



Bruce Allen McCormick

June 15, 1935 - January 21, 2020

MANITOU BEACH- It is with deep sadness that the family of Bruce A. McCormick announce his passing on January 21, 2020. Bruce had been in declining health for the past year. He passed in the comfort of his own home under the care of his family, his good friend, Dr. Gene Bolles, and Hospice of Lenawee.

Bruce Allen McCormick was born on June 15, 1935, to Lawrence E. and L. Beatrice (Carroll) McCormick in Adrian, Michigan. He graduated from Blissfield High School in 1953. Bruce received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Michigan in 1957, and Masters in 1958. He played trumpet in the marching and concert band, as well as in the Fanfare Five for football games in Ann Arbor. Bruce was an avid Michigan football fan and held season tickets to the home games for more than 40 years.

Bruce married the former Lois Knoblauch on June 15, 1962. They celebrated more than 57 years of marriage. They were blessed with three children, Scott (Julie) McCormick, Patrick McCormick and Anne (Jeff) Gulian. Bruce cherished the times he spent with his six grandchildren as they participated in their sporting and musical events. Their grandchildren are Delaney and Eric McCormick, John and Sarah McCormick and Judy and Gabe Gulian. Bruce and his family traveled many places, especially with family.

Bruce taught instrumental music in public school for 38 years, 28 of which were in Blissfield. Bruce believed he was called to teach music and hopefully influence the lives of many young people.

Bruce was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Blissfield, having been baptized and confirmed there. In earlier years he was active in church activities, singing in the choir and serving on the Administrative Board in different capacities.

Bruce was a life member of the Masonic Lodge, served as Charter president of the Blissfield Area Lion's Club, and member of the Adrian Chamber Brass. Funeral services for Bruce will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020, at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Blissfield with Rev. Gunsoo Jung officiating. Burial will follow at Pleasant View Cemetery in Blissfield. Visitation will take place on Friday, January 24, 2020, from 4 to 8 at Wagley Funeral Home in Adrian.

Memorial contributions in Bruce's memory are suggested to the First United Methodist Church in Blissfield or Hospice of Lenawee. Memories and online condolences may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant View Cemetery

9175 E. US 223
Blissfield, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 24. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 25. 11:00 AM (ET)

Blissfield First United Methodist Church
201 W. Adrian
Blissfield, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Bruce Allen McCormick*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *I didnt appreciate him until I got older but he was the best. Just now read about his passing a few years ago, he was a GREAT music teacher!!! Blessed to have had him as a teacher.*

John Anthony Davis - December 08, 2022 at 09:16 AM

“Mrs. McCormick, Scott, Pat, and Anne - I was so sorry to learn the news about Mr. McCormick, and I apologize for the late reply on his memorial. I do hope that you receive my note. As several others have said on this tribute wall, Mr. McCormick demanded the absolute best from all, and at the time while it may have made you uncomfortable, it ultimately made all of his students better people.

A lighter/humorous memory from 1983 when I was in 7th grade. Our band consisted of both 7th/8th graders, a rather large group. As Mr. McCormick was working with the flute section, Clint Peters (trumpet player) reached into Angie Goetz's purse and pulled out her perfume, and proceeded to squirt Alec Fisher (saxophone player) who sat directly in front of Clint. Of course Alec took exception and words were exchanged between Alec and Clint. Mr. McCormick abruptly stopped his encounter with the flute section and asked Clint and Alec to meet him in his office immediately. We all sat stunned and fearing for Clint and Alec's well-being, knowing full well they really screwed up.

After a few minutes passed, Clint, Alec, and Mr. McCormick exited the office to a room full of nothing but quiet, and we proceeded with practice. Word quickly spread that as Mr. McCormick determined the root cause of the issues between Clint and Alec, he had one final comment to close the discussion that I will never forget. Mr. McCormick looked at Alec with a smile and said, "You do smell pretty though, Alec."

That was just a sneak preview into Mr. McCormick's dry sense of humor that he would break out from time to time in class.

I'm grateful to have had Mr. McCormick as a teacher, to this day I find my self tapping out songs (percussion) and humming tunes that date all the way back to those 7th/8th grade years.

I'm very sorry for your loss, but take pride in knowing that Mr. McCormick made all of his students better people.

*Keeping you all in my prayers.
Daryl Lombard*

DARYL LOMBARD - February 09, 2020 at 11:44 PM

CA

“*If you are lucky, over your whole lifetime, you will find yourself under the tutelage of one or two individuals who challenge you to be the best that you absolutely can be. Mr McCormick was one of those rare teachers. He knew how to get the best performance out of all of us, and put it together to create an ensemble that made beautiful music. I remember being terrified of Mr. McCormick in my freshmen year, but by the time I was a senior, I considered him not just a teacher but a friend. One particular incident captures both his passion for excellence and his kindness. My junior year, the cross country team made the state finals. That meant that I had to miss the final halftime show of the football season. Mr. McCormick had an inviolable rule: one missed performance brought your six week grade to a "C" It seemed unfair, but Mr. McCormick was absolutely right to impose the rules across the board. However, when my semester grade came out, somehow Mr. McCormick had managed to average two As and one C into an A. I think he know how important getting into the right college was for me, so he made the change. What a wonderful man he was.*

Chuck Anderson, BHS Class of '75

Charles Anderson - February 05, 2020 at 03:47 PM

MC

“ Mr McCormick taught me so much more than music. He taught me to be proud of myself and the band that I was part of whether concert or marching. He taught his students that nothing short of their best was good enough. He taught us respect and care for those around us. He got that all done by modeling it for us every morning in 1st hour band class. I also learned how to pucker my lip, the difference between B flat and B natural and to be very sure I came in at the correct place in the music. I also learned to “ pick up my feet, play my part, and drive, drive, drive”
The world could use a few more Bruce A. McCormick’s. He certainly had a positive impact on my life
Mark Crane. BHS Band. 1968-1971

Mark Crane - January 24, 2020 at 05:39 PM

PC

“ Pat, Daniel, Jen, and Allison Carroll purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bruce Allen McCormick.



Pat, Daniel, Jen, and Allison Carroll - January 24, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce Allen McCormick.



January 23, 2020 at 07:21 PM

EH

“ Evelyn H. lit a candle in memory of Bruce Allen McCormick



Evelyn H. - January 23, 2020 at 01:36 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bruce Allen McCormick.



January 23, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce Allen McCormick.



January 23, 2020 at 11:16 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce Allen McCormick.



January 23, 2020 at 09:49 AM

MF

“ *Malkowski Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Bruce Allen McCormick.*



Malkowski Family - January 23, 2020 at 08:55 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bruce Allen McCormick.*



January 23, 2020 at 08:35 AM

LM

“ *Luckmarr Plastics and Accutek Mold purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Bruce Allen McCormick.*



Luckmarr Plastics and Accutek Mold - January 23, 2020 at 08:21 AM

DR

“ *My condolences to all of his family, he taught me in high school band at Blissfield High way back in the 70's 😊 He was a wonderful teacher and will be missed.*

Denise Raymond - January 23, 2020 at 07:25 AM

BM

“ Bruce McCormick was an important influence in molding me into a successful choral director. It was undoubtedly trying for him to share his ordered and well-oiled kingdom with a very green and disorganized newbie, but he was always patient and gave me excellent advice while regaling me with fascinating stories of U-M's legendary William Ravelli. Under his somewhat stern exterior was a sensitive man and loving man who was incredibly proud of his children and adored his wife. One of my favorite memories of them is watching them saunter down the hall holding hands on multiple occasions.
I know that he now happily marching in the heavenly band!

Betsy Marsh - January 23, 2020 at 07:20 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce Allen McCormick.



January 22, 2020 at 11:15 PM

LT

“ It is with great sadness I read about Bruce passing. I taught with Bruce for almost 30 years a great educator person and our band was next to none with over 100 students playing in the band. Bruce was a big supporter of our Athletics at the high school in Blissfield. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend his funeral however as I am in Florida during the winter . my thoughts and prayers are with the family God bless all of you during this very difficult time. Coach Tuttle

Larry Tuttle - January 22, 2020 at 10:59 PM

CK

“ Our family sends our deepest sympathy to you, Lois, and to Scott, Patrick, Anne and families. I have many good memories of Bruce and especially the times we spent together in our shared love of the "maize and blue". Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time.

Carolyn Klump - January 22, 2020 at 10:42 PM

GL

“ So sorry to hear about this. He was my mentor and hero. He taught me alot. My first musical instructor. And I play 10 instruments now. I was in the same grade and best friends with his son Scott. I am praying for all the family. Rest in Peace "Evil Eye". We will miss you.

Gregory Lakics - January 22, 2020 at 09:02 PM

BL

“ My dearest Lois and family. My heart sank when I saw this obituary tonight. Bruce had such an impact on my life as a young teenager. Being in his band when my childhood was a mess and unstable was a huge blessing. He believed in me. He made me want to be better! He encouraged me! He was passionate about music and his passion was very evident in everything he did. In the last year and a half, our paths crossed again after 30 years. This reunion has been one of my greatest blessings. I could have sat and talked with you, Lois, and Bruce for hours. I could still see the passion in his eyes as he shared about those good old days. Such beautiful memories from then and now! I will cherish our moments for a lifetime! God bless you all as you mourn the loss of this very special man!! My heart aches for you!! Much love and prayer...

Bonnie (Brown) Langmeyer

Bonnie Langmeyer - January 22, 2020 at 08:31 PM

SR

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. McCormick's passing. He was my absolute favorite teacher and taught me so much about music. I loved being able to come back to Blissfield during my college years to teach private music lessons, too. It was blessing to know him.

Sarah Delzeith Rudland - January 22, 2020 at 08:10 PM

DN

“ I am sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. McCormick. He was an wonderful teacher, orchestra and band director. His band formations made BHS halftime events the envy of the county. His concert band programming was challenging and beautiful. He brought in top notch private lesson teachers from UM that challenged me to do my best, always, as did he. I'll never forget him. Bless his soul & promotion to glory. <3

I am sharing a photo I had in my files of me and Mr. McCormick from my senior year at BHS. He was a big reason I went to school at Univ. of Michigan. I invited him and his wife to my wedding in 1979, and was so pleased they could come. Teachers like him are one in a million.

Condolences to his family,

*Deborah (Wittbrodt) Nystrom
Ann Arbor*



Deborah Nystrom - January 22, 2020 at 07:51 PM

KS

“ So sorry for your loss Lois and family. Our prayers go out to you.
Kay (VanLoocke) and Dave Sneary

Kay Sneary - January 22, 2020 at 06:55 PM

AS

“ Bruce was instrumental in helping Blissfield high school achieve a championship level school spirit. I am forever grateful for his leadership and support during my ten years as a teacher and coach in Blissfield.

My sincere condolences to Lois and their family and friends.

I am very glad that I had some time at the birthday party to reminisce with Bruce and Lois.

May this talented and good man R I P knowing that he ran the good race and won the ultimate victory. Coach. Al

Al Schaffer - January 22, 2020 at 06:36 PM

LI

“ So sorry for your loss of Bruce. I remember him from BHS and Blissfield First UMC. I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone. Lois, know that he rests in the arms of the Lord.

Linda Ishmiel - January 22, 2020 at 06:24 PM

PT

“ Lois, I am so sorry to hear this..I am in Florida and will be flying in on Saturday morning, unfortunately not home in time for the funeral. Please know my prayers, thoughts and heart will be with you. Rest assured, Parker was there to greet him. I will see you at a later date.
Love you, Pat Tagsold

Pat Tagsold - January 22, 2020 at 06:03 PM