



Francis I. McDowell

July 19, 1931 - November 10, 2016

Francis Irvin McDowell, longtime resident and former Assistant Superintendent of the Moses Lake School District, passed away on Thursday, November 10, 2016. Francis was born July 19, 1931 in Selma, California, to William Ross McDowell and Sarah Ann Rush. Francis was born at home with the help of a neighbor, Mrs. Francis, his namesake. He was the tenth of 13 children and was the last of his siblings to pass away.

Francis grew up and attended school in Selma, California. He graduated from Selma High School in 1950. During high school, he made all the props and stage sets for all of the plays.

He joined the Air Force in 1951 during the Korean War. He was a flight engineer in the 7th Airlift Squadron. While in the Air Force, he was stationed in Moses Lake where he met Lapriel. They were married June 12, 1954.

They returned to California where he graduated from Fresno State College with a Bachelor's degree in History and Art. Francis and Lapriel welcomed three children while in California, Gwendolyn, Shairlyn, and Francis (Roger). They then moved to Olympia, Washington, in 1960. He took his first teaching position at Griffin School. Their daughter, Carolyn, was born during their time in Olympia. In 1963, he moved his family to Moses Lake to teach at Chief Moses Middle School. Their daughter, Terri Lynn, was born shortly after they moved to Moses Lake. He worked over several summers at Central Washington University to earn his Masters of Fine Arts and his credentials in School Administration. After a few years he became a Vice-Principal, and later

the Principal at Chief Moses Middle School, moving to the District Office as Assistant Superintendent to finish his career. He retired from the school district in 1988, after spending 28 years in education.

Upon retirement, he started his own business doing home repairs and crafts. He enjoyed doing this for over ten years. He loved woodworking, pottery and painting. He loved gardening, especially growing his dahlias. He loved to cook, and made the best Kahlua Apple pie.

He loved to spend time with his grandchildren, and especially loved to make things for them. He loved to help them with their school and Eagle Scout projects. He was a scoutmaster, and loved his time spent with the scouts. He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served diligently as a bishop, a high councilman, and most especially as a teacher.

Francis is survived by his wife of 62 years Nora "Lapriel" Tolley, and his 5 children: Gwendolyn Bruce, Shairlyn & Larry Fish, Francis (Roger) McDowell, Carolyn & Richard Christensen, Terri & Michael Barclay, 14 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

The funeral service will be Thursday, November 17th, 2016 at 10:00 am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Grape Drive Chapel, 925 N. Grape Drive, Moses Lake. Viewing will be from 9 to 9:45 am at the church. Please sign online guestbook at www.kayserschapel.com Arrangements by Kayser's Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Pioneer Memorial Gardens

14403 Rd. 2 Ne
Moses Lake, WA

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 17. 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM (PT)

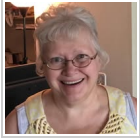
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Grape Drive Chapel
925 N. Grape Dr.
Moses Lake, WA

Service

NOV 17. 10:00 AM (PT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Grape Drive Chapel
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Tribute Wall



“ *Mr McDowell shared a room with my step-dad Dale Hooks at Columbia Crest Nursing Home. On one of my visits with Dale, Mr McDowell was sitting up and awake, so I starting chatting with him. I wasn't sure, but I thought he was the father of a classmate, so I asked him. Carolyn, when I asked him about you, his eyes lit up and he spoke so proudly of you. I just wanted to share that with you. I hate to admit it, but I actually know what you're going through these days...we lost both my mom and Dale in December. Sending my deepest condolences to you and your family.*

Pam Field - February 02, 2017 at 08:19 AM



“ *Francis and Lapriel were the first people I met when I moved to Moses Lake almost 30 years ago. Francis was a very kind and generous man who worked hard every day. Whether it be tinkering with bird houses, working in the garden or fixing up the rentals, he was always around to share a smile and a story. Frank and I would visit over the back fence while working in the yard or garden. If he saw us outside, Francis would always walk over and visit with us. The kids were always happy to visit the McDowell house at Halloween because they knew Mac had something special for them. You will be missed by many in our community but very much by our family. Lapriel, Shairlyn, Gwen and family... our hearts and prayers go out to you all. Love Frank, Kathy and family.*

Kathy Chavez - November 17, 2016 at 10:39 AM



“ When we first moved to Moses Lake after graduating Law School at Gonzaga University we lived on the base and Bro. McDowell was our home teacher in the LDS Church. He would come monthly with his companion, check up on us and make sure that we were doing okay. One day he stop by and we were talking about what our plans were to try and fix up our half of the duplex that we lived on on Tinker Loop. I told him that we were thinking about taking out the little piece of concrete in the backyard and putting in a patio. He looks up at me and says, "when you want to do it". I said, " what do you mean"? He said when you want to do it what about this Friday? I was surprised and dumbfounded that something like that could be done so quickly and so professionally. That was a few days before that he came and helped frame in the boards to do the concrete. He and his longtime friend came on Friday morning early and I help them pour concrete. About an hour and a half two hours into the project I had to leave to go to court and they finished it up. My wife got back a couple days later and we had a very large very nice concrete patio in our backyard.

Patrick Earl - November 17, 2016 at 10:32 AM

KO

“ Francis, a great man that I always admired. You will truly be missed. Thank you for all the great memories throughout my entire childhood. To the McDowell family, I am extremely sorry for your loss.

Kelly D. Ottmar

Kelly D. Ottmar - November 16, 2016 at 12:11 PM



“Gwen and I have been friends for years and the McDowell home was my second home when I was in grade school. I always felt welcome and learned many wonderful gospel principles during the dinners and family home evenings I spent there. Francis was so helpful when I was doing Cub Scouts and the Advancement Ladder he built is a very fond memory that my sons have of those times. I have always loved the relationship I have had with your family and have been blessed knowing you. My deepest condolences to Lapriel, Gwen, Shairlyn and families. Love always, Darla Varbel Cornelsen

Darla Cornelsen - November 15, 2016 at 09:06 PM



“I am so sorry for your loss. Francis, you and the family will always have a warm place in my heart. Praying for your family. Joey Hansen

Joey Hansen - November 15, 2016 at 08:02 AM



“He was a friend, supporter, mentor, even when I didn't want it. As the years pasted and I grew in manhood, he was one of the people I made the effort to see. My God's blessings and comfort be with his family.

Glen Earl - November 13, 2016 at 04:24 PM



“Most loving family man, with incredible children. May the memories of all the precious moments shared with Family & friends be imprinted in your hearts. Love the way you love each other & those around you.

Christine Maygren-Van Velkinburgh - November 12, 2016 at 06:53 PM

RM

Mr. McDowell was a very caring man. I had the honor of attending MLHS with two of his children. I remember when I went back late in life and got my Ed degree he was one of the first persons to tell me I did well. I had the privilege to substitute teach for his daughter at Chief Moses as well. He is a man who will be missed very much! I have nothing but the most respect for him. I can only hope those of us who had the honor to know him will show the world the peace and honor this man left has his legacy!

Ray Moog - November 13, 2016 at 06:19 AM

EW

Francis was the best boss I ever had. I loved his quiet sense of humor and his respect for his staff. He would listen, and he would help when he could. When he found out I had a sister living in Indonesia, he asked me see if she could bring back some of the hard woods available there for his art work. He still owes me a necklace made from the wood. He was a good person.

Ella West - November 14, 2016 at 12:59 PM

RC

He was my bishop when I got married and gave me some sage advice I still use to be happy every day no matter what comes your way

Roma Cornelsen - November 14, 2016 at 05:26 PM

DH

It was an honor to be Bishop's executive sec. for a time while we lived in second ward. Great man and mentor. Bless all who are in need of the Lord's comfort.

Dennis Hebdon

Dennis Hebdon - November 15, 2016 at 10:58 AM

GG

In July 1974 we moved to Moses Lake with no house picked so we found out Bishop McDowell's phone number and by that afternoon he had helped us to find a house to rent in Knolls Vista. He was our first Bishop in Moses Lake and we have the fondest memories of him, Sister McDowell and their family. Our hearts and prayers are with each one of his family.

Gerald Goude

gerald goude - November 15, 2016 at 11:18 PM

LH

A strong, worthy man! Several of us rode back & forth from the temple with him when we were all serving there. I grew to know & appreciate him & his strong testimony. Sending love & sympathy to LaPriel & all the family. Loye Hunsaker

loye hunsaket - November 16, 2016 at 11:26 PM