J. E. “Jake” McFarland

GIRARD - J.E. "Jake" McFarland, 75, of Girard, died at 11:35 a.m., Saturday, April 2, 2005, in the Heritage Nursing Home at Girard, where he entered in June of 2003. He was in failing health for two years.

He was born July 13, 1929 at Tulsa, Okla., to James Edward Jr. and Hazel (Martin) McFarland. He attended schools in Girard and graduated from Girard High School in 1947. He received his masters of administration from Kansas State Teachers College, in 1969. He was a past member of the Army Reserve.

He married Millicent J. Helms on June 29, 1951 at the United Methodist Church in Girard. She survives of the home.

He began his career in 1951 at St. Francis High School, now St. Paul High School, where he taught social science, biology, and driver's ed. He also served as head coach for basketball, baseball, and boys and girls softball. He initiated the football and track programs.

He worked as an insurance underwriter for Prudential Insurance in Parsons from 1958 until 1961.

He resumed his teaching career in 1961 at Girard as an eighth grade instructor and coach. He became head basketball coach at the Girard High School in 1963. In 1969, he became assistant principal and head football coach.

In 1972, he served as principal at Riverton and in 1974, he served as principal for the junior and senior high schools in Lamar, Mo. He became Girard High School principal in 1982 before retiring in 1992.

Honors he received over the years include, being elected to the Kansas State High School Activities Association and on the Board of Directors from 1972 until 1974, serving as past-president of the southwest Missouri Activities Association, and past-president of the southwest Missouri Principals Association, being elected to the Board of Directors of the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals, being named a recipient of the Outstanding Educator Award from Pittsburg State University in 1974, being selected by the Missouri Commissioner of Education to serve on an advisory panel for evaluation of state curriculum and graduation requirements, being a member of the Board of Directors of the Kansas State High School Activities Association from 1982 until 1984, and member of the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals Board of Directors, and serving as a liaison to the United School Administrators from 1988 until 1990. He also served on several North Central Evaluation teams for Kansas and Missouri schools.

He was a member of the Lamar Teachers Association, Missouri State Teachers Association, Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals, Lamar Rotary Club, Girard Masonic Lodge No. 93, AF & AM, Palestine Commandery No. 28 of Girard, Hiram Chapter No. 30 of Girard, Mirza Temple of Pittsburg, the United Methodist Church in Girard, and the Girard Optimist Club.

Survivors include four sons, Steve, Dean, and Mark McFarland, all of Girard, and Rob McFarland of Pittsburg; ten grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Smith-Carson-Wall Funeral Home in Girard with Rev. Steve Cole officiating. Burial will be in the Girard Cemetery with graveside Masonic Rites conducted by the Girard Masonic Lodge No. 93, AF & AM. The family will receive friends from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday at the Smith-Carson-Wall Funeral Home in Girard where friends may call after 1 p.m. Monday.
Arrangements are under the direction of the Smith-Carson-Wall Funeral Home of Girard.

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