



James Earl McAllister

November 9, 1943 - August 31, 2026

Columbia, South Carolina

James Earl McAllister died in Columbia on August 31, 2026. He was 82. Born on November 9, 1943, with Scotch-Irish roots that shaped the table more than the flag. He learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

He graded leaf with hands that knew seasons. A soft grading glove outlasted fashion; buyers trusted his eye more than moisture meters. Colleagues still mention a grading glove soft as cloth.

He married Eula in 1965. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised three children through public schools and ordinary weather. After Eula died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember coffee offered before questions. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Columbia, among streets he never needed to explain. The key is still under the same brick.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. His life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

A memorial gathering in Columbia with coffee afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a local workers' fund, clinic, or neighborhood library is welcome.

NN-OBIT-2026-C459

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