



## Mr. Robert F. McElheny

August 6, 1947 - July 14, 2023

Robert F. McElheny, 75, of Lithia, born on August 6, 1947, in Miami, FL, entered into eternal rest on July 14, 2023. He was a graduate of the University of Tennessee, a retired General Manager for Abraham Chevrolet, and Gator Ford, a citrus and palm tree farmer, former CFO for Yellowfin Yachts, the current President for Tampa National Automotive Dealers Association, the past President for the Hillsborough County Fair, and commissioner for Anna Maria Island. He was an “adrenaline junkie”, enjoyed racing sprint cars in his early years, raced Sebring and Daytona, GT1 cars, Firehawk, and also ran a Camaro in the Historic racing series, as well as offshore race boats, flying air balloons, and was an avid fan of the Tennessee Volunteers. He is survived by wife of 55 years, Bonny Z. McElheny; daughters, Shannon M. Crothers of Lithia, and Kelly M. Allen (J. Kyle) of St. Simons Island, Georgia; grandchildren, Kennedy Allen, Keyton Crothers, McClain Allen, Greyson Crothers, and Cambelle Allen; sister, Bonnie Ann Angueira (Tony); dogs, Saylor and Jack; and 6 donkeys. Interment at Hopewell Memorial Gardens, Plant City. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude at [https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?frequency\\_selected=0&sc\\_icid=impactgiving-donate-bttn-top](https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?frequency_selected=0&sc_icid=impactgiving-donate-bttn-top). Expressions of condolences at [www.HopewellFuneral.com](http://www.HopewellFuneral.com).

# Cemetery Details

## **Hopewell Memorial Gardens**

6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
office@hopewellfuneral.com  
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ I just found out that Robert went to Heaven. I had the honor of trimming his beloved donkeys for several years. I will miss our early morning conversations about how we could save the world as I did the donkey pedicures. Rest In Peace my friend.

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**Thomas Rex** - August 18, 2023 at 01:48 PM

MA

“ Robert and Bonnie were high school friends and one of the most adorable couples we ever knew. We always got together at reunions but unfortunately life gets so busy and we lost contact a few years back. When a friend of ours passed in Sarasota this year we commented on our way there that we should stop and see our old friends....good intentions but now it makes us sad that we didn't take the time. Bonnie, we will look you up and hope you are well and so happy you have your girls and grandchildren close. Miss you both. He was such a wonderful guy and Earl shares many memories that I certainly won't post here. :) Love, Marcia & Earl Oltz

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**Marcia** - August 17, 2023 at 07:45 AM

TS

“ Warren and I were just 24 years old when Robert gave me an opportunity to join the Abraham Chevrolet family in 1986. Throughout the twelve years at Abraham and then later the seven years with Gator Ford Robert mentored us with some of the best advice we were ever given. We so appreciate his wisdom and care for our family, especially in our younger years when we didn't have very many people to give us the guidance we needed. He was one of a kind and took interest in the lives of the people who worked for and with him. Robert was one of the busiest people I have ever known. I learned from him the value of a strong work ethic, the value of our Republic and the importance of our democracy (VOTE!) and the value of family whom he loved dearly. We had many faith-based conversations throughout the years we worked together and he always told me he worshipped God when he was on his tractor at the farm taking care of the trees and his donkeys. Robert pulled together a bunch of young people with young families and invested his time and wisdom into each of us. We will be forever grateful and Robert McElheny will be greatly missed by so many who are blessed to have known him.

*Our Deepest Sympathy to Bonnie and family.*

*Warren & Toni Stone*

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**Toni Stone** - July 25, 2023 at 04:09 PM

DV

“ He will be missed. I always enjoyed getting together with the guys and sharing some good drinkin stories. Robert always had the best of them and could get us all laughing. RIP my friend...till we meet again.

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**Darren V** - July 21, 2023 at 04:59 PM

BO

“ Robert was a good manager , when I was a mediocre employee. I pray that God comforts the family . Robert saw the face of God last week.

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**Bob** - July 19, 2023 at 11:05 PM

RL

“ I keep looking at my front door expecting my buddy to walk in . . wearing that beaming, infectious smile of his that almost sparkled as he crossed the threshold. Somehow I always just felt good as he simply entered the room, his silver-white hair reflecting his life filled with adventure and wisdom.

*Robert and I had a special relationship that I am immediately longing for as a result of the loss of this great man in my life. To me, he is a friend, a father figure and a brother wrapped into one and there is now a void in my life without him in it. I am so grateful that our lives crossed paths many years ago but mostly grateful that Robert became my friend. . the old-school friend where I knew he loved me without ever having to say it. There's no replacing that.*

*I am so grateful for the impact this man made in my life and I am better because of him. I will live out my days holding thoughts of him close to my heart.*

*I will love you and miss you forever my friend,*

*Richie*

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**Richie Longanecker** - July 19, 2023 at 11:47 AM

PP

“ *The staff at FADA loved Robert so much. He was a true gentleman, always the early bird; a true servant leader. He always had a donkey story for us and new pictures of his dogs to share. We are better for knowing him. Love and prayers to his family.* ”

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**PJ Parker** - July 19, 2023 at 09:56 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert F. McElheny.* ”



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July 19, 2023 at 09:21 AM

EC

“ *Robert was a wonderful person and mentor. He will be dearly missed!* ”

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**Evelyn Cardenas** - July 19, 2023 at 08:08 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert F. McElheny.* ”



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July 18, 2023 at 10:00 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Robert F. McElheny.* ”

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July 18, 2023 at 10:00 PM

MY

“ Robert was a wonderful neighbor, man and friend. My family and I were all touched in some way with his generosity to help out in many different ways. In his words "that's what neighbors do". We will truly miss his presence.  
Rest in Peace Robert.

Melissa Yates - July 18, 2023 at 09:05 PM

LM

“ Robert was a perfect gentleman and loyal friend. He always thought of others first and saw good in everyone. He set a perfect example for us all to live by. We will miss Robert A LOT.

Larry C Morgan - July 18, 2023 at 10:02 AM

RM

“ Ron and Diana Melvin purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mr. Robert F. McElheny.



Ron and Diana Melvin - July 17, 2023 at 07:24 PM

RM

“ Ron and Diana Melvin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Robert F. McElheny.

Ron and Diana Melvin - July 17, 2023 at 07:24 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Mr. Robert F. McElheny.



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July 17, 2023 at 06:39 PM