

## **George R. McNeish**

### **1928 - 2013**



George Robert McNeish was born December 18, 1928 and was the son of George Thomas and Florence Alma McNeish. He was a lifelong resident of Winfield. Mr. McNeish started working as a roughneck in 1948. A dedicated student, George graduated from KU with a Geological Engineering Degree in 1951, where he was active in the Theta Tau fraternity. Fiercely independent, he returned to Winfield to create and operate his own successful small business, McNeish Oil Operations in 1958. A note of interest, Mr. McNeish performed his duties as a geologist within driving distance of Winfield, Kansas.

A scientific rock hound, he couldn't bear to part with core samples of stone unearthed from oil wells on which he consulted. He collected samples of sand from his world travels, the geologist in him curious about how the sand on one beach differed from the next, that each was unique. George shared this and other creative and intellectual passions with his kids, taking them fossil hunting at the farm, collecting rocks from creeks on countless road trips, and exploring the black sand beaches in Hawaii.

George was an avid musician, playing the oboe, saxophone, and other reed instruments for the Jayhawk Marching Band, Winfield City Band and Winfield Community Orchestra with great skill, feeling, and dedication. He and Marilyn were also very active in the Winfield Community Theater in its formative years, one time practicing "Pickalittletalkalittlepickalittletalkalittle" into the wee hours of the morning to perfect their timing. His musical legacy lives on through his kids and grandkids, several of whom are committed, adept musicians.

A kind, gentle, and serving soul, George McNeish was a committed Christian and believed in community service, serving on boards at First United Methodist, Southwestern College, and the YMCA Camp, among others, and as Winfield's mayor in the late 1960s. Together with his wife Marilyn, he delivered on a long-held dream to build a continuing care retirement community, Cumbernauld Village, named for his ancestors' home in Scotland.

He also believed in service to his country, and for his US Army service in the Korean War he earned the Bronze Star medal, Korean Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal. Later, he was a founding contributor to the long-awaited and much-appreciated Korean War Veterans Memorial in the Nation's capital. It was toward the end of his service in Korea that he turned to a friend and pronounced, "I'm going to go home and marry Marilyn Powers." When George got an idea in his head, he usually figured out a way to make it happen.

SOURCE: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/110095527/george-robert-mcneish>