



## Earl "Gar" H. McDaniel Jr.

November 5, 1951 - June 19, 2017

Earl "Gar" H. McDaniel Jr., age 65, of North Versailles, passed away Monday, June 19, 2017. He was a noted writer and author that published the novel *Between Lives*, as well a respected teacher and an editor for numerous newspapers in Pa., Ohio and Va. He is preceded in death by his parents Earl and Doris McDaniel. He is survived by his sister Nancy (Steve) VanAuken; niece Courtney (Yoon) Weaver and their children Evan and Abigail and niece Whitney Walker; as well as many close friends. Friends and family will be received on Friday, June 23 from 2 to 4 p.m., and from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Forgie-Snyder Funeral Home, 1032 Broadway, East McKeesport, 412-823-8083. A funeral service will be held there on Saturday at 11 a.m., with Rev. Dr. Ronald H. Wakeman officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Vernon Cemetery in Elizabeth Township. Memorial contributions can be made to either the Pittsburgh Zoo at [www.pittsburghzoo.org](http://www.pittsburghzoo.org) or the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center at 5115 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. For online condolences please visit [www.snyderfuneralservice.com](http://www.snyderfuneralservice.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Vernon Cemetery

2300 Buena Vista Road  
McKeesport, PA 15135

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 23. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home  
1032 Broadway Ave  
East McKeesport, PA 15035  
(412) 823-8083  
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

JUN 23. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home  
1032 Broadway Ave  
East McKeesport, PA 15035  
(412) 823-8083  
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

## Service

---

JUN 24. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home  
1032 Broadway Ave  
East McKeesport, PA 15035  
(412) 823-8083  
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Earl "Gar" H. McDaniel Jr.*

October 07, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ *Earl "Gar" H. McDaniel Jr.*

August 23, 2022 at 04:00 PM



“ *Earl was my student teacher in high school and my American Legion baseball coach. He performed both roles with passion. Whether teaching short stories or talking baseball - the sport he loved - there was no separation between the content and the purveyor. Earl was in the center. He was always fiercely passionate about his subject - whether it be Walter Mitty or Pete Rose. So today, I am sad. We lost a friend - a friend who shared so much of himself so that we could view life through the passionate lens that he shared with us so openly and authentically.*

**Patrick O'Toole** - June 23, 2017 at 12:44 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



**Mike O'Toole** - June 22, 2017 at 08:27 PM

TR

*This picture was taken at our wedding and we celebrated our 43rd anniversary on Wednesday of this week. Tom and Phyllis Rapsinski*

**Tom Rapsinski** - June 23, 2017 at 11:31 AM

MO

“ There were thunderstorms in Richmond on Monday night and the Buccos won, two signs that Earl had arrived at the Pearly Gates and had made his entrance. I only wish there was internet beyond the Great Divide so we could at least still read his blogs. I knew enough to engage him conversation on the sports topics and avoided the politics! His blogging extended a friendship that started at Clarion State College in 1973 and lasted 44 years until he was called Home. Sad that he is gone, but thankful that he no longer suffers, with apologies to Luke Bryan, “so long my friend, until we meet again”

*Mike O'Toole, Jr.  
Richmond, VA*

**Mike O'Toole** - June 22, 2017 at 08:15 PM

JK

“ 4 files added to the album Earl and my family over the years - J. David Krauser



**J David Krauser** - June 21, 2017 at 01:52 PM

Karen  
Piszczek

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Karen Piszczek** - June 21, 2017 at 01:40 PM



“ *Earl and I had such a blend of things in common and opposing views that made for a great friendship. We learned quickly after meeting that we lived in the very same apartment in Cherrytree ...15 years apart. We both were teachers ...he an English teacher and me being a Math and science guy. His ability to motivate students was magical! We both loved the sport of wrestling and we attended Pitt Wrestling matches and Dapper Dan Classics together. He being a Pittsburgher and Clarion graduate leaned toward Pitt and away from my love for Penn State. We enjoyed a few Pirates games together. He being the baseball guy who kept a scorecard and knew the intricacies of the game..and me for the love of the atmosphere and camaraderie. I love country music and Earl's take is that it isn't real music. Our political viewpoints. ..well let's say they were not the same ;) We both shared fond memories of northwestern PA...Earl as a former teacher at Maplewood and employee at the Titusville Herald .... me being a native. He had a great charisma, wisdom, and sense of humor that I admired. I will forever cherish the memories of our friendship. Rest easy, my friend!*

*Scott Feely  
Oakdale, PA*

---

**Scott Feely** - June 21, 2017 at 11:33 AM

RA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



---

**Rapper** - June 21, 2017 at 08:57 AM

BO

“ *Earl's writings and friendship were both a very positive influence to the O'Toole family. I will always remember the kind words he wrote when my Mother passed away. I'm sure the two are now having a great conversation about it.*

*God bless, Bo O'Toole*

---

**Bo O'Toole** - June 21, 2017 at 07:21 AM

DB

“ *Joy to the World*  
*All the boys and girls*  
*Joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea*  
*Joy to you and me.*

*The first time I remember hearing this song was at Earl's wedding where we danced and partied and celebrated. It does not come on the radio or stereo (yes, I said stereo, as in records) that I do not think of Earl. How fitting because he brought so much joy into all of our lives. He touched us in ways that we did not understand until we really started reflecting on our times with him, and I am more than a bit disappointed that he will not dance at our 50th. He was the glue for the 4th floor McKean guys, and although I was not one of the boys, I enjoyed spending more time there than in my own dorm lobby. The song continues that "Jeremiah was a bullfrog, was a good friend of mine." Well, I don't think a person could ask for a better bullfrog than Earl. So until we meet again, Joy to you and me.*  
*Love, Diana Beck*

---

**Diana Beck** - June 21, 2017 at 07:01 AM

JM

“ I loved to hear Earl tell stories. He was such a great story teller. I loved his sports play by plays, especially baseball, which is what he was doing when I first met him about 30 years ago at a party. He was holding forth in the host's kitchen. I liked him right away.

Over the years he was a good, consistent friend. He moved, I moved. More than once. And much time would lapse before we would reconnect, but each time it was as if we spoke to each other just yesterday.

When my time comes to cross over to the other side -- a place I call Heaven -- I know I will see Earl, and we will pick up the conversation right where we left off.

Good bye, for now, my true blue friend.

I love you.

Judy Maxwell, Atlanta

---

**Judy Maxwell** - June 21, 2017 at 05:37 AM

MO

“ Like many others, I have a lot of WONDERFUL memories of Earl. For me, there is one remembrance that is paramount. That was the “big laugh” of Earl’s. How many times have we all heard it? Earl would be voicing one of his GREAT stories and it would include his laugh. In telling a story to Earl, his laugh would often be the result. In sharing a memory of some fun times together, one could count on the laugh from Earl. And it was a BIG laugh.

As he would expound, all of us can picture Earl. His animated gestures. The rise in the volume of his oratory. The picturesque quality of his choice of words. His ear to ear smile. And then, the big laugh.

Unlike the rest of us, the laugh never got old.

Unlike Earl’s earthly presence, with our collective memories, the laugh is not gone.

Fare thee well, Earl McDaniel. Fare thee well.

Marty O'Toole

---

**Marty O'Toole** - June 20, 2017 at 07:36 PM

DM

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



---

**Dean & Dory McFail** - June 20, 2017 at 07:02 PM

JK

“ 4 files added to the album *Earl and my family over the years* - J. David Krauser



---

**J David Krauser** - June 20, 2017 at 02:36 PM