joke from you on a Monday morning. John you will be missed like no other, I am so glad I got to be your friend if only for a short time.

Gillian Bliss - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ I didn't know John that well, having met him at our magic meetings. A broken wand in fondest memory. We will miss him.

Lloyd Worley - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ I knew John through the Magic Club and always enjoyed his gracious hospitality and fun. He will be missed

Virginia Febinger - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

“ To John McLean

*Oh, here's a toast to John McLean,
A gentleman of worth,
Whose time has been so suddenly
Cut short upon this earth.*

*How diligent in work he was,
How patient with the youth,
Compassionate for elder folk,
And always spoke the truth.*

*Oh, John was a friend to all he met -
He charmed us with his style.
With an open heart and a twinkling eye,
He gave the world a smile.*

*We'll miss his parties full of fun
And dancing in the round,
His sheer delight in magic tricks
and treasures that he found.*

*We'll miss the games he liked to play
The jokes he liked to send.
The observations that he shared
And books he'd recommend.*

*Oh, John was a friend to all he met -
He charmed us with his style.
With an open heart and a twinkling eye,
He gave the world a smile.*

*We've lost a man who always saw
The good in every soul,
Who spent his time and energy
On many a worthwhile goal,*

*Preventing hunger, homelessness,
Abuse, neglect, and more â??
Whenever he saw a need to fill
He stepped right to the fore.
Oh, John was a friend to all he met -
He charmed us with his style.
With an open heart and a twinkling eye,
He gave the world a smile.*

- Judy Hart, February 2008

Ulli Limpitlaw - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *Kind, generous, charming, & for me, a wonderful dance partner. John was always so full of life & always up for a new adventure---the trip to Butan was next on his agenda. John, I'll miss you.*

Myrna DeMilt - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *I am very sorry to hear about John's passing. I met him through the Colorado Mountain Club and Alternatives Singles group. He was a good friend and made people laugh and feel good about themselves. I remember the joke telling parties he held and skiing at his time-share condo at Steamboat Springs.*

Mary Gilbert - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ John, you were a friend for 26 short years. So many wonderful memories. From being a special Santa to Paul, teaching us how to juggle, being the best in your profession, sharing music, languages, dancing, adventures, cultures, books. The last one...Pema ChÄ¶drÄ¶n will have to wait. John, you were no match. Missing you.

Armelle Kesler-Brandt - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Growing up in Yonkers in the 1950s, just a few blocks and a walk through the "woods" - or a hop over the P.S.# 16 schoolyard fence if you dared - from the McLeans' home, it was impossible not to know, love and respect John.

Paul, of course, was my classmate and probably best friend, and we stayed friends through our teens until college and geography separated us. We did almost everything together, including more than a few things we were happy John never caught us doing! I knew Marianne and Peter, of course, as well. But John was different. He was just that much older (and wiser) than we that he seemed almost to be an adult. Quiet yet funny, serious yet whimsical he was above all handsome, talented and strong. I always felt that although John was unfailingly friendly -and tolerant - he was even then a force to be reckoned with.

It's no wonder that he carved out for himself such a successful life and career.

He will be missed by all of us who were privileged to know him and his legacy will live on.

Bill Farley - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ John was one of my favorite customers always with a smile and very funny. I will miss him.

Pat Talley - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ I first met John in 9th grade as my orthodontist and through the many years he became a friend. John's laughter, smile and wicked sense of humor will be deeply missed by all that knew him.

Irish Blessing:

*"May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
In the palm of his hand."*

Barb Pursley - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Our family first met John professionally as an orthodontist for our 3 children - Kendra, Julia and Ted. When he discovered Ted played the trumpet - he sent him 3 great CD's of music. Whenever we saw him around town he was smiling and having fun - he loved the ladies and was a big flirt. One day I ran into him downtown at the Celtic Harp shop and told him it was my birthday and I was meeting some friends at the Rio. Of course he was wearing a loud, Irish plaid cap with long red hair. Right away he said "Let me buy you a birthday gift!" And he did - I chose a toe ring - my first of many. Then lo and behold he showed up at the Rio - silly hat and all - entertaining my friends - even the children - and offered to pay the entire tab. He was always ready for fun - loved to dance and kick up his heels at the Respite Care Ball, a very generous man, a very genuine human being, and our Fort Collins community will miss him. Thanks John for the memories.

Pam Schwartz - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GE

“ My family is so happy to have been able to share some wonderful times with John. As a new dentist to the area in 1998, John was the first dentist I met, and he kept his friendship with me over the years, inviting me to his home, and always remembering my children and Wife. We sang irish songs, learned Greek dance, ate well and laughed. My daughter remembers John giving her a giant stuffed animal at his Easter egg scramble after he witnessed a small kindness of my daughter. My wife remembers finding gifts for the children on our small porch of our first home left by John. I rember the night of fun at a fund raiser for the Food Bank John invited us to and donated \$10,000 for the table. What a great role model he was, but more than that, what a wonderful man of men he was to this community. As Mr. Urban said so very well, he will live in our hearts and be lovingly remembered. Our sympathy and tribute go out to his family. Love, Greg

Greg Evans - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ His unwavering good cheer and generous contributions to the Prestodigitators (I.B.M. Ring 250) will be long remembered.

Dr. Ronald P.Dutton - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ I am a college friend of John's nephew, Jim Doran. I only met John on two occasions but his personality and sense of humor left an impressionable mark. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Bob Donahue - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ I remember well the "leprechaun" at the Catholic Charities annual St. Patrick's day celebration. John was a very generous and fun loving individual.

As a fellow dentist, I also appreciated the outstanding skills that he demonstrated.

He was an admirable man who left a wonderful legacy to all those he helped and all those who knew him.

Louis R. Gerken, D.D.S. - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

“ *What Shall I say about the Irish?*

The utterly impractical, never predictable, sometimes irascible, quite inexplicable Irish.

Strange blend of shyness, pride and conceit, stubborn refusal to bow in defeat.

He's sporting and ready to argue and fight, yet the smile of a child fills his soul with delight.

His eyes are the quickest to well up with tears, yet his strength is the strongest to banish your fears.

His hate is as fierce as his devotion is grand...

There's no middle ground on which he will stand.

He's wild and he's gentle, he's good and he's bad.

He's proud and he's humble, he's happy and sad.

He's in love with the ocean, the earth and the skies...

He's enamored with beauty wherever it lies.

He's victor and victim, a star and a clod.

But mostly he's Irish...in Love with his God.

Marielise Watts - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ I knew John since 2nd grade at PS #16 in Yonkers, NY, & also recall him jumping his backyard fence into the schoolyard when late; we sat near each other in many classes and teased one another incessantly. (He made school fun!) I invited him to my first high school dance at Elizabeth Seton (I think he attended more than I did after that with a different date each time). I also went to college in Massachusetts near Holy Cross and would run into him from time to time & was happy to see a familiar face from home. It sounds silly to say, but I had a crush on John my whole life even though I hadn't seen him in years. He was handsome, very funny, athletic, a super dancer, and a great swimmer. In junior high, his mom would plan dances (she was a "Super Mom" long before the phrase was coined). He played boogie woogie type piano and was a tease of the first order - but a loyal friend, & even then you could sense a strong sense of integrity. I have been thinking of John recently (at 68, you start to think of bygone friendships) and tried to look him up on the web. Reading that he had passed away has left me with a deep sense of loss, even though I haven't been in touch in over 40 years. Having read the many testimonials, I am so happy that he enjoyed a wonderful, adventurous and giving life with many friends & family who valued him so much. How many of us would get such glowing testimonials?

Marianne, Peter & Paul, my thoughts are with you, I have thought of your family often thru the years and now send by deepest regrets on your loss. The last time I heard from John was in June 1961 just prior to my wedding. I now have 9 children and 18 grandchildren, but still recall my old friend John. etc.

Bea McCarthy - February 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM