



Zollicoffer "Zollie" Lawson McCuller Maynard Jr.

December 12, 1942 - November 30, 2023

Zollicoffer "Zollie" Lawson McCuller Maynard, Jr. passed away peacefully Thursday, November 30 surrounded by his family after a brief illness. He was a devoted husband, beloved father and son, caring brother, attorney, decorated soldier and political strategist.

Zollie was born in Lakeland, Florida to Zollie and Jean Maynard on December 12, 1942. He moved to Gainesville, Florida at 3 years old where his father was a University of Florida instructor of Adaptive Physical Education for wounded soldiers returning home from WWII. When he was 8, his cousin Bill Shands encouraged the family to move to Tallahassee for a Dept. of Education position and where his mother eventually worked for Governor Collins. He attended the old Sealey Elementary School, Florida High for middle school and Leon High School where he was Student Body President, played football, basketball, track and was voted "Most Dependable". After high school, Zollie attended the University of Florida where he was in Sigma Chi Fraternity, Blue Key, was student director of the Intramural Program and in charge of the Homecoming Queen contest. While there, he met the love of his life, Valorie Dunn and they began a 57 year marriage as devoted partners in both family and work. He was commissioned an Army 2nd Lieutenant just before marrying Valorie and left for Vietnam four months later. Zollie served as a Forward Observer and Field Artillery Officer. During the 1968 TET Offensive, all but he and one other were killed or wounded in his unit. Many more battles followed

during his tour where he called in artillery fire and was surrounded by casualties. He was awarded a Bronze Star and another Bronze Star with "V" Device for his service. Zollie stayed in the Army Reserves after the war and retired as a Full Colonel. He was later appointed Army Reserve Ambassador for the State of Florida. He entered FSU Law School, private practice in Leesburg and returned to Tallahassee to run his father's campaign for FL Education Commissioner, then worked as Chief Cabinet aide for FL Insurance Commissioner Bill Gunter where he and his partner in crime, Frank Mirabella, plotted and planned their next move. Zollie went on to be a senior partner in the law firm of Panza, Maurer & Maynard.

Zollie treasured his family, welcomed everyone he met into his life and truly never met a stranger. He and Valorie moved to Hiawassee, GA after their Mexico Beach house was destroyed by Hurricane Michael. He was an avid reader and loved playing golf, but his greatest joys were his grandchildren. Over the years, Zollie made a lasting impression on so many and will be remembered for his war stories, humor, generosity and love for his family and friends.

Col. Maynard is predeceased by his parents, Zollie and Jean Maynard and survived by his wife Valorie, son Zollie (Jaime) and daughters Lori Spencer (Barry) and Julianne Baxter (Travis). He is also survived by 8 grandchildren Hudson Z., Dylan, Avery Kate, Trace, Zollie IV, Oisín, Clélie and Rosaleen, his sister Jean Wingo and brothers Jack and Harry Maynard, along with many nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held at Bevis Funeral Home, 200 John Knox Rd in Tallahassee on Saturday, December 16 from 1:30–2:30pm immediately followed by a memorial service at 2:30pm. There will be a military graveside service at Roselawn Cemetery on Piedmont Rd.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.. Todd Wahlquist is assisting the family with their arrangements (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com).

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

815 West Piedmont Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Previous Events

The Family Will Receive Friends

DEC 16. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Funeral Service

DEC 16. 2:30 PM (ET)

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200 John Knox Rd
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Tribute Wall

LS

“ My father went to be with the Lord on Nov 30 surrounded by family, prayers and love as he passed away. He was an amazing father to the very end - never letting us say "I love you" in his ear without fighting to say it back to us.

I am filled with gratitude for the dad that God blessed me with - a man of integrity, faithfulness, wisdom and unconditional love - who was married to my mom for 57 years.

To sit with my dad was to gain perspective on life, appreciation of history, insight into people and politics. He was a Southern gentleman, and I was his "darlin". He was a people person and a storyteller with a sense of humor we shared in common. My dad made me laugh more than anyone, and I will miss him and his stories so much.

He was a professional - an attorney, lobbyist and political strategist with a devotion to his work and a passion for his country. He was a soldier and a patriot - he served in Vietnam and the only time I remember seeing him cry (or even tear up), was quoting Patrick Henry: "Give me liberty or give me death." He retired as a full Colonel in the Army.

Dad was my running partner well into my 20's because he cared about his health, and he taught me to value mine.

He loved my husband, Barry, which meant the world to me. They enjoyed golfing together, talking politics and business and conversation of their shared faith. He loved my children - pushing them on swings, coming in town for their birthdays, attending my son's baseball games, and so much more. Even the kids in our old neighborhood wanted to save their malted milk balls at Halloween for Hudson & AveryKate's Papa. In recent years, he's played the role of "history tutor by phone" to our 14-year-old daughter. For God's sake, he even loved our dogs. Dad was such a huge part of our lives because he wanted to be, and there is nothing that will fill that void.

Dad saw everyone as an individual, loved and valued by God no matter who they are... even telling me not too long ago, "if anything happens to me someone needs to let 'so-and-so' at the Corner Store know." He loved and cared for everyone he came in contact

with. In fact, he would want me to thank every nurse and doctor that helped him in the weeks he was in the hospital.

When I think of my father, and even as I write this, my heart is filled with gratitude as I reflect on his life. In the hospital, he made the quiet comment to me, "almost 81 - more than most people get, huh?" Yeah Dad - you're amazing. You recovered completely from a triple bypass just a year ago and lived a wonderful life. Dad always said when he gets to the gates of heaven, he'll say, "Don't look at me - I'm with Him" (pointing to Jesus).

It is a sad time for sure, but God is with us. Thank you all for the love, prayers, and condolences you've expressed. It means a lot to me.

Lori Spencer - December 18, 2023 at 04:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Service Footage 12-16-2023



Bevis Funeral Home - December 18, 2023 at 10:51 AM

LS

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-Lori Maynard Spencer

Lori Spencer - December 18, 2023 at 04:51 PM

PM

Lori, this is a great tribute to your dad and brought back so many memories of us growing up together, We would wrestle on the living room floor, we would play sports, he took us camping in the Smokies, we would go to the library and he would help me study, he helped me so much in my career in state government and politics, and was there for me in so many ways. He was the best big brother anyone could ever have.

As you know our family has never been great at showing outward displays of affection but I have to tell you that I LOVED my big brother and all of the parts of him that he left in you and your family.

All my love, your Uncle Jack

PAMELA K Maynard - December 29, 2023 at 11:43 AM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Zollicoffer "Zollie" Lawson McCuller Maynard Jr..*



December 15, 2023 at 12:52 PM

PD

“ *I was 16 when my sister, Valorie, mentioned a man she was in love with. I had to say Zollie's full name over and over again to memorize it. Not long I was giving her away to Zollie at their wedding. As time went I thought of Zollie as a calm, sincere person who was easy to relate to. Once, years later, he and I were talking and I thanked him for taking good care of my sister. His humorous reply was "Pat, It wasn't easy." A joking reply I was expecting. He loved my son, Corey, my dog Brewski, and was gracious towards my girlfriend, now my wife, Barbara. A once in a lifetime opportunity to knowing such a warm, honest human being. My wife, Barbara, and me are going to miss Zollie very much.*

Patrick Dunn - December 12, 2023 at 12:05 PM

CT

Zollie was in my class of 1961 at Leon High. He was well respected and highly regarded as a leader and friend in our class and student body. We will remember him always. Rest in peace, Zollie

carole terry - December 16, 2023 at 01:29 PM

PD

“ *Patrick D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Zollicoffer "Zollie" Lawson McCuller Maynard Jr..*

Patrick D. - December 12, 2023 at 10:41 AM

MK

“ *Zollie was one of a kind. I cherish the memories during the time we spent together in the Army Reserves and times we were together in Mexico Beach. I was devastated when I heard the news. Val, I am sorry I can't be there as I am out of the Country at moment. God Bless. Mike Klages.*

Mike Klages - December 12, 2023 at 01:38 AM

SM

“ Zollie was was the coolest ❤️ He always had a smile, never heard him say a negative word about anyone and lived his life with compassion and love for his friends, his community, is Country and his family. If you had two minutes to chat, you could always stop in Zollie’s office, and he had time for you; and you would probably learn a thing or two about history or current local Tallahassee politics. We were privileged to visit Zollie & Valorie in their Mexico beach home and be the beneficiary of their warm hospitality.

Zollie, Lori & Julie, you are lucky kids to have had such a great dad, always interested in your lives and success. And the Maurer’s were lucky to have him in our lives as a friend. We will be unable to attend the funeral in his honor, and are sad to miss the opportunity for a last goodbye.

Suzie and Larry Maurer

Suzie Maurer - December 10, 2023 at 09:24 PM

RM

“ Robert W Maxwell lit a candle in memory of Zollicoffer "Zollie" Lawson McCuller Maynard Jr.



Robert W Maxwell - December 10, 2023 at 12:08 PM

RM

Our deepest condolences to Mrs. Jean and the Maynard Family, in loving memory of Mr. Zollie.

Robert W "Bob" and Cynthia Maxwell
Former Waverly Hills next-door neighbors.

Robert W Maxwell - December 10, 2023 at 12:16 PM

TP

“ I remember all of the wonderful conversations we had throughout our long law firm partnership. Zollie is best remembered by me as having a heart of gold and there whenever anyone needed anything he would always help or lend a helping hand in their time of need. Our political philosophy was the exact opposite but that never once over 30 years ever got in the way of our friendship. I remember when the firm got its first fax machine and Zollie could not believe we had such advanced technology. Zollie would be at all of the legislative dinners at Greg Coler house we hosted weekly during the legislative sessions and he would always get nervous with all of the carrying on that would happen on in those days. He was a real friend who you knew you could always count on him to be there for you not out of duty but because he wanted to. He had a lot of political influence and always used it with the utmost integrity and honor. He loved his wife and children and they were always his priority. There are just so many fond memories of our friendship and work together this remembering could go on for pages. You could always count on Zollie for kind word or positive deed which he never advertised to the world he did it only because he was a good guy to everyone regardless of wealth, social station, political persuasion, race or ethic heritage it just didn't matter, everyone was treated with respect and courtesy whoever you were. We will miss Zollie and he loved History so knowing his life's history we can all be sure he is in a wonderful place at peace for a LIFE WELL AND HONORABLY LIVED. Tom Panza

tom panza - December 09, 2023 at 01:59 PM