



John Kirk McDonald

January 3, 2021

John Kirk McDonald, former Coral Gables attorney, Navy aviator, educator and longtime community volunteer, died on January 3, two months shy of his 90th birthday, in Gainesville, Fla. Kirk was a true gentleman known for his kindness and quick wit.

Born in Parma, Ohio (a suburb of Cleveland), he graduated Holy Name High School and Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He served as a Navy aviator, earning the rank of Lt. JG before moving to Miami in 1956 with his wife Gloria E. McDonald.

While attending night classes at the University of Miami School of Law, he was among the first teachers at Southwest Miami High School. He practiced law in Miami for 41 years: first as a member of the firm, which included Congressman Dante Fascell as a partner and then on his own at the Coral Gables Law Center. He was the past president of the Coral Gables Bar Assn., the Coral Gables Jaycees and the legal counsel for the Junior Chamber International.

An active retiree to his very last day, he and Gloria first retired to St. Augustine, where he played golf to his heart's content. The couple was among the founding residents at Oak Hammock at the University of Florida, a continuing care retirement community. His love and commitment to family, even during the toughest of times, was unwavering.

His easygoing accepting manner will be missed; he could always be counted on for a well-told story or classic joke. He was never afraid to try new things (except vegetables); he traveled extensively, visited every state and across Europe and the Americas. He lived a rich and varied life with an insatiable curiosity and interest in others, the world around him and the universe.

Survivors include daughter Katherine Anne of Los Angeles (her partner Jeff Kirshbaum); son John Kirk Jr. of Coral Gables; his loving companion Eileen Mullady Smith of Gainesville and grandsons Martin and Colin Hirshland.

His son James F. McDonald remains a missing person and was declared dead. His wife of 63 years, Gloria, predeceased him.

A mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Augustine Church, Gainesville on Tuesday Jan. 12 at 10 a.m. Donations in John Kirk McDonald's honor can be made to: The Friends of Paynes Prairie

<https://www.prairiefriends.org/>.

Events

JAN **Mass of Christian Burial** **10:00AM**
12

St. Augustine Catholic Church

1738 West University Avenue, Gainesville, FL, US

Comments



“ Great friend, loyal and excellent colleague in The Florida Bar. Kirk's laugh with the Churchill cigar in hand competed with Groucho. Very much missed but enriched by his friendship.
Roy Gonas

Roy Gonas - January 18 at 05:56 PM



“ Thank you Roy.
Kathy - January 21 at 01:09 PM



“ We enjoyed knowing Kirk when we visited our dad, Dick Newberg, at Oak Hammock. Kirk was interesting and witty, and a great conversationalist. He was a good friend to and golf buddy of our dad. Our condolences to the family and Eileen. The Newberg Family

Amy Newberg - January 18 at 05:26 PM



“ Thank you Amy. My dad was very fond of Dick.
Kathy - January 21 at 01:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Kirk McDonald.



January 10 at 06:40 PM



“ Kirk and Gloria were the best neighbors. We miss them both.
Linda and Peter Loda

Peter Loda - January 10 at 03:59 PM



“ Thank you Linda & Peter.

Kathy - January 21 at 01:10 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Kirk McDonald.



January 10 at 01:15 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Williams-Thomas Funeral Homes - January 08 at 04:36 PM



“ I received the news about Kirk's passing today, Jan 17, in the Miami Herald, and want to share what a special person he was. My ex husband and I were friends with him and Gloria in Coral Gables, so my fond memories date back a long time. He was a kind and fun person, whose legacy will live on among those who had the good fortune of having met him.

Cami Hofstadter - January 17 at 01:02 PM



“ Thank you Cami. Very thoughtful message.

Kathy - January 21 at 01:11 PM