



## Raymond E McCall

September 25, 1924 - June 9, 2019

Princeton – Raymond E. McCall, 94, of Princeton, IL passed away on Sunday, June 9th at Aperion Care in Princeton peacefully, surrounded by his loving family.

Raymond was born on September 25, 1924 to the late Elmer and Martha (Wirges) McCall in Princeton, IL. He met his bride to be, Laura Zimmerman, when he was five years old at the Kasbeer Community Church during Sunday school class. They married on December 27, 1944. She was the love of his life and he was the love of hers. When they were asked what the secret to a long, happy marriage was, Laura replied, “to always say I love you and to stay in love” and Raymond replied “to always say, Yes Dear.” They were married almost 75 years and even shared a room at Aperion Care, still taking care of one another and saying “I love you” every day.

Shortly after marrying Laura, Raymond was deployed to France. He was a decorated World War II Veteran, serving with the Third Division in France. He was wounded in the battle for the Colmar Pocket in early 1945. Raymond was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the French Croix-de-guerre, and was very proud of his service to his country. He participated in an Honor Flight to Washington, DC in 2010, to visit the WWII Memorial as well as other military memorials. After several months of recuperation from his military injury, Raymond was a fireman in Dixon, IL., a truck driver in Ohio, IL., before

taking a job at the Van Orin Farmers Elevator, where after a couple of years he became the manager of the elevator. He worked in that capacity for over 30 years until he retired.

Raymond was an active lifelong member of the Kasbeer Community Church where he served his church in several positions, he was a member of the Princeton American Legion as well as the VFW. He really enjoyed playing games with his children, grandchildren and friends. He loved to golf with his bride as often as they were able, and were members at Wyaton Hills, Princeton, IL. and Indian Hills, Tiskilwa, IL. He loved his God, his Country and his family and was an amazing husband, father, grandfather and friend.

He is survived by his loving wife and partner for almost 75 years, Laura (Zimmerman) McCall; two sons, Donald (Lea) McCall of Peoria, IL and Steven (Judy) McCall of Princeton, IL; one daughter, Lynn Hoffman of Princeton, IL; six grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Raymond is preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Dorothy Bohm. A visitation will be held at Norberg Memorial Home, Princeton, IL., on Friday, June 21, 2019 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Services for Raymond will be Friday, June 21, 2019 at 12:00 p.m., at Norberg Memorial Home, Princeton, IL. Officiated by Reverend Eric Siebert of the Kasbeer Community Church and long-time family friend, Jeff Ringenberg, Operations Manager for the Peoria Area Youth for Christ. Graveside services will follow at Elm Lawn Memorial Park, Princeton, IL. with full military rights.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Kasbeer Community Church or Honor Flight of the Quad Cities, 4130 Northwest Blvd, Davenport, IA 52806.

The family wishes to thank Aperion Care in Princeton as well as VITAS Hospice for the excellent care they gave Raymond and are still giving Laura.

Arrangements by Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.

Online condolences may be left at [www.norbergfh.com](http://www.norbergfh.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Elm Lawn Memorial Park

Knox St  
Princeton, IL 61356

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 21.** 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.  
701 E. Thompson Street  
Princeton, IL 61356  
(815) 875-2425  
norberg@norbergfh.com  
<https://www.norbergfh.com/>

## Service

**JUN 21.** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.  
701 E. Thompson Street  
Princeton, IL 61356  
(815) 875-2425  
norberg@norbergfh.com  
<https://www.norbergfh.com/>

## Graveside

JUN 21. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Elm Lawn Memorial Park  
Knox St  
Princeton, IL 61356

# Tribute Wall

DB

“Grandpa was a gentle, kind man who always made me feel loved. I have memories of visiting him at the grain elevator and getting Chiclits with my sister, and watching slide shows of his and Grandma's trips, eating popcorn together. I loved playing games with Grandpa, knowing he was competitive but was able to enjoy just playing too. In more recent times, he was always quick with a hug and a "wish we could see you more," and I wish we had been close enough to be there more. When we visited him and Grandma, he always asked our kids questions and wanted to know what they were up to. My grandpa lived a life of faith before us and was a steady influence. I know he's finally out of pain and can see perfectly again, and hear perfectly again, and he can take in heaven in all of its beauty, and walk with Jesus. I'm going to miss your warmth and your sense of humor, Grandpa, and your hugs most of all. Love you so much, Dana

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**Dana Button** - June 22, 2019 at 12:03 AM

CS

“We met by chance, while waiting for our cars to be serviced. I felt an immediate bond with Ray, proudly wearing his WWII ball cap. I shared with him that my father was also a WWII veteran and we chatted and formed a friendship. Last year at Veterans' Day, I asked my students to make and sign a big card for him, which I gladly delivered to him and his wife. I am so sad to lose this wonderful man as a friend and veteran.  
Rest in Peace. I salute you, Cindy

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**Cindy Smucker** - June 19, 2019 at 09:38 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Raymond E McCall.*



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June 18, 2019 at 01:16 AM



“ *Dad taught me how to be a man ... what it means to love my wife ... to love my country, its Constitution, its flag ... to love God and His Word ... to be honest in all my dealings ... to always tell the truth ... to know Him Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life ... the value of hard work ... that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing to the best of my ability ... the importance of family.*

*He love to travel, and passed that on to me.*

*He loved to play games with family and friends, and passed that on to me.*

*He loved his ice cream, and chocolate, and passed that on to me!*

*He loved God, and eagerly anticipated seeing his Savior face to face -- and I know that on June 9 he was able to do just that.*

*He loved to sing hymns at church. In his last few years, he repeatedly said how much he missed that, due to breathing problems. But I KNOW he is worshiping our Savior in song now!*

*He loved his kids and grand kids*

*He loved his wife of nearly 75 years, teaching me what it means to be faithful to my spouse.*

*He loved his country, and nearly lost his life defending her.*

*I remember Dad coming home for lunch from the elevator, finding Mom at the kitchen sink, walking up behind her and wrapping his arms around her, giving her a BIG hug -- and not being embarrassed in doing so in front of us kids!*

*I love my Dad and miss him a lot!*

*See you soon, Dad!*

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Don McCall - June 17, 2019 at 11:01 AM

“ Dear Laura, Jeff, and the entire circle of Raymond’s family ‘n’ friends,

*I am a brother of Jeff and Juanita’s from church and, although I don’t know the rest of the family, I understand Raymond’s lived a rich, long, and storied life. I try to help people cope with the grief that is inevitable even in the most accepting scenarios, and so I offer this to your family at this special time of loss. I also cherish the opportunity to thank a fellow warrior and his family for their service.*

*Understanding the hole left behind, regardless the inevitability or forewarning, pray this helps some wee bit...to allow...enable...that grief...which will come...is painfully necessary...but is also a measure of the loving impact this very special man had on everyone! So truly sorry to hear about your husband, father, grandfather, friend. At least now he’s at peace with our Lord... definitely keepin’ y’all in my prayers!*

*When my mother died, even after a years-long battle with cancer, I was shattered by the loss...inconsolable...she was my mentor! I like to think that I got my character from my father, but my mind and its capacity from m’dear sainted mother!!! BUT, "If your faith assures you she’s in heaven, then what are the tears all about?!" I hold eternity dearly close...a cherished, hard-won prize...but, in the interim, that answer lies below.*

**SELFISH TEARS**

*(I Eulogize My Beloved Mother - March, 1989)*

*Today we cry...must admit they're selfish tears.  
You see...our faith assures your journey's done.  
But it's not for you we mourn, at all, my dear;  
It's for those of us you've left behind...alone!!!*

*We share your joy...share your happiness at rest,  
Your painful fears now for forever stilled.  
You've fought the good fight, passed the final test,*

*But you've left behind a hole that can't be filled!!!*

*So, until we each rejoin you some someday,  
And, while your memory buoys us through those years,  
We'll miss you...but continue on our way,  
And, from time to time, we'll cry our selfish tears!!!  
Ray Hamilton ~\*~ March 19, 1989*

*Our loving, sincerest condolences and prayers,*

*(-=< Ray 'n' Mindy >=-)*

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**Ray & Mindy Hamilton** - June 13, 2019 at 10:50 AM

SM

“ *I will miss my dad so much we had many a good talk at the home and I so enjoyed dad working on the farm with me we shared many of things he was a saint a great dad and grandfather I will miss him dearly but know he is in heaven and is walking and has no pain I love you dad!* ”

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**Steve McCall** - June 11, 2019 at 06:02 PM

JM

“ *Everyday after I had reconstruction surgery on my foot dad came out to check on me every day said he was checking on hogs for Steve but knew he was checking on me . I lived him so much he was my second will miss him so much.love you dad* ”

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**Judy mcall** - June 11, 2019 at 05:56 PM