



## Robert Ward "R.W." McAlister

October 5, 1972 - October 7, 2021

Robert Ward "R.W." McAlister, age 49, of Jonesboro, passed away at 8:16 p.m. on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at Southeast Missouri Hospital.

He was born on October 5, 1972, the son of Bob and Kristie (Dillow) McAlister.

R.W. served as minister of the Anna Church of Christ. He worked as an Ag Instructor at Southeast Missouri State University and also a farmer. R.W. also served on the school board at Jonesboro Elementary for several years.

Survivors include his wife, Renee McAlister; his daughters, Katie (Elijah) Boren and Holly (Lee) Tellor; a son, Jason McAlister; his mother, Kristie McAlister; a brother, Bryan (Mendy) McAlister; several uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and other relatives.

R.W. was preceded in death by his father, Robert (Bob) McAlister; a sister, Amy McAlister; his paternal grandparents, Robert and Irene McAlister; and his maternal grandparents, Ward and Virgie Dillow.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, October 10, 2021 from 4:00-8:00 pm at Crain Funeral Home in Anna. Funeral Service will be on Monday, October 11, 2021 at 10:00 am at the Anna Church of Christ with his brother, Bryan

McAlister officiating. Interment will immediately follow at St. Johns Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to Paragould Children's Home, SEMO Ag Department, or the Southeast Hospital ICU. Envelopes will be provided at the funeral home.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna-Jonesboro is entrusted with arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## St John's Cemetery

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Dongola, IL 62926  
(888) 932-7658

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **10**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna  
135 W. Vienna St.  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-2176  
[crain@crainsonline.com](mailto:crain@crainsonline.com)

## Funeral Service

OCT **11**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Anna Church of Christ

# Tribute Wall



“ Robert Ward "R.W." McAlister

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ So very sorry to learn of R.W.'s passing. We were high school classmates and I remember his positive energy he brought to school with him. I'm certain he remained this way throughout his life and will be truly missed by those who loved him.

*Elle Wells*

Ew - October 12, 2021 at 09:46 AM



“ I did not know "R.W" very well but my memory involving R.W. is of my father (Carl W. Boyd) being so very pleased upon R.W's birth.  
Dad was a first cousin of Ward Dillow and they liked to call each other "Buddy."  
Dad was also pleased similarly when R.W.'s mother (Kristi) was born.  
In the summer of 1976, I was hospitalized with a fever caused by a tick bite. One of the first visitors to visit me in the hospital were Ward and his son in law Bob McCalister.  
My deepest sympathy goes out to all family and friends of "R. W.", especially R. W.'s mother Kristi Mxalister.

*Tom Boyd  
Vernon Hills, IL*

Tom Boyd - October 12, 2021 at 09:16 AM

CW

“ *Cassie And Paula Weed lit a candle in memory of Robert Ward "R.W." McAlister*



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**Cassie and Paula Weed** - October 11, 2021 at 08:31 PM

KP

“ *Dear Kristie and Family, we were so sad to learn today that your dear son, RW, has passed. You must be deeply proud of him. And such a job for your Bryan to lead the worship for his brother. We pray for you and those you love, that faith will sustain you when life seems too sad to endure. Our best, Jeff and Kathleen Plesko*

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**kathleen plesko** - October 11, 2021 at 06:54 PM

PE

“ *Kristie, Bryan and the McAlister family,*

*I am so sorry to hear about R.W. I'm praying that God provides you with peace and comfort as mourn his loss.*

*Phil Eddleman*

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**Phil Eddleman** - October 11, 2021 at 12:38 PM

LP

“ RW was always such a joy to be around in college. I was shocked when I heard recently he was teaching back at SEMO. I can remember walking right on by the building that housed the Health class we had together. In addition to the Ag Club antics and stories that you can't make up. Godspeed my friend. The lord has called you to be by his side.

*Lonnie and Lea Ann Peetz*

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**Lonnie Peetz** - October 11, 2021 at 12:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Robert Ward "R. W." McAlister.



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October 10, 2021 at 04:35 PM




















MN

“ *Dear Renee and Family. Please accept my sympathy concerning the loss of your RW. Bless you and your dear ones. Mary Nimis-Tysk, Ronnie's cousin*

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**mary nimis-tysk** - October 10, 2021 at 01:21 PM



“ God continue to keep your dear family in His Loving Arms Renee'                      



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Ward "R.W." McAlister.*



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October 09, 2021 at 11:52 AM



“ *My condolences to the family. R. W. will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was one of a kind! One of the sweetest kids I ever had the priveleges of working with. I can still remember the day he, his dad and "Grandpa Ward" finished working on that old black flatbed truck. R.W. drove it down the alley to the control room window at the radio station to show it off to me. He was so proud! He grew from being a truly good kid to become a truly great man and he will forever be one of my favorite and most unforgettable people. Again, my sincerest condolences and prayers to the family.*

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**Carolyn Cremeens** - October 09, 2021 at 04:10 AM



“ *Solar Angel Statue to Send as Unique Sympathy Gift Remembrance was purchased for the family of Robert Ward "R.W." McAlister.*



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October 09, 2021 at 01:29 AM

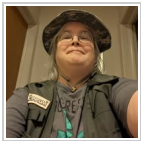


“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Robert Ward "R.W." McAlister.



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October 08, 2021 at 10:24 PM



“ R.W. was part of my friend group back in high school. He was always kind and funny. We went on a double date for our junior prom and shared a dance or two. It was a wonderful evening, such a gentleman. I also remember watching movies at various friends' houses and joking around in classes at A.J.



When my family and I would leave church on Sunday mornings, R.W. was sometimes there in the window next door doing his D.J. thing and always said hello to me, even when I was being a little obnoxious. He was way too young to be saying goodbye. I wish we had talked more as adults.

I'm so sorry for his loss and will be thinking of his family and friends.

Nicole Earnhart

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**Nikki Earnhart** - October 08, 2021 at 10:09 PM

SK

“ RW became a good friend to me through Davis Farm Supplies. With both of us being ag teachers we developed a bond. I will miss his friends ship. At times like these we must cherish the good memories and know he will w as tch over us. Steve King with Davis Farm Supplies

Steve King - October 08, 2021 at 09:14 PM

SM

“ so very very sorry to hear of mr mcAlister. He will be missed . We just recently had the pleasure of meeting him at SEMO and he was instrumental in our daughter choosing SEMO. She was looking forward to her classes with him and stated everytime he would see her , he always talked to her and made her feel welcome. A great loss to all who knew him... Sincerel sympathies, the mudd family; scott, liz and alexis

scott mudd - October 08, 2021 at 06:55 PM

MR

“ Mr. McAlister was the most amazing teacher I've ever had... he will be dearly missed

Mary Richardet - October 08, 2021 at 06:53 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Ward "R.W." McAlister.



October 08, 2021 at 06:14 PM

RO

“ Sincere condolences to R.W.'s family and dear friends. I worked with him at Century School and he was always a thoughtful and caring person. Peace to you as you mourn his passing.

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**Rosita** - October 08, 2021 at 05:37 PM

KR

“ We were saddened to hear this news today. Mr Mac as our children called him meant a lot to both of them. He was their Ag teacher at Century and went from mentor to friend as our oldest graduated. Your family is in our prayers.

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**Karen and Randy Reagan** - October 08, 2021 at 05:20 PM