



Mr. J. Brian McKee

May 29, 1939 - February 23, 2018

J. Brian McKee, 78, of Charles St., Malone died Friday, February 23, 2018 at CVPH Medical Center, Plattsburgh, NY.

Born on May 29, 1939 in Malone, NY, he was the son of Alvin James, a longtime probation director for Franklin County and Catherine (St. Marie) McKee, one of Malone's quintessential legal secretaries. Also, Mr. McKee's grandfather Harry McKee helped to build the original Alice Hyde Hospital. Mr. McKee graduated from Franklin Academy in 1957 and was a 1961 graduate of Cornell University majoring in Industrial and Labor Relations. He entered on duty with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) in 1962 as a civilian special agent at the New York City Resident Agency. This followed a tour of active duty with the U.S. Army (Military Intelligence) and employment with the Malone Police Department. While attending Cornell University, Mr. McKee was also employed as a full-time police officer at Ithaca, New York.

Following additional NCIS posting as the Resident Agent at Albany, New York, Mr. McKee served a five-year tour in Europe. During this tour of duty, Mr. McKee was trained and certified as a Federal Polygraph Examiner. From 1971 to 1974, Mr. McKee served as the Special Agent in Charge of the NCIS Resident Agency at Washington, D.C.

Following a similar tour as the Special Agent in Charge at Camp Pendleton, California, Mr. McKee was reassigned as the Special Agent in Charge at New York City. He was transferred in 1979 to NCIS Headquarters where he served

tours as the Senior Staff Assistant to the Director, as the Assistant Director for Administration and finally as the first ever Assistant Director for Law Enforcement and Physical Security Programs – a Department of the Navy billet created to bring together all facets of management of the Navy's total law enforcement and security missions, operations, and resources.

Mr. McKee directed a number of highly publicized espionage investigations in the 1980's which resulted in the arrest and conviction of more than ten persons actively engaged in espionage against the United States. This included the Moscow Embassy spy scandals, the Walker espionage ring, the Morrison espionage case and others.

Mr. McKee was reassigned in 1984 as the Regional Director for the NCIS Northeast Region and in 1986 was selected for Senior Executive Service and duty as the second civilian Director of the Naval Investigative Service, a two-thousand-person federal law enforcement agency.

Mr. McKee was a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute and, while Director of NCIS, was active in and served on various committees of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriff's Association and INTERPOL. Mr. McKee served for three years as one of the United States delegates to the INTERPOL General Assembly. In addition, Mr. McKee served on various committees of the Law Enforcement Explorer Scout Program. He was the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, including Presidential Commendations by Presidents Reagan and Bush for outstanding management in the field of law enforcement and by Attorneys General Meese and Thornburgh for outstanding federal service. At the time of his retirement in 1990, Mr. McKee was recognized on the floor of the United States Senate for his many contributions to the law enforcement profession. He has additionally been recognized by the federal law enforcement agencies of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Bermuda, Japan and the Philippines for special contributions to international law enforcement efforts. The United States Secret Service presented its Honor Award to Mr. McKee in recognition of his contributions to Presidential security and the New York City Police Department

has inducted Mr. McKee into its Honor Legion in recognition of his contributions to the operations of that agency.

Mr. McKee was an experienced criminal investigator with strong capabilities in the criminal investigative, foreign counterintelligence and personnel and physical security areas of the profession.

Mr. McKee retired from federal service in 1990 and maintained his residence at Malone, New York. He owned and operated the McKee and Associates Investigative and Security Services, Inc., an association of former and retired special agents from the F.B.I., Customs Service and the Naval Investigative Service. The firm provided investigative services to the U.S. Customs service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, The Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Air Force, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, local governments, private attorneys and numerous large corporations. He was also a former owner of the Gateway Motel of Malone.

Mr. McKee was a licensed Private Investigator in the State of New York and held the appropriate bond, insurance and licenses.

Mr. McKee had been appointed as an Administrative Law Judge (Hearing Officer) in the State of New York and had served in that capacity in matters of police officer discipline and misconduct by senior civil service officials in local government.

Mr. McKee has taught criminal justice courses for north country police academies and lectured at the Malone campus of North Country Community College.

Mr. McKee was the former President of the Association of Retired Special Agents of the Naval Investigative Service. He was a life member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police.

Upon returning to Malone following his retirement, he was active in a number of civic and community affairs. Most significantly was his devotion to the

Rotary Club of Malone which he served as Director and Treasurer for many years. He was largely responsible for the annual recognition of Malone educators and the yearly memorialization of its deceased members, resulting in the planting of many trees at Malone's Rotary Memorial Recreation Park. He was honored for his community contributions by Rotary International in 1999 as Paul Harris Fellow. He was also active in the United Way of Franklin County, serving as that public service organization's Campaign Chairman. He was a member of the American Legion and the Malone Lodge of Elks where he served as chairman of the Lodge's Trustees. He was a member of the Executive Board of Directors of the Alice Hyde Medical Center and chaired the Development Council of the Alice Hyde Hospital Association Foundation. A longtime parishioner of Notre Dame Church at St. Andre Bessette parish, he was chairman of the Holy Family School Foundation Board. In 1997 he was honored as "Archbishop" of the Malone Winter Carnival. He was appointed a member of the Franklin County Traffic Safety Board in 1998 and led that organization for many years. In that same year, he became a member of the Advisory Board for the New York State Department of Correctional Services. Finally, Mr. McKee was a credentialed Special Investigator, with appropriate top secret security clearances, and worked, under contract, for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Customs Service, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of State, the Department of Defense and numerous other federal agencies.

Brian is survived by his faithful companion Charlie IV, an aunt Jane McKee Drake of Malone, cousins McCarrick Drake of Malone, Charles "Archie" McKee of Malone and Andrew McKee of Malone.

Brian was predeceased by his parents, cousin Bess McKee Hanna and Charlie I, Charlie Too and Charlie III.

Brian McKee was a great man. As his survivors we are privileged to share his accomplishments with you, because he never would have. In his honor we ask that you strive for success, do good and be humble.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, May 14, 2018 at 10

a.m. at Notre Dame Church.

Burial will take place at Notre Dame Cemetery.

Donations in his memory may be made to Holy Family School and the Malone Village Police Department.

Memorial contributions may be made in the name of James Brian McKee to the Holy Family School Annual Fund: 12 Homestead Park, Malone NY, 12953 or the Malone Rotary Club: PO Box 451 Malone, NY 12953

Cemetery Details

Notre Dame Cemetery

Malone, NY

Tribute Wall

PJ

“ I just learned of Mr. Mckee's passing. I first met Brian when I was a PNSN at NAVSTA Brooklyn in 1964. As an LDO LT, I met him again when he was top civilian at NIS when I was stationed at NIC, Suitland, MD in 1988. It was my honor to be "reacquainted" with him. Brian was a very amicable, intelligent and likable individual.
Phil Jones

Phil Jones - September 27, 2024 at 10:18 AM

CV

“ I have just learned of Brian's passing. We were very close friends in the early 80's when he took me under his wing to show me around DC and many areas of VA. He loved God and our great country and devoted his life to both. People who never had an opportunity to be in his life missed a great opportunity to be able to learn of his many adventures and travels. I regret I did not learn (for personal reasons but he knew why) of his passing until now and will regret not having another opportunity to laugh with him. He used to always tell me I would stay forever young as he had my photo on his dresser all these years gone by. Brian- the memories we shared kept me through some tough times. Next time I am at Old Ebbits telling stories about the oysters you shared, of the filet mignonette with bearnnaise sauce... I will send a special request to heaven for you! My love. My friend. Rest easy and may the road rise to meet you. Kiss my mom for me!

Carol OHanlon Volkman - October 04, 2018 at 09:58 PM

HA

“ Today I was thinking about my career as an FBI Agent and went back to the early 70's when I was assigned to the Washington Field Office. I worked Theft of Government cases at the Naval Yard and my life was made very easy by Brian. He was professional and never minded giving up cases so I could get some "stats." I was trying to reach out to him today to say thank you when I found his obituary. So sad. For whatever family he has remaining, please know he was one of the best.

Howard Apple

howard apple - April 02, 2018 at 05:15 PM



“ Brian looked over my shoulder and was always there if needed. It would be a Sunday and the Redskins would be playing the Eagles, it was fun going back and forth over the phone, how he loved his Redskins, his Dogs Charlie 1, 2, and 3. I remember how upset he was when he had to put Charlie 2 down. You could tell they were tight buddies. Now there together again. I will miss you good buddie. You will be forever in my life.

Bud Gibson - March 19, 2018 at 10:51 PM

CJ

“ What a wonderful, kind, caring and most of all humble man. I am so proud to have known you and to have been a part of your home for not so retired law enforcement officers. But most of all I will miss your friendship and our conversations over a cup of real coffee. Fair winds and following seas partner. Godspeed my friend. CJC

CJC - March 05, 2018 at 09:25 AM

MI

“ I never had a father, You never had a daughter. I am honored to say you filled the void in my life and will forever be grateful that I filled the void in your life. Why me? I will never know. I will live the rest of my life as you lived your life. I love you Brian and will miss you every day.

Michelle - March 04, 2018 at 09:49 PM

JW

“ An honor and privilege to have known and worked for an outstanding Special Agent and Veteran. Thanks for the guidance and for always being there. Rest in Peace.

J Weldon - March 02, 2018 at 01:12 PM

DD

“ It was a great honor to have known you, Mr McKee. I am glad to have worked in NIS/NCIS with you and am thankful for your guidance and support to me and the entire organization. Oh! And thanks for the pizza!

Dave DiPaola - March 02, 2018 at 07:03 AM

RB

“ It was an honor and a privilege for me to work for this great guy in the PI business. He was always available and more than once bailed me out when I screwed up. We had many "talk" sessions involving myself and several of the "old retired guys". It was always enjoyable to hang out with Brian; talk business and tell war stories. To say that I will miss him is an under statement. You were the best, my friend and I know there will be a seat for you at the head table, upstairs.

*Richard Babcock
Retired NYSP - BCI*

Richard Babcock - March 01, 2018 at 04:34 PM

SR

“ Rest in peace Brian. Always a pleasure working with you on art framing projects!
We shall keep you in our hearts and memories...
Stuart W. Rowley

Stuart Rowley - March 01, 2018 at 11:01 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. J. Brian McKee.



February 28, 2018 at 09:53 AM

VK

“ Thinking of our fifty years of friendship makes me weak and sorrowful. He was "The Best" and will be remembered forever as an innovative, strong leader of our Special Agent family. Also, Brian was a remarkable person of unending capacity for excellence in his professional life. He will be deeply missed by all who have ever known him. Rest in Peace Brother.


"Jiggs" Kaliher

Vernon Kaliher - February 27, 2018 at 06:30 PM

MV

“ Brian was not only my friend but he was a man that I could have called at any hour of the day or night and without question he wouldn't have found a way to help. He put the H in humble and always put others needs before his own. He will be missed by all that shared his friendship.

mvf - February 27, 2018 at 06:23 PM

 Mary
Ellen
Maloney

“ Brian and Charlie were customers of mine when I worked the window at the Key Bank during the early 1990's. I always welcomed Brian's friendly greeting and enjoyed giving Charlie treats. I didn't know Brian well enough to call him a friend but I feel honored that we crossed paths. It is very rare that someone touches a place in your heart that brings joy to your days. He will be missed. Please give Charlie a treat from me. Mary Ellen Maloney

Mary Ellen Maloney - February 27, 2018 at 02:15 PM

JO

“ J. Brian McKee was an outstanding individual and it was an honor to know him for nearly 50 years and to have served with him at NISHQ. In my 40 years of military and civilian service I never met anyone with Brian's capacity for work, endurance and tenacity. He excelled in making personal relationships with law enforcement, intelligence, and security personnel at all levels and all over the world. R.I.P.

John Odom - February 27, 2018 at 12:38 PM

JV

“ So sorry to hear this.
He was a great boss and an honorable man who served his country well.
It was an honor and privilege to have known him.

Joe Vaccaro - February 27, 2018 at 12:34 PM

BG

“ I had the honor of working for J. Brian as an NCIS special agent on three occasions - the last when he was NCIS Director. He was a good and decent man and he shall be missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

Blair Gluba
NCIS SA (Ret)

Blair M. Gluba - February 27, 2018 at 09:16 AM

CL

“ It is with great sadness I read of Brian's passing. A faithful servant unto the Lord, and his many friends. I thank the dear Lord that Brian befriended me years ago. May he now be in restful peace with his beloved family.

Christine LaDuke - February 27, 2018 at 09:07 AM

AB

“ *There are too many memories to share...Our world just got a little sadder, but I know that Charlie I, II and III are waiting for you. We will miss you!!*

Ann Frances Brady - February 27, 2018 at 07:45 AM

BC

“ *Thank you, Brian. You did well. Rest in peace. Bruce Cox*

Bruce Cox - February 27, 2018 at 06:29 AM

RJ

*I was very fortunate to have had you as a boss and as a lifelong friend. I will always have fond memories of our time at Camp Pendleton nearly fifty years ago, when I began as a Special Agent with the Naval Investigative Service and you were the boss of all bosses. Thank you Brian and may you rest in peace.
Ronald Janson (NIS/NCIS SA Retired)*

Ronald Janson - February 28, 2018 at 01:51 AM

JC

Brian defined the word humility and I wish I knew him better over the years. He was so humble and genuine. May he truly rest in peace.

Joe Costello- NIS/NCIS 1981-1987

Joe Costello - March 18, 2018 at 12:53 PM

DP

We met Brian when he was leading the NIS/NCIS Unit at Camp Pendleton. He took my husband (a young Marine assigned to NIS) under his wing and law enforcement became a way of life. 43 years ago, Brian proudly grinned from ear to ear as he held our young son in his arms during our son's Baptism and became his Godfather. Brian has been a dear friend and when my son and his sister lost their father at a young age, he was the "Father" role model that exemplified only the best. My son retired this month (June 2018) from the USMC with 25 years of service and Brian was to be an honored guest at his retirement and the tragic news of his passing leaves an emptiness beyond words. Rest in Peace dear friend and know that we will honor you by trying with all our hearts to live our lives in your shadow with love, compassion, humility, honesty, generosity, and respect. Thank you for blessing our lives by allowing us to be a part of yours!

Darry Powers - June 28, 2018 at 06:02 PM